



Drama of Smaller European Languages

Malta Showcase, 16-22 April 2026

Delegates Programme



DRAMA
OF SMALLER
EUROPEAN
LANGUAGES



Co-funded by
the European Union

Overview

The Malta leg of the Drama of Smaller European Languages (DoSEL) project builds on the artistic, organisational, and discursive framework established during the International Showcase in Kranj and the Satellite Conference in Ljubljana. It adapts this model to the Maltese context by anchoring performances at the Manoel Theatre while expanding the programme through dramaturgical laboratories, artistic residencies, public talks, research dissemination, and consortium meetings.

The Malta showcase places particular emphasis on translation as a living artistic practice, foregrounding encounters between playwrights, translators, dramaturgs, performers, researchers, and audiences. Alongside staged performances, the programme creates dedicated spaces for reflection, shared reading, and dialogue, including conversations around emerging tools such as artificial intelligence and their impact on translation today. The programme balances artistic presentation, professional exchange, and audience engagement, while fostering long-term relationships between international partners and the Maltese writing community.

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 15 April

Arrival of international partners and guests

21:00 Informal Dinner for International Delegates - Lubelli Pizzeria, St Julians

Thursday 16 April

09:00 - 11:00 Registration Desk Open - Teatru Manoel Foyer
13:00 - 15:00 Delegates Lunch - Lubelli Pizzeria, St Julians
17:30 - 19:00 Opening Ceremony and Festival Launch - Sala Isouard, Teatru Manoel
19:00 - 19:30 Doors Open for Teatru Malta Showcase - Teatru Manoel
19:30 - 22:30 Ir-Rebha tal-Ħuta li Ttir, Teatru Malta Showcase - Teatru Manoel
22:30 - 23:00 Taħdita Teatru, Post-Show Discussion - Teatru Manoel

Friday 17 April

08:00 - 11:00 Registration Desk Open - Teatru Manoel Foyer
09:00 - 11:30 Dramaturgy & Artistic Leadership Exchange Workshop, - Studio Theatre, Teatru Manoel
12:00 - 13:00 KorMalta Performance: Jukebox Concert, Santa Caterina d'Italia Valletta
13:15 Delegates Lunch - Luciano, Valletta
15:00 - 16:00 Delegates Cultural Tour with Jeremy Grech - Valletta
17:30 - 19:30 Valletta Resounds Performance - St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta

Saturday 18 April

08:00 - 11:00 Registration Desk Open - Teatru Manoel Foyer
09:00 - 11:00 Artistic Residency Session - Studio Theatre, Teatru Manoel
11:30 - 13:00 Round Table Session with Consortium Members Translingual Works - Studio Theatre, Teatru Manoel
13:00 Delegates Lunch - Browns, Valletta
15:30 - 18:00 Consortium Meeting (Project Management, Evaluation, Communications and Next Steps) - Studio Theatre, Valletta
19:00 - 19:30 Doors Open for Prešeren Theatre Kranj Showcase - Teatru Manoel
19:30 - 21:00 The Text of the Body, Prešeren Theatre Kranj Showcase - Teatru Manoel
21:00 - 21:30 Taħdita Teatru, Post-Show Discussion - Teatru Manoel

Sunday 19 April

- 09:00 - 10:00 Malta Biennale Visit - Inquisitor's Palace, Birgu
10:00 - 12:00 Registration Desk Open - Teatru Manoel Foyer
10:15 - 10:45 Boat Crossing from Birgu to Valletta
11:15 - 12:00 Grand Master's Palace Visit - Valletta
12:00 Delegates Lunch - Cafè Cordina, Valletta
14:00 - 17:00 Staged Reading Session - Studio Theatre, Valletta

Monday 20 April

- 09:00 - 11:00 Registration Desk Open - Teatru Manoel Foyer
11:00 - 13:00 Delegates Cultural Tour in Rabat & Mdina
13:30 Delegates Lunch - Il-Veduta, Rabat
19:00 - 19:30 Doors open for Croatian National Theatre Showcase - Teatru Manoel
19:30 - 21:15 Always Be Like A Dragon, Croatian National Theatre Showcase - Teatru Manoel
21:15 - 21:45 Tahdita Teatru, Post-Show Discussion - Teatru Manoel

Tuesday 21 April

- 09:00 - 11:00 Registration Desk Open - Teatru Manoel Foyer
10:00 - 12:00 Spazju Kreattiv Tour - Spazju Kreattiv, Valletta
12:00 Delegates Lunch - Luciano, Valletta
15:00 - 17:00 Panel Discussion: Translation & AI Today - Sala Isouard, Teatru Manoel
17:00 - 19:00 Grand Tour of Birgu & Victory Museum - Birgu
19:30 Consortium Dinner

