

## CULT NOVEL ON THE STAGE

### *My Brilliant Friend* brought to Gradac Park by Croatian National Theatre Zagreb

Dubrovnik, 23 August 2022 – The theatre adaptation of the world-famous novel *My Brilliant Friend* by the contemporary Italian writer **Elena Ferrante**, directed by **Marina Pejnović** and based on the text by **Nina Pavlović** and **Filip Jurjević**, will be put on **Tuesday and Wednesday, 23 and 24 August at 9.30 p.m.** in **Gradac Park**. Both performances are sold out.

*My Brilliant Friend* is the first novel of the Neapolitan tetralogy from the pen of the mysterious Elena Ferrante, a lush fresco of Italian society spanning several decades which, in this standalone theatre follows the childhood of Elena and Lila and the emergence of a complex female friendship in the violent context of the surroundings of Naples in the 1950's, simultaneously touching on a number of topics, among which the most prominent is a set of issues united under the term women's issues. Elena Ferrante's manuscript is considered one of the pinnacles of world literature in terms of style and emotion, and it was brought to the stage by **Nina Pavlović** and **Filip Jurjević** based on the translation by **Ana Badurina**.

Director **Marina Pejnović** gathered a great team consisting of dramaturge **Nina Pavlović**, set and costume designer **Zdravka Ivandije Kirigin**, composer **Josip Maršić**, lighting designer **Elvis Butković**, along with video designer **Ivan Lušić Liik. Pravdan Devlahović** is responsible for stage movement, the director's assistant is **Patrik Sečen**, assistant set designers are **Matej Kniewald** and **Andrea Lipej**, assistant costume designer is **Ana Trišler**, and stage manager is **Roko Grbin**. A large ensemble of 29 actors is led by **Iva Mihalić** and **Jadranka Đokić** in the roles of Elena and Lila, and the rest of the lavish and dynamic group consists of **Ivan Jončić**, **Mirta Zečević**, **Alen Šalinović**, **Vlasta Ramljak**, **Ivan Colarić**, **Milan Pleština**, **Ana Begić Tahiri**, **Filip Vidović**, **Luca Anić**, **Slavko Juraga**, **Daria Lorenci Flatz**, **Luka Dragić**, **Iva Jerković**, **Tin Rožman**, **Zijad Gračić**, **Barbara Vicković**, **Dušan Bućan**, **Mislav Čavajda**, **Marin Klišmanić**, **Jelena Otašević Babić**, **Goran Grgić**, **Olga Pakalović**, **Marin Stević**, **Ivana Boban**, **Silvio Vovk**, **Tesa Litvan** and **Ksenija Marinković**.

**Marina Pejnović** was the co-director and director of *Countdown – at the wedding with Držić and Nalješković* at the 69<sup>th</sup> Dubrovnik Summer Festival, Pirandello's *To Clothe the Naked* at the Marin Držić Theatre, the personal project *Kad tad (Sooner or Later)* at &TD and *Krleža alla Gavella* as part of the Krleža Evenings event by the Gavella Theatre, Una Vizek's *There's No Life on Mars* at the Croatian National Theatre in Varaždin, first performance of the *Glazba srca mog (Music of My Heart)* musical also at the Croatian National Theatre in Varaždin, the Christoph Gluck opera *Orfeo ed Euridice* which was a collaboration of three arts academies and the Faculty of Textile Technology, among others. Pejnović directed numerous radio-dramas and radiodocumentaries, and has received the Rector's Award in 2015 and the Rotary Club scholarship for excellence in 2012, 2013, 2014 and in 2015. She was also the recipient of the group Rector's Award for collaborative opera projects as well as receiving the group Nikola Batušić award with her Academy of Dramatic Art colleagues. She shares an ASSITEJ Award with Matija Škaronja and Paško Vukasović for Mala scena theatre's *Hooligan*.

The **Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb** is the second theatre in the world that has endeavoured to adapt this complex Elena Ferrante novel, an author whose true identity has not been found out by experts nor journalists, and this adaptation premiered on 30 December, 2021.

the City of Dubrovnik, the Dubrovnik-neretva county, Dubrovnik Tourist Board and numerous sponsors Euroherc, Mastercard, HEP, ACI club, ALH, Kraš, Coca-Cola, Croatia Airlines and TuttoBene and donors Caboga Stiftung foundation, OTP bank, and other benefactors who helped bring this most prestigious cultural event in Croatia to fruition.

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