



DUBROVAČKE LJETNE IGRE DUBROVNIK SUMMER FESTIVAL

OD SIGURATE 1 · 20000 DUBROVNIK · HRVATSKA · TEL. ++385 (0)20 326 100 · FAX: ++385 (0)20 326 116
E-MAIL: SECRETARIAT@DUBROVNIK-FESTIVAL.HR · INFO@DUBROVNIK-FESTIVAL.HR
WWW.DUBROVNIK-FESTIVAL.HR

DRAMA PROGRAMME OF THE 72ND FESTIVAL

Magelli's *Hamlet* returns gloriously to Lovrjenac

Dubrovnik, 22 July 2021 – The award-winning premiere production of the anniversary 70th Dubrovnik Summer Festival, Shakespeare's *Hamlet* directed by the great **Paolo Magelli** and performed by the **Festival Drama Ensemble**, which is led by the brilliant **Frano Mašković** as the titular Danish prince, was performed last night, **21 July on the Lovrjenac fort**. The already sold-out play is on the programme until 24 July.

After a year of paused performances due to the pandemic, the eagerly awaited *Hamlet* returns at the 72nd Dubrovnik Summer Festival to an even greater interest than before as is witnessed by the great interest in tickets and the quickly sold out seats. During the two-hour performance last night the play has once again captivated and dazzled the audience making the always breath-taking Elsinore of Dubrovnik ring and echo with applause and cheers, as loud as the tempestuous evening winds.

Paolo Magelli directed some of the central Festival productions over the decades and he has rejected taking on Hamlet twelve times in his career before finally tackling it at the anniversary 70th Dubrovnik Summer Festival in 2019, making Hamlet more relevant than ever by portraying him as the archetypal troubled intellectual of the 21st century. The adaptation and dramaturgy based on the Vladimir Gerić translation of Shakespeare was done by **Željka Udovičić Pleština**, while set design is done by **Lorenzo Banci**, costumes by **Leo Kulaš**, music by **Ljupče Konstantinov**, video production by **Ivan Marušić Klif** and lighting design by **Aleksandar Čavlek** and **Marko Mijatović**. **Lovro Buva** taught the actors swordsmanship. Assistants to the creative team are **Tamara Damjanović**, **Ana Fucijaš** and **Miran Brautović**, while **Roko Grbin** is in charge of stage management.

Frano Mašković is the first Dubrovnik-born actor in the role of Hamlet and his energetic and powerful performance did not falter for even a second. Equally dynamic and keeping pace were Festival Drama Ensemble: **Milan Pleština** as the king, **Nikša Butijer** as Polonius, **Ermin Bravo** as Horatio, **Ugo Korani** as Laertes, **Enes Vejzović** and **Pjer Meničanin** play Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, while **Ranko Zidarić** is Fortinbras. **Nina Violić** will again play Gertrude and **Anđela Ramljak** Ophelia. They are joined by, as actors, soldiers and gravediggers: **Hrvojkja Begović**, **Domagoj Janković**, **Matija Čigir**, **Bernard Tomić**, **Karlo Mrkša** and **Pavle Vrkljan**.

Hamlet is on again tonight, 22 July as well as 23 and 24 July, all at 9.30pm on the Lovrjenac fort. Tickets for all performances of *Hamlet* at the 72nd Festival have been sold out.

All 72nd Dubrovnik Summer Festival programmes are certified as *safe gatherings*, meaning the events will be organised according to current rules and recommendations by the national and local Civil Protection Headquarters and the World Health Organization, according to which maintaining physical distance of one seat with compulsory face masks has been deemed sufficient for audiences at low-risk events and the attendees are not obligated to present their EU digital COVID pass.

The Dubrovnik Summer Festival –the centre of Croatian and global spirit and culture, a place of creation and not just a place of visit, a place of community, ideas and new artistic expressions, is traditionally supported this year by the

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia, the City of Dubrovnik, the Dubrovnik-neretva county and numerous other sponsors and benefactors who helped bring this most prestigious cultural event in Croatia to fruition.

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Kontakt za medije:

Karla Labaš

Ured za odnose s javnošću i marketing

M. 091 323 42 56 / T. 020 326 111

E. karla.labas@dubrovnik-festival.hr

www.dubrovnik-festival.hr