

PRE-SUMMIT TEXTS - *Ibrahim Spahić*

Who are you?

I am Ibrahim Spahić, comparatist, thetralogist, publisher, author, founder and director of the International *Sarajevo Winter Festival*.

I was born May 10th 1952 in Sarajevo. In is the same year The European Festivals Association (EFA) was founded in Geneva upon the joint initiative of the eminent conductor Igor Markewitch and the great philosopher Denis de Rougemont.

I finished high school and graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy of Sarajevo University.

I'm married to Senada and I have a son Mirsad and daughter Selma.

I am President of the IPC and organizer of the International "Sarajevo Winter" since 1984.

I was a member of the Executive Committee of the European Festivals Association.

I am Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cultural Forum of B&H. I am member of the House of the Europe culture.

I am an honorary member of PEN Center and Society of Architects of B&H.

I am president of the Kulin Ban Foundation.

I am the honorary president of BJCEM.

In the previous period I was President of the Sarajevo Student Association and a member of the Presidency of the Union of students and youth in the republic and federal level and organizer and the participant of European and World forum on youth and culture. I was President of Publishers and Booksellers of Bosnia and Herzegovina/1997-2015/ and the House of Europe Sarajevo. I was Copartner with Avignon festival for the project *Sarajevo – Capital cultural city of Europe 93/94/* between Antwerp and Lisbon. I initiated activities for the first International Competition in B&H for the Concert Hall in 1998 with City of Rome and Sarajevo. President of the international Jury was Zaha Hadid. Building of this Concert Hall at Marijin Dvor is in the regulatory plan of Sarajevo.

In the past period I was Chairman of the Managing Board of the National Theatre in Sarajevo, member of the BH Press Council, member of the Council of the Festival MESS, president of Collegium Artisticum Association, Poetics of Space, Executive of the Civic Forum and founder and first Eco-Eye movement "Grasshopper," and publisher of "Eco-Eye", journal and TV project for human rights *Why* and cofounder

and coeditor for revue *Dijalog* with the Academy of art and science for the philosophy. I'm founder of the Student art festival *TOGETHER* (1973), and Student culture center University of Sarajevo (1974). I was Director of the 10th Biennale of Young Artist of Europe and the Mediterranean in 2001. – Chaos/Communication and the first president of the Association of Young Artists of Europe and the Mediterranean for the period 2001-2007.

I was President of the Commission for the development of cultural strategies in the B&H Council of Ministers, which was adopted in September 2008 by the Council of Ministers.

I was coordinator of the pilot project Sarajevo, First intercultural City Council of Europe /2003-2004/

I also was the President of the European Organizing Committee of the Council of Europe campaign to raise awareness and promote multi-ethnic society and democratic citizenship for all "Link Diversity" in south-eastern Europe and the Executive Director of the Culture Committee of the Council of Europe. I was a member of the organization for intercultural and interreligious dialog as well as member of many international organizations.

The Parliamentary Assembly of B&H

I was a member of three parliamentary assemblies of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I was initiator and author of the laws and resolutions that were adopted in the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Law on the rights of ethnic and national communities or minorities in B&H, Parliamentary Assembly of BiH Resolution on European Integration and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe; Resolution of trust and reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Resolution for economic and social policy, the Resolution on health care and the Resolution for strategy development of B&H.

I was President of the Commission for the development of cultural strategies in B&H Council of Ministers, which was adopted by the Council of Ministers.

Bibliography

Author:

I am the author of papers on foreign policy and human rights, culture and art. I participated in many international cultural and scientific conferences and congresses. The organizer of the workshops and international seminars, and I gave lectures at numerous stands. I was the organizer of the Conference of Mayors, mayors and civil society in cooperation with the Council of Europe.

The book of the Parliamentary Assembly of B&H, the book" Citizens Pro/vocation ,and the book Conference of Mayors, mayors and civil society in cooperation with the Council of Europe. The book Link Diversity on the future of B&H .

The book of monographs, "*20 years of the Sarajevo Winter*".

The books of poetry: *Sign, Man of the wire, Sarajevo spiders and the others bugs* and the book of anthologies poetry *Harp*.

Awards

I received the award for Cultural Co-operation North-South, "Golden Charter" of humanism (International League of Humanists), medal "Juan Miro" (UNESCO), the awards *Tartuffe per Pacce* (Italy), well as special recognition European Theatre Prize for the work to defend human and artistic dignity, *Nine Dragons* award for the development of cultural relations of South Korea and B&H, medal the City of Antwerp, the cultural center of Europe in 1993 and special awards of the Association for Cultural L'eta verde , the award of the manager of the year 2007 in the field of culture for the South East and Central Europe. I received the Order of Knight of Literature and Arts of the Republic of France. I am the Medal winner of BH Forum Prospects for the development of democracy and civil society.

I received the Medal of the Sarajevo Canton in 2009 and the City of Sarajevo *6th of April award* in 2010.

I also was declared an honorary citizen of the city Montorio al Vomano, Italy.

If your festival was a human being, what would it be most proud of?

Diversity, vitality, community.

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| The Substance | Supstanca |
| The first eye | Prvo oko |
| Is extracting | Luči |
| Thread | nit |
| For | za |
| a cobweb | mrežu |
| by weaving | tkanjem |
| from it | iz njega |
| everything | sve |
| exits | izlazi |
| in it | U njega |
| everything | sve |
| comes | se |
| back | vraća |

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| it created | Stvotilo je |
| the sun | Sunce |
| the moon | Mjesec |
| the stars | Zvijezde |
| the first | Prvu |
| human | ljudsku |
| essence | tvar |

(A poem from the poetry book by Ibrahim Spahic 'Sarajevski pauci i drugi kukci', ('Sarajevo spiders and other bugs', 2008) in Bosančica (Old Bosnian Cyrilic), in contemporary Cyrilic and Latin alphabet, and in the English language.)

The substance of silk is a fluid that connects the diversity, vitality and the community on the Silk Road of Art. A link among diversity, vitality and community is love among people, love based on the golden rule – 'Do unto others as you do unto yourself, from the best tradition of measure for harmony and hierarchy of elements.

The light absorbed during metamorphosis of the cocoon into a silk thread is reflected over the silk fabric within the infinite variations of beauty and awakens all our visible and invisible senses. The caterpillar of the silkworm (*Bambix Mori*), in passing from the larvae stage into the calm pupal stage, takes the form of the horizontal number eight – the sign for infinity. The silkworm's mulberry tree leaf is the archetype of the root from which the silk threads are formed, through synergy and creativity.

The friendships mutually support and enhance the virtues. This is the fact that draws attention to the importance of relationship between diversity, vitality and community. All of us behind the stage, on the stage and in the audience are both emitting and receiving energy from the link of silk substance; this is the music of spheres in which diversity is acknowledged and appreciated, where living is full of essence, living full of *élan vital* and the kind of living which is open for community building, contrary to living without essence and synergy.

A world without diversity is monotonous and unbearable.

A world without diversity does not possess the capacity for metamorphosis.

A world without diversity annihilates the essence of human community.

A world without vitality does not possess the driving force.

A world without vitality does not possess creativity.

A world without vitality hinders the viability of the community.

A world without community has no substance.

Yin and yang are within the nature of fluid which connects diversity, vitality and community.

Inter-national/cross-national cooperation is necessity for the arts, the artists, and the audience. Do you agree?

Inter-national/cross-national cooperation is necessity for the arts, the artists, and the audience. That is substance and mission of Sarajevo Winter. The International Festival Sarajevo "Sarajevo Winter" is a 33 year old traditional meeting place for artists and citizens from all over the world. The first "Sarajevo Winter" Festival was held from 21st of December 1984 to 6th of April 1985. In the course of years of its existence, the Festival has become an inseparable part of the city life. More than 4.000 performances and exhibitions with over 3.500.000 visitors and 39.890 participants from all parts of the world took place in the 1418 festival days. The "Sarajevo Winter" Festival was not prevented from taking place even in the times of war, and has become a symbol of freedom of creativity and a place for familiarizing with diverse cultures and civilizations. Together with the International Peace Center, "Sarajevo Winter" initiated and organized the project "Sarajevo, Capital Cultural City of Europe" from 21st of December 1993 to 21st of March 1994 (i.e. the period between the two Cultural Centers of Europe – Antwerp '93 and Lisbon '94). The idea was supported by the Sarajevo City Assembly and Festival AVIGNON and by 11.000 renowned personalities and institutions from the whole world. The International Peace Center and the International Festival Sarajevo "Sarajevo Winter" plan to renew the same initiative. Twentieth anniversary of the Festival Sarajevo "Sarajevo Winter" was dedicated to Project Sarajevo, Intercultural City of the Council of Europe. The International Peace Center and the "Sarajevo Winter" festival are preparing the project "Sarajevo – The World City of Book and project MUSEUM FOR PEACE. The organizer of the "Sarajevo Winter" Festival is the International Peace Center Sarajevo. Sarajevo Winter Festival is the member the European Festival Association (EFA) and Association of Biennials of Young Artists of Europe and Mediterranean (BJCEM).

The International Festival Sarajevo "Sarajevo Winter" is numerous international awards and acknowledgments winner, as well as the winner of the highest award of the City of Sarajevo "Šestoaprilska nagrada Sarajeva" (*Sarajevo 6th of April award*) (and EFFE LABEL 2017-2018). The "Sarajevo Winter" Festival has traditionally been held under the auspices of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the European Union, UNESCO, the Presidency of B&H, The Federation of B&H, the Council of Ministers of B&H, Sarajevo Canton, City of Sarajevo and Stari Grad Municipality.

Welcome for the next Sarajevo Winter Festival –THE OTHER FACE OF THE WORLD.

www.sarajevskazima.ba

Ibrahim Spahić
Director of International Festival Sarajevo
"Sarajevo Winter"



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