Wednesday 22 April

- 09:00 - 11:00 Registration Desk Open - Teatru Manoel Foyer
10:00 - 13:00 Consortium Meeting with Prof. Darko Lukic, PhD, external project evaluator - Studio Theatre, Valletta
13:30 Delegates Lunch - MUŻA, Valletta
20:30 - 21:00 Doors open for Von Krahl Theatre Showcase - Teatru Manoel
21:00 - 22:15 Medium Von Krahl Theatre Showcase - Teatru Manoel
22:15 - 22:45 Tahdita Teatru, Post-Show Discussion - Teatru Manoel
23:00 - 00:00 Festival Closing - Sala Isouard, Teatru Manoel



IR-REBĦA TAL-ĦUTA LI TTIR

Carmel S. Aquilina, Teatru Malta

Ir-Rebħa tal-Ħuta li Ttir ta' Carmel S. Aquilina se tittella' għall-ewwel darba fit-Teatru Manoel, għoxrin sena wara li s-skritt ġie sottomess għall-Premju Francis Ebejer fejn kien kiseb it-tieni post. Issa, sitt snin wara l-mewt tal-awtur fl-2020, dan id-dramm provokattiv fl-aħħar wasal fuq il-palk.

Ibbażat fuq kapitlu veru mill-istorja ta' Malta, id-dramm jirrakkonta r-ribelljoni tal-1807 meta reġiment ta' merċenarji Griegi fil-Forti Rikażli rribellaw kontra l-awtoritajiet kolonjali Brittaniċi minhabba trattament hażin u pagi baxxi. Ir-rivolta spiċċat b'mod brutali, b'għadd ta' ribelli kkundannati għall-mewt u eżegwiti pubblikament.

Fil-qalba tal-istorja hemm Constance, mara żagħżuġha Inġliża li, mal-wasla tagħha f'Malta, tibda tesperjenza kunflitt bejn il-qawwa kolonjali Brittannika u l-ispirtu Mediterranju li qed jippruvaw jikkontrollaw. Id-dramm jgħaqqad l-istorja mal-immaginazzjoni biex jesplora temi ta' poter, identità u s-sagrificċji li jitlob il-bidla.

Ir-Rebħa tal-Ħuta Li Ttir by Carmel S. Aquilina is a powerful historical drama presented for the first time at Teatru Manoel.

Written by one of Malta's most significant theatre directors, the play was submitted to the Premju Francis Ebejer two decades ago but has never been staged. Now, six years after Aquilina's passing in 2020, this striking work finally reaches the stage.

Inspired by real events from Malta's colonial history, the play centres on the 1807 rebellion at Fort Ricasoli, when a regiment of Greek mercenaries revolted against the British authorities over poor pay and harsh treatment. The uprising ended violently, with the revolt brutally suppressed and several rebels executed.

Against this turbulent historical backdrop, the story follows Constance, a young British woman whose imaginative inner world begins to unravel as she encounters the realities of colonial power and resistance. Blending history with symbolism, Ir-Rebħa tal-Ħuta Li Ttir explores the clash between empire and identity, and the sacrifices demanded by the hope for change.

KREDITI//CREDITS

Kittieb//Writer -
Carmel S. Aquilina

Direttur//Director -
Philip Leone-Ganado

Disinn tas-Sett//Set Design -
Anthony Bonnici / EBEJER BONNICI,
with Antoni Garcés Terme, Paige Faure,
Arjawan Hraga

Disinn tal-Hoss u Kompożizzjoni//Sound
Design & Composition -
Niels Plotard & Chris Galea

Disinn tad-Dawl//Light Design -
Mohamed Ali Aguerbi

Direttur tal-Moviment//Movement
Director -
Brenda Lee Grech

Kostumi//Costumes-
Luke Dimech & Carmen Farrugia

Irtokk//Make-Up -
Karyn Schembri Grima

Artista tax-Xagħar//Hair Artist -
Emma Beard

Maniġer tal-Palk//Stage Manager -
Sefora Mannino

Deputat Maniġer tal-Palk//Deputy Stage
Manager - Sarah Zammit Randich

Assistent Direttur tal-Palk//Assistant
Stage Director -
Martha Maria Mangani

Assistent tal-Vestwarju //
Wardrobe Assistant -
Elisa Borg

Inġinier tal-Hoss//Sound Engineer -
Costa Consulta Ltd

Kostruzzjoni tas-Sett//
Set Construction -
SM Maintenance

Stunt Rigging -
Audrick Plum

KAST//CAST:

