



Subotica Festival, Serbia 2012

Peter Glanville, Artistic Director & Chief Executive of Little Angel Theatre, London writes:

'Earlier this year from May 20th -23rd, I visited the 19th Subotica Festival of Children's Theatre in Serbia. Following a flight to Budapest, I was met by a festival representative and driven for a couple of hours to the quiet town of Subotica, a stone's throw from the Hungarian border.

The festival is an efficiently run event which takes place over 6 days and in 2 main venues – the National Theatre for Children (main house and studio) and the University. This year, there was a major focus on puppetry, so it was of particular interest to me as Artistic Director of Little Angel Theatre in London www.littleangeltheatre.com. 21 companies were invited to perform, mostly from Eastern Europe but also representatives from Chile, Egypt, France, Italy, Spain and the UK (String theatre). The venues are both very close to each other as is the lovely Hotel Patria where all visitors and performers stay with breakfast, lunch and dinner provided, so it's easy to get around. The Hotel is also the venue for a series of papers and talks on Children's Theatre led by the highly respected Henryk Jurkowski. In addition, there was also a wonderful exhibition of Polish Puppets at the University as well as screenings of short animated films. Whilst you have free tickets to all shows, one word of warning, it is first come, first seated so you have to arrive early to ensure you have a place.

I saw 15 productions in 4 days, with 50% of the work being of a very high standard. Worth it for outstanding Russian Puppetry from 'Belgorod State Puppet Theatre 'Little Stork and the Scarecrow', Chekhov's 'The Bear' by Kostromo Theatre (one of a few productions for adults) and a beautiful 'Snow White' by Mini Theatre from Slovenia, the winner of the jury's Grand Prix.

This festival is worth a visit. Great for seeing a range of work and plenty of opportunities to network with companies and international festival producers. I was treated well throughout my stay which also included an afternoon visit to Lake Palic with plentiful Goulash and beer'. Oh, and check out the beautiful Synagogue !

peter@littleangeltheatre.com

www.littleangeltheatre.com

www.suspensefestival.com

