

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honour for me to greet the audience present, as well as the artists who are participating in 13th International Festival of Alternative and New Theatre – INFANT.

Saying simply “It is an honour to greet you from this position” was not enough to express how grateful I am to my good fortune, which presented me with the opportunity to be a witness to the first steps of alternative theatre in these parts and to “make” my first steps on the stage together with it as a participant.

I have spent almost my entire life on these stages or in their midst. In the 1970s no one expected alternative theatre and performance art to live so many decades. Namely, alternative art is usually short-lived. Avant-garde is focused on the most current subjects in both art and society, having no ambition to occupy the chair of academic classicists. The stage of avant-garde is a small one, both in space and in time, being made of the elusive material described by Shakespeare in his “Tempest” as a dream. The vision of creative artists and creative audiences is such a stage in the time-space which has been left undamaged by all the historical turmoil happening in this geographical area. What was also essential was the sensitivity and financial aid from those people who have enabled this vision of artists and Novi Sad audiences to come true. The construction of this stage made of dreams was started 30 years ago by artists of Novi Sad, with the help of the artists from former Yugoslavia, Novi Sad audiences and the cultural managers who understood the importance and anticipated even back then, as if clairvoyant, the long-life and hopefully indestructible character of avant-garde art.

I wish you beautiful and rich visions on this stage of time-space of the Festival of Alternative and New Theatre.