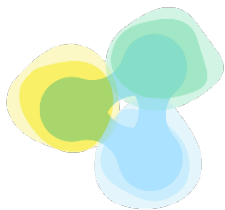




## PLACETHEATRE

### DEL03 Street theatre reporting package

Code	240123-D03
Activity	240123 Placemaking via street theatre and dialogues of the future
Project acronym	PLACETHEATRE
Task	240123-A2400 OS - Placemaking via street theatre and dialogues of the future
Description	Street theatre methodology, synopsis, street theatre photos, participant testimonials.
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## 1. Introduction

PLACETHEATRE aims to use the public realm of Novi Sad (Serbia), particularly several neglected public areas from remote neighborhoods and apply innovative and unconventional art-based methodologies – street theatre (ST) and dialogues of the future (DotF) – for helping citizens and social groups at risk regain their sense of community and belonging in a sustainable, socially-inclusive and circular manner following the New European Bauhaus principles of inclusion, aesthetics and sustainability.

During the second phase of Objective 1 findings from previously conducted DotFs were transferred by a qualified play writer into a synopsis (provided in Section 2 of this report) that served as basis for 3 different short theatrics plays representing (educationally, emotionally and socially) the future state of the three targeted areas of Novi Sad. The synopsis gave the overall idea and tone for the three plays, while the actors had the responsibility to improvise for each of the three locations with the information provided in earlier stages. The synopsis was written with intent to: boost cultural exchange; remove pre-existing biases of people (towards the relevant social challenges, including circular economy – the use of “second hand” products); promote proximity economy and support local small players; raise better awareness of local challenges/issues that can then be better tackled by the cultural realm (festivals, shows, concerts); boost the ownership capacity of citizens with regards to the public space; boost EU identity, values and reduce Euroscepticism; promote circular/shared mobility of products/spaces; ENHANCE the circular mindset of citizens and revive cultural traditions of durability; make divergent social groups know each-other and interact.

Three street theatre plays (20 mins) exploring how current urban challenges can be solved in the future were conducted in three consecutive days in the second week of July 2024 at three distinct locations (photos provided in Section 3 of this report). The aim of these three street plays was to enhance the public realm by boosting cultural exchange in a non-conventional location and format, providing the citizens with an unique experience of witnessing a street performance in their neighborhood, whilst collecting their thoughts and perceptions on the areas in which they reside.

## 2. PLACETHEATRE synopsis

### INTERACTIVE PERFORMANCE IN CABARET-GROTESQUE FORM WITH ELEMENTS OF IMPRO AND FORUM THEATER

Authors: Nataša Vujović -Tomičić, Aleksandar Baloš

The "Back and forth" theater troupe arrives in certain parts of the city that are covered by this project to, ostensibly, perform its theatrical performance.

With a pompous musical announcement, the members of this acting troupe are introduced to the audience (passers-by, local residents): Mr. Boss – a high blown, arrogant quasi-gentleman, self-appointed leader of the troupe, then Miss Chic - a middle-aged actress who tries to look young, in second-hand, once-glamorous clothes , convinced that she is the star , and also Mr. Joke - a likable, good-natured, easy-going character, seemingly dull, but in fact unobtrusive, unlike these two and of a lower education and origin than them.

After the presentation, Miss Chic starts a conflict with Mr. Boss, whom she blames for bringing them to a completely unsuitable place for the performance, because there are no cultural institutions, no outdoor stages, and no adequate lighting... There is traffic noise everywhere, difficulty breathing because of the exhaust gases, cyclists bump into them,... it's too hot, and there's nowhere to cool down, because there are no parks and trees,... it's muddy, she got her shoes dirty, because the streets are not paved, ... and there are no children anywhere , because there is no playground for them, so there is no audience, etc. (the text will be adapted in relation to the specific problems of the parts of the city where the performance is performed). Mr. Boss defends himself all the time and tries to shift the blame to Mr. Joke who holds the map and gives instructions about their movement. Mr. Joke, confused by the attack, spells out the letters from the map, and asks for help from those present in the audience in the form of questions, e.g. "Where is the cultural center located here?" Do you have a stage somewhere, or any better space to put on a show? Why do cyclists ride on roadways and sidewalks? Is there a playground for children somewhere? Can we go somewhere in the shade? What does it look like when



you have to pass a sidewalk with a car parked on it, come on show me" ...Etc. The townspeople, of course, answer negatively to every question asked and act out scenes from everyday life, and with each answer, Miss Chic becomes more and more furious and finally bursts with anger and tells Mr. Boss that she is leaving the theater troupe. There is a big argument between them that develops in musical form and escalates to the end of communication so that they turn their backs on each other again.

So lonely, with their thoughts, they realize that the anger and nervousness was caused by the situation in which they find themselves and the environment with all the problems that raise tension between people, which the characters communicate in a monologue or in a dialogue with the audience. After this realization, they reconcile through a warm musical song and point out at the end that their friendship must not break because of problems in the environment that can be solved if there is unity and togetherness of the local population. Therefore, they invite the locals to give concrete proposals for solving the problems, it would be good if as many of them as possible get involved with ideas. As a reward, they perform a super short comedy, improvised puppet show, bow and leave in the hope that very soon they will perform for them again, but in a better and healthier environment.

### 3. Street theatre photos and testimonials

Performed by actors of Creative studio "Čarolija" <http://www.carolija.tv/>

#### 3.1 Petrovaradin – Novi Majur 8.7.2024.



##### 1. Jovan, 60, Retired Engineer

"Living in Petrovaradin for decades, I've seen the area change, but it's never had much to offer culturally. That is, this part of Petrovaradin, as the old town is full of cultural events. But we don't see any of them here. We're stuck between busy roads, and frankly there's not a single cultural event or public space for people to gather. When the street theatre came to our neighborhood today, I didn't expect much, but I was wrong. They performed in front of our building, and it made me think

about how we could use these spaces better."

##### 2. Tamara, 33, Mother of Two

"The streets here are dangerous. Cars and trucks are everywhere, in thousands every day, and it's no place for my kids to play. The street theatre group performed a story about the future of our neighborhood, with new parks and play areas for children. It was the first time I could really picture a better place for my kids. After watching it, I am thinking about forming a group of parents who are should be petitioning the local government to build safer playgrounds for our kids."

##### 3. Milan, 45, Delivery Driver

"I've lived here my whole life, and honestly, I had given up on thinking things would change. At least for the better. The traffic is terrible, and the streets are so narrow, I worry about parking every day. The street theatre showed us a vision of this place with less traffic and more parking, and it felt real for the first time. I was really intrigued by the questions at the end of the show."

#### 4. Katarina, 28, Local Artist



"I always felt like was culturally dead. It's strange living so close to Petrovaradin Fortress, where there are all these festivals, but over here, it's like we've been forgotten. The street theatre troupe that came really inspired me. They performed a piece about how our walls could be filled with murals instead of graffiti, and I've been thinking ever since how we could start a local art movement here. Especially the part with the old railroad station. "

#### 5. Dragana, 70, Retired Teacher

"I struggle with mobility issues in recent years, and this part of Petrovaradin is not friendly to people like me. Narrow streets, no ramps, and it's hard to get around. The theatre performance touched on accessibility, showing how things could be if the streets were made for everyone. It gave me hope that we might one day have proper paths and public spaces where I can spend time outside. I've never seen anything like this here, and it made me believe we can push for a change."





### 3.2 Adice 9.7.2024.



#### 1. Ivana, 48, Local Resident

"For years, we've lived with unpaved roads, and our kids had no proper playgrounds to play on. I remember the cultural center being the heart of our neighborhood when I was younger, but now it's abandoned. The street theatre that came to our area opened my eyes to the potential we have here. They performed a play about how Adice could be transformed, and it gave me hope. It was like seeing a future where our kids could run around a real park next to the church that should also be finished

finally."

#### 2. Marko, 22, Small Business Owner

"Running a small business here is a struggle. The roads are bad, and there's no proper market for us to sell our goods, I need to carry everything to the main city market. The street theatre performance showed us a vision of how a local market could thrive here, and how we could all come together as a community. After the play, I wish I became an actor."

#### 3. Sara, 34, Mother of Two

"Living here with my kids has always been hard. There are no safe spaces for them to play, and I worry about them walking home in the dark because there's barely any street lighting. The street theatre showed a future with parks and proper lighting, and it made me think, 'Why can't we have that?' It brought our struggles into focus but also gave me hope that things can change."





#### 4. Nenad, 62, Retired Factory Worker

"Seeing the street theatre perform right in front of the unfinished church sitting next to the new shiny local hospital felt like a wake-up call. We have too much contrast between what is good and what is not good. My granddaughters really enjoyed this show."



#### 5. Mirela, 27, Roma Resident

"Being part of the Roma community here, we've frequently faced discrimination and been pushed aside. The street theatre brought that issue to light in a way I didn't expect – they didn't say it but I felt that message, that in the city center is different. They told our story in front of the whole neighborhood. Afterward, I saw people talking, understanding more, and there was a sense of unity that I hadn't felt before. Even the people who waited for the bus enjoyed."



### 3.3 Grbavica 10.7.2024.

#### 1. Milica, 32, Young Professional

"Grbavica is a mess when it comes to walking. The sidewalks are too narrow, and with cars parked everywhere, it's hard to even go for a stroll. When the street theatre came to our neighborhood, they performed a piece about what it would be like to have real parks and pedestrian paths. It made me realize how much we've been missing. But I wonder if it's even possible here."



#### 2. Nikola, 40, Unemployed, father of two

"Raising kids here is tough. There's nowhere for them to play—no parks, no sports facilities. Only this yard. The street theatre performance gave us a glimpse of what Grbavica could be, with playgrounds and spaces for kids to run around safely. It was like they were performing our dreams right in front of us."

#### 3. Radmila, 65, Retired Teacher

"I've lived in Grbavica for over 40 years, when it used to be full of small family homes, and now it's just overcrowded with ugly, mismatched buildings. The street theