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V. INTERNATIONAL CULTURE FESTIVAL OF THE  
DEAF OF ST. FRANCIS OF SALES IN NITRA

**EFFETA**

Centre of St. Francis of Sales  
Samova 4, Nitra



21 - 27 Januar 2008  
Nitra, Slovak Republic

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# FESTIVAL HISTORY

*Culture has great power. It is a gift of God.*

*It connects man with God, faithful with faithless, one nation with another and the Deaf with the hearing.*

*Anna Šmehilová*

Dominant objective of the International Culture Festival of St. Francis of Sales in Nitra is to highlight the fact that culture can be a joining means. This festival was given birth



with approach of the new millennium, the year 2000, which was declared to be the Jubilee year by Holy Father. He praised it as a year of love, remission and favour. Founder of the festival is Mrs Anna Šmehilová. Primary aim of the fourth year of the Festival is to preserve and develop culture heritage of the hearing impaired, integration and inclusion by means of culture activities, presentation of the hearing impaired

culture, invention in new hearing impaired education approaches through drama and fine arts education and comparison of achieved results in the field of culture within Europe.

Festival history starts at the beginning of the 3rd millennium. First year festival was held on 21 – 23 January 2000. Its content was aimed at presentation of the theatre performances from the two participating countries (Slovak Republic and Czech Republic) and also the first specialised seminar on “Culture of the deaf” was realised there. There were approximately 300 active and passive hearing and hearing impaired participants.

Second festival lasted for one week, from 21 to 27 January 2002. Its preparation and realisation was done in cooperation of the main organiser and Janacek Academy of Music and Performing arts in Brno (Czech Republic), whose representatives provided specialised issues in the new festival section. It was aimed at workshops of “Drama education of the hearing impaired”, for the pedagogues, who work in the field of the hearing impaired education. The other sections were specialised seminar, art exhibition a theatre performances. There were well-known artists and specialists from Slovakia, Czech Republic, The Netherlands and Croatia present that year, approximately 600 hearing impaired and hearing persons. St. Francis of Sales Prize was awarded to theatre ensemble Neslyším (Brno, CZ) for its contribution to development of Deaf culture in Slovakia, Secondary school for the deaf pre (Prešov, SK) for the theatre performance „Fire and Water“, Mgr. Iris Domancová



Music and Performing arts (Brno, CZ) along with organisation EFFATHA (Zoetermeer, NL). Czech partner provided scholarly guaranty and realisation of the workshops, the Dutch one was responsible for the abroad seminar contribution, with its name „Media and the Deaf“. Altogether there were participants from Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, The Netherlands, France, Slovenia and Latvia, approximately 900 hearing impaired and hearing persons. St. Francis of Sales Prize was awarded to theatre ensemble Tiché Iskry at Divadlo z Pasáže (Banská Bystrica, SK) in drama and Angélique Cornuet (Paris, France) in fine arts.

4th festival was hold from 23 to 29 January 2006. Main organiser was EFFETA – centre of St. Francis of Sales (Nitra, SK) and co-organisers were Janacek academy of music and performing arts, Theatre faculty (Brno, CZ), EFFATHA (Zoetermeer, the Netherlands) and A. C.T.I.S. (Paris, FR). Czech partner was responsible for drama workshops; Dutch partner was in charge for Debate with politicians and part of drama workshops and French co-organiser was responsible for fine arts workshops for children and youth and were also guarantor of the fine arts exhibition. There were 298 active artists from the Slovak republic, Czech Republic, France, The Netherlands, Sweden, Latvia, Belgium, Greta Britain, Slovenia and Italy; 138 Slovak participants and 160 foreign participants. There were approximately 2.454 deaf and hearing viewers in the festival. St. Francis of Sales Prize was awarded to theatre ensemble SENZA PAROLE (Milan, IT) in drama, Maria Pia Filipetto (Paris, FR), Mário Furčák (Bardejov, SK) and Paunina Liga (Riga, LV) for fine arts section. Special prize was awarded to academic painter Ján Havrila (Likavka, SK).

The mission of the 5th festival is to preserve and develop deaf culture heritage, integration and inclusion through culture activities, presentation of Deaf culture, establishment

(SK) for spread of Deaf culture. For the fine arts the prize was awarded to Stanislav Lubina (SK) “Graphics” and also Linda Svoradová (SK) for painting and drawing.

Third festival lasted from 19 to 25 January 2004. Main organiser was EFFETA – Centre of St. Francis of Sales (Nitra, SK) and co-organisers were former partner Janacek Academy of

Music and Performing arts (Brno, CZ) along with organisation EFFATHA (Zoetermeer, NL). Czech partner provided scholarly guaranty and realisation of the workshops, the Dutch one was responsible for the abroad seminar contribution, with its name „Media and the Deaf“. Altogether there were participants from Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, The Netherlands, France, Slovenia and Latvia, approximately 900 hearing impaired and hearing persons. St. Francis of Sales Prize was awarded to theatre ensemble Tiché Iskry at Divadlo z Pasáže (Banská Bystrica, SK) in drama and Angélique Cornuet (Paris, France) in fine arts.

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The mission of the 5th festival is to preserve and develop deaf culture heritage, integration and inclusion through culture activities, presentation of Deaf culture, establishment





of new methods of education of the Deaf through drama and fine arts and comparison of achieved results in Deaf culture within different countries of Europe. Our goal is also to enhance active co-operation of 4 European countries (Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, France and The Netherlands). Main organiser is EFFETA (Nitra, SK), co-organisers are DIFA JAMU (Brno, CZ), Conte Sur Tes Doigts (Lille, FR),

Association CinéSourds (Reims, FR), Effatha Guyot Groep - Stichting onderwijs Effatha (Zoetermeer, NL) and abroad partner of the festival is A.C.T.I.S. (Paris, FR). Festival offers space for presentation and preservation of culture traditions and values of the deaf and also culture mobility of deaf artists of Europe.

*Though our ears cannot hear, our hearts are open for this dual world. This culture event builds the bridge connecting both these worlds, of the deaf and of the hearing. Let this bond be full of love, reverence and understanding.*

*Anna Šmehilová*

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

### SUNDAY 20 January 2008

Arrival of abroad participants

### MONDAY 21 January 2008

**09:00 – 12:00** Registration

**14:00 – 17:15** Drama workshops for adults (County education centre – CEC)

Drama workshops for children and youth (Agroinštitút)

Fine arts workshops for children of European project (CEC)

Workshop "International signs" (Agroinštitút)

### THUESDAY 22 January 2008

**09:00 – 12:00** Drama workshops for adults (County education centre – CEC)

Drama workshops for children and youth (Agroinštitút)

Fine arts workshops for children of European project (CEC)

Workshop "International signs" (Agroinštitút)

**14:00 – 17:15** Drama workshops for adults (County education centre – CEC)

Drama workshops for children and youth (Agroinštitút)

Fine arts workshops for children of European project (CEC)

Workshop "International signs" (Agroinštitút)

### WEDNESDAY 23 January 2008

**09:00 – 12:00** Drama workshops for adults (County education centre – CEC)

Drama workshops for children and youth (Agroinštitút)

Fine arts workshops for children of European project (CEC)

Workshop "International signs" (Agroinštitút)

**14:00 – 17:15** Drama workshops for adults (County education centre – CEC)

Drama workshops for children and youth (Agroinštitút)

Fine arts workshops for children of European project (CEC)

Workshop "International signs" (Agroinštitút)

**15:00 – 16:00** Opening of children's exhibition World of silence (Synagogue)

**14:00 – 18:00** Theatre rehearsals

### THURSDAY 24 January 2008

**08:00 – 18:00** Theatre rehearsals

**09:00 – 13:00** Religious seminar (EFFETA)

- 15:00 – 17:00** Opening of the exhibitions in Nitra Gallery  
 1. Stanislav Lubina - graphics  
 2. Competition of deaf artists of Europe
- 19:00 – 21:00** Opening ceremony of the festival programme in the Old Theatre in Nitra  
 Theatre performances
- 21:00 – 22:00** Banquet in the Old Theatre in Nitra (for invited guests only)

## FRIDAY 25 January 2008

- 09:00 – 16:00** Specialised seminar: "Art in Signs" (Agroinštitút)
- 09:00 – 11:00** Theatre performances in the Old Theatre in Nitra
- 11:00 – 12:30** Theatre performances' analysis (Agroinštitút)
- 14:00 – 16:00** Theatre performances in the Old Theatre in Nitra
- 16:00 – 17:30** Theatre performances' analysis (Agroinštitút)
- 19:00 – 21:00** Theatre performances in the Old Theatre in Nitra – guest ensemble

## SATURDAY 26 January 2008

- 08:00 – 09:30** Holy service (Pious' Church)
- 10:00 – 12:00** Theatre performances in the Old Theatre in Nitra
- 10:00 – 13:00** Debate with politicians (DAB studio)
- 14:00 – 16:00** Theatre performances in the Old Theatre in Nitra
- 16:00 – 17:30** Theatre performances' analysis (Agroinštitút)
- 19:00 – 21:00** Closing ceremony in DAB  
 Festival awards  
 Theatre performance EFFETA
- 21:00 – 22:00** Banquet in DAB (invited guests only)

## SUNDAY 27 January 2008

- 09:00 – 11:00** Festival evaluation in Agroinštitút
- 12:00** Departure

# MAIN FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

## CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

### DRAMA WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS

**Duration** 21 – 23 January 2008

**Guarantor** JAMU (Brno, CZ)

**Description**

*Topic: Inspiration - texts, inspiration - images (from text to image and from image to scene realisation)*



Our goal is to make participants familiar with dramatic and realisation approaches when creating a theatre performance, a play with deaf children, youth and adults. Workshop comprises preparation phase (text adaptation into script, own idea of realisation, model of stagedesign,

transformation of adapted text into stage signs), realisation phase (presentation, artist-director consultation, production of simple scene artefacts) and output phase (outputs of the participants – individual work with the topic, feedback in group). Documentation of outcomes will be of great importance,

t o o . Language used in this section is sign language, English and Czech. This festival section is open to public.



## FINE ARTS WORKSHOPS FOR DEAF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**Duration** 21 – 23 January 2008  
**Guarantor** A.C.T.I.S. (Paris, France)  
**Description**



Workshops will be supervised by French artists. Target group are deaf children, deaf artists and pedagogues. Leaders will focus on improvement of access to culture, spread and propagation of new means of expression and techniques in Deaf fine arts and its support. Language used in this section is sign language, English and Czech. This festival section is **not open to public**, the group is closed.

## DRAMA WORKSHOPS FOR DEAF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**Duration** 21. – 23.01.2008  
**Guarantor** JAMU (Brno, CZ)  
 Stichting onderwijs EFFATHA (Zoetermeer, NL)  
**Description:** Deaf ... so what?  
**Topic:** Rising awareness of deaf children and youth



Participants will work on raising their awareness within the group. The goal is to learn deaf children and youth how to co-operate, how to gain new experience in the field of drama (theatre, dance in sign language, film and images, language) and how to use multimedia in art. Languages used in the section are sign language, English and Slovak language. Participation in the section is **strongly limited** to those deaf children and youth coming with pedagogues, who attend drama workshops for adults.

## EXHIBITION

**Opening ceremony** 23 January 2008 (World of Silence) a 24.01.2008 (Nitra Gallery)  
**Duration** 2 – 3 weeks  
**Guarantor** EFFETA (Nitra, SK)  
 A.C.T.I.S. (Paris, FR)

### Description



This section is focused on support of culture acknowledgement within particular art works of the Deaf and their presentation. The exhibition will enhance conditions for creativity and mobility development of deaf artists, who will present their works. The works will be installed in Nitra gallery and Synagogue.

### Exhibition will comprise 3 parts:

- Exhibition of deaf master painter **Stanislav Lubina** in Nitra Gallery.
- Visual Arts exhibition of **deaf artists of Europe** in all age categories in Nitra Gallery sa-  
loon.
- Exhibition of deaf children and youth **World of Silence** installed in Synagogue.

Jury board will choose from all three parts representative **Deaf exhibition**, which will consist of 20 – 30 art works and move to co-organisers' countries, to be presented to deaf and hearing



society. Languages used in this section are international signs, Slovak sign language, English and Slovak language. This festival section is open to public.



## SEMINAR

**Duration** 25 January 2008  
**Guarantor** Doc. PaedDr. Darina Tarcsiová, PhD. (SK)  
 Mgr. Iris Domancová, PhD. (SK)

**Description**



*Topic: Art in Signs*

This section will discuss information and experiences gained in the field of European Deaf culture and arts. International participation expected. Topic is the use of all forms of signs and signing in Deaf art and its development in context. The Deaf will give their opinion and the feedback.

**Keynotes**

- Art signing
- Dance and signs
- Literature and signs
- Shadow theatre

Each topic will emphasise the use of signs in the language of art and their role. Languages used in the section are international signs, Slovak sign language, Slovak and English language. This festival section is open to public.



## THEATRE

**Duration** 24 – 26 January 2008  
**Rehearsal** 23 – 26 January 2008  
**Guarantor** PhDr. Oleg Dlohý (SK)  
**Description**

Theatre programme will last 3 days and areas represented will be drama, pantomime, art signs and dance signs in the Old Theatre in Nitra and Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra.



**Theatre performances will be presented as follows:**

1. Children's theatre groups.
2. Youth theatre groups.
3. Adults' theatre groups.

Theatre programme will be launched at Opening ceremony in the old Theatre in Nitra (24 January 2008) and will be closed with festival awards in Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra (26 January 2008). During the festival days there will be meetings of participants, organisers and jury board, where the quality of particular performances will be discussed. This event will enhance presentation of drama performance of the Deaf in Slovakia and abroad, which will unlock the door of language barriers by means of art. Languages used in the section are international signs, Slovak sign language, Slovak and English language. This festival section is open to public.

**Note:** tickets for Opening ceremony (24 January 2008), Friday evening programme (25 January 2008) and Closing ceremony (26 January 2008) you can reserve in EFFETA. All other performances are free.



## SIDE EVENTS OF THE FESTIVAL

### WORKSHOP - "INTERNATIONAL SIGNS"

**Duration** 21 – 23 January 2008  
**Guarantor** Doc. Paeddr.. Darina Tarcsiová, PhD. (SK)  
 Anna Šmehilová (SK)  
 Gerginand Wagenaar (NL)

**Description**



Workshop will be prepared for the Slovak sign language interpreters. It will be realised in co-operation with Slovak association of sign language interpreters (ATLPRENES, SK) and Slovak organisations rendering sign language interpreting. Topic of the workshop is international signs. The aims are further education of Slovak interpreters and enhance quality interpreting for the Deaf in Slovakia. Three-day workshop will be led by well-experienced

IS interpreter from the Netherlands. This festival section is not open to public.



### RELIGIOUS SEMINAR

**Duration** 24 January 2008  
**Guarantor** Anna Šmehilová (SK)  
 PaedDr. Róbert Colotka (SK)

**Description**

The seminar is being realised for bishops, priests, catechists and deaf Christians. Its goal is finding solutions for problems connected with religious education and their spiritual life.



**Following topics will be discussed:**

- The Deaf and religion education.
- The Deaf and liturgy.
- The Deaf and sacraments.
- Religion terminology and signs.
- Discussion, feedbacks of the Deaf, proposals, notices, initiatives

This festival section is open to public.



### DEBATE WITH POLITICIANS OF NITRA COUNTY

**Duration** 26 January 2008  
**Guarantor** Anna Šmehilová (SK)  
 Jaroslav Cehlárik (SK)

**Description**

In this section we will prepare debate with politicians as representatives of particular political parties of Nitra County and Municipality. The Deaf from **EFFETA** (SK) and **Association of deaf children's and youth organisation in Slovakia** are in charge of preparation



and realisation of this section. Our goal is to push and activate the Deaf to be active and take part in implementation of deaf minority rights and to learn, how to perform assertively in public with the hearing politicians. Slovak deaf will debate with local and regional politicians about the deaf issue. This festival section is **open to public**.

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