Constance Appleby -
Michela Farrugia

Elias -
Jacob Piccinino

Erminia West -
Simone Spiteri

Il-Kaptan Albert West -
Peter Busuttil

Il-Kmandant Hermann Friedman -
Mikhail Basmadjian

John Jones u Mr Cumberland -
Miguel Formosa

Grazzi Speċjali//Grazzi Speċjali:
Louiseanne Caruana

THE TEXT OF THE BODY

Anja Novak - Anjuta, Prešeren Theatre Kranj

The Text of the Body ta' Anja Novak huwa drammm kontemporanju li jesplora kif il-ġisem iġorr fih il-marki ta' istorja personali u soċjali. Ir-rebbieh tal-Grum Prize for Best Dramatic Text at the 2023 Slovenian Drama Week, id-dramm ipoġġi lill-ġisem uman fiċ-ċentru tal-istorja. Permezz ta' mard, sintomi u esperjenzi fiżiċi, il-ġisem isir mezz li jikxef id-dinja ta' madwaru u r-relazzjonijiet li jiffurmawh.

Ix-xoġhol isegwi tliet ġenerazzjonijiet ta' nisa: nanna li tiffaċċja mistoqsijiet dwar daww l-affarijiet li jagħtu pjaċir lin-nisa u l-aspettattivi tas-soċjetà, omm li qed tgħix f'sitwazzjoni ta' abbuż sesswali, u tifla li tbat minn anoreksja. L-istejjer tagħhom juru kif il-pressjonijiet tas-soċjetà, l-irwoli tal-ġeneru u r-relazzjonijiet ta' poter ihallu marki profondi fuq il-ġisem.

The Text of the Body jesplora l-idea li l-mard jista' jkun ir-rispons tal-ġisem għal ambjent marid billi jgħaqqad in-narrazzjoni ma' esperimentazzjoni teatrali. Id-dramm jistieden lill-udjenza tisma' b'attenzjoni, u jfakkarna li meta s-skiet jipprevali, il-ġisem eventwalment jitkellem waħdu.

The Text of the Body by playwright Anja Novak is a powerful and contemporary drama that explores how the body carries the marks of personal and social history.

Awarded the Grum Prize for Best Dramatic Text at the 2023 Slovenian Drama Week, the play places the body itself at the centre of the story. Through illness, symptoms and physical experience, the body becomes a medium that reveals the world around it and the relationships that shape it.

The work traces three generations of women: a grandmother confronting questions of female pleasure and social expectations, a mother dealing with sexual abuse, and a daughter struggling with anorexia. Their stories reveal how the pressures of society, gender roles and power structures leave deep traces on the body.

Blending narrative and theatrical experimentation, The Text of the Body explores the idea that illness can be the body's response to a damaged environment. The play invites audiences to listen closely, reminding us that when silence prevails, the body eventually speaks for itself.

KREDITI//CREDITS

Kitba//Writer -
Anja Novak - Anjuta

Direzżjoni u Dramaturġija//
Direction and Dramaturgy -
Tjaša Črnigoj

Disinn tas-Sett u tal-Kostumi//
Set and Costume Design -
Tijana Todorović

Disinn tal-Hoss u Kompożizzjoni//
Sound Design & Composition -
August Adrian Braatz

Composer of Vocals and Live Music//
Kompożizzjoni għall-Vuċi u Mużika Live
- Tea Vidmar

Direttur tal-Moviment fuq il-Palk//
Stage Movement Designer -
Ena Kurtalić

Filmat//Video -
Dora Pejić Bach

Disinn tad-Dawl u Fotografu//
Lighting Designer and Photographer -
Karyn Schembri Grima

Konsulent tal-Lingwa// Language
Consultant -
Maja Cerar

Irtokk//Make-Up Artist -
Matej Pajntar

KAST//CAST:

Body-
Staša Popovič (as guest)

Girl -
Živa Selan

Mother -
Darja Reichman

Grandma -
Vesna Jevnikar

Birds: Suzana Krevh (as guest), Rok
Kravanja (as guest), Tea Vidmar (as
guest)

Monday 20 April

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ALWAYS BE LIKE A DRAGON

Espi Tomičić, It-Teatru Nazzjonali Kroat, Zagreb//

Espi Tomičić, Croatian National Theatre, Zagreb

Always Be Like a Dragon tad-drammaturgu rebbieh ta' diversi premjijiet Espi Tomičić huwa drammi intimu u b'saħtu li jivvjaġġa bejn il-memorja, l-immaġinazzjoni u r-realtà. Id-drammi isegwi lil Petar, raġel trans li jinsab fit-terapija, hekk kif jerġa' jżur frammenti mit-tfulija tiegħu. Permezz ta' konversazzjonijiet mat-terapist ta' mument kruċjali f'ħajtu, meta kien għadu bl-identità Matea. Dawn il-memorji ma jiżvolgħux b'mod lineari, iżda f'saffi li fihom ir-realizmu dokumentarju jithallat ma' riflessjoni poetika.

Fil-qalba tal-istorja hemm appartamenti abbandunati fejn Matea, ommha Jana u ħutha jsibu kenn mill-faqar u mill-possibbiltà li jispicċaw bla dar. F'dan l-ispazju fragli, it-tfal jibdeu logħba tal-gwerra u jittrasformaw l-appartamenti f'bażi militari. Imma taħt il-logħba jibdeu jiffaċċaw tensjonijiet aktar profondi. It-tfal jiffaċċjaw mistoqsijiet dwar l-identità, ir-relazzjonijiet familjari, l-insigurtà soċjali u trawmi li ma jistgħux jissemmew, iżda jibqgħu mnaqqxa fil-ġisem.

Bejn drammi u proċess terapewtiku, Always Be Like a Dragon jistieden lill-udjenza għal vjaġġ teatrali bejn il-biża', il-memorja u r-reżiljenza. Il-produzzjoni hija esplorazzjoni emozzjonali tat-tfulija, tas-sopravivenza u tal-qawwa tal-immaġinazzjoni quddiem veritajiet diffiċli.

Always Be Like a Dragon by multi-award-winning playwright Espi Tomičić is an intimate and powerful drama that moves between memory, imagination and reality. The play follows Petar, a trans man in therapy, as he revisits fragments of his childhood. Through conversations with his therapist and a chorus of voices from past and present, Petar reconstructs memories of a defining moment in his life, when he was still Matea. These memories unfold in shifting layers, where documentary realism blends with poetic reflection.

At the heart of the story is an abandoned apartment where Matea, her mother Jana and her siblings seek refuge from poverty and homelessness. Within this fragile space, the children invent a game of war, transforming the empty apartment into a military base.

But beneath the playfulness, deeper tensions emerge. The children begin to confront questions of identity, family relationships, class insecurity and the unspoken traumas that shape their lives.

Blurring the line between drama and therapy, Always Be Like a Dragon invites audiences into a theatrical journey through fear, memory and resilience. It is a moving exploration of childhood, survival and the ways in which imagination can help us face even the most difficult truths.

KREDITI//CREDITS

Kitba//Writer -
Espi Tomičić

Direzzjoni//Direction -
Olja Lozica

Dramaturgy//Dramaturgija
Espi Tomičić

Kompożituri//Composers
Sara Renar & Dimitrije Simović

Disinn tas-Sett//Set Designer -
Vanja Magić

Disinn tal-Kostumi//Costume Designer -
Ivana Stećuk

Koreografija//Choreographer -
Martina Hrlić Rogić

Disinn tad-Dawl//Lighting Designer -
Milan Kovačević

Disinn tal-Hoss//Sound Designer -
Vedran Peternel

Assistent Direttur//Assistant Director -
Marta Tutiš

Assistent Disinjatur tal-Kostumi//
Assistant Costume Designer -
Ana Trišler

Assistent tad-Disinjatur tas-Sett//
Assistant Set Designer -
Nika Vojvoda

KAST//CAST:

Vlasta Ramljak
Olga Pakalović
Dora Lipovčan
Lana Barić
Luka Dragić
Dušan Bučan
Filip Vidović
Marin Stević
Ivan Grlić
Sara Renar
Dimitrije Simović

MEDIUM

Mart Kangro, Von Krahl Theatre

MEDIUM hija l-iktar produzzjoni riċenti solo tal-koreografu u artist Mart Kangro, li tesplora r-relazzjoni kumplessa bejn il-ġisem, il-midja u l-fluss kontinwu ta' informazzjoni li jiffurmaw parti kbira minn hajjitna

Il-produzzjoni tkompli minn fejn halla x-xoghol preċedenti tiegħu, Pantheon, iżda din id-darba il-ġisem ta' Kangro jitqiegħed fiċ-ċentru tal-pajsaġġ medjatiku tal-lum. Madwaru hemm kurrent kontinwu ta' ahbarijiet, stampi u messaġġi, u minn dan kollu toħroġ mistoqsija sempliċi iżda inquietanti: kemm minn dak li ahna, huwa ffurmat minn dak li nikkunsmaw?

Permezz ta' moviment frammentat, kitba u riflessjoni, MEDIUM jibni narrattiva mhux mistennija dwar il-kundizzjoni moderna. Hekk kif ir-realtà u l-immaginazzjoni jithalltu, Kangro jesplora l-linja rqiqqa bejn id-dinja fiżika u dik immaginarja, u jistaqsi x'inhu veru? Min qed jiforma l-istejjer li qed nhallu jinfluwenzawna?

Bi hlewwa u b'tonumistoristiku u riflessiv, MEDIUM jesplora l-kunflitt modern tal-bniedem f'era ta' bumbardament ta' informazzjoni, li, fil-verità, ma nistgħux ngħixu mingħajrha.

MEDIUM is the latest solo performance by choreographer and performer Mart Kangro, exploring the complex relationship between the body, media and the constant flow of information that shapes our lives.

Picking up where his previous work Pantheon left off, Kangro now places his own body at the centre of today's overwhelming media landscape. Surrounded by a relentless stream of news, images and messages, he asks a simple but unsettling question: how much of who we are is shaped by what we consume?

Through fragments of movement, text and reflection, MEDIUM pieces together an unexpected narrative about the modern condition. As reality and imagination blur, Kangro examines the thin line between the physical world and the digital one, questioning what is real and who controls the stories we absorb.

Humorous, thoughtful and self-aware, MEDIUM captures the struggle of living in an age of information overload, where we are both critical of the noise around us and strangely addicted to it.

KREDITI//CREDITS

Kitba u Direzzjoni//Writer & Director -
Mart Kangro

Filmat u Viżwali -
Kristel Zimmer, Mart Kangro

Soluzzjonijiet Tekniċi tal-Vidjo//
Video technical solutions -
Herikko Labi

Dramaturġija//Dramaturgy -
Eero Epner, Nicolette Kretz, Mart Kangro

Disinn tad-Dawl//Lighting Designer -
Priidu Atlas

Disinn tal-Hoss//Sound Designer -
Raido Linkmann

Space//Spazju -
Mart Kangro

Tmexxija tal-Vidjo tal-Produzzjoni//
Video Show Runner:
Herikko Labi

Managġjar tal-Proġett//
Project Management -
Jaak Prints, Mart Kangro

Direttur Tekniku//Technical Director -
Jaak Prints

Koprodutturi//Co-Producers -
Von Krahl Theatre, OÜ Olevik and Mart
Kangro

Appoġġ//Supporters -
Cultural Endowment of Estonia,
Tallinn City Council

KAST//CAST:

Mart Kangro

Restaurants

LUBELLI

Pizza and Beer lovers!

Lubelli is home to the most authentic and scrumptious Neapolitan Pizza, along with some exclusive beer. Set right next to St George's Bay, Lubelli is the place to be when it comes to your pizza cravings!

St George's Road, St Julian's,

BROWNS KITCHEN

Browns Malta is known for its original and tantalising cuisine, specialising in fresh fish and premium cuts of beef. The restaurant caters for a variety of occasions, offering tailor-made menus to suit different events and budgets. Guests can enjoy exceptional food made with the finest ingredients, alongside stunning views of the Grand Harbour.

Valletta Waterfront, Floriana

MUŻA

MUŻA Restaurant offers a variety of distinct main dining areas, each situated within the MUŻA complex and steeped in its own rich history. Every dining space reflects a unique aspect of the building's heritage, providing guests with not just a meal, but an immersive experience that connects them to the cultural and historical narratives of MUŻA.

Auberge d'Italie, Valletta

LUCIANO

Located adjacent to St. John's Cathedral, dine al fresco or inside the restaurant. Traditional Maltese dishes, Pizza, Pasta, Salads and more!

Merchant Street, Valletta

IL-VEDUTA

For 30 years, Il-Veduta has been a beloved culinary destination rooted in family values and a passion for hospitality. Nestled in the historic Saqqajja in Rabat, the restaurant offers breathtaking views alongside a rich history connected to Roman foundations and World War II. Today, Il-Veduta continues to blend tradition and innovation, welcoming guests to enjoy quality dishes in a warm and timeless setting.

Is-Saqqajja, Rabat



Il-Festival tad-Drammi tal-Lingwi Ewropej Żgħar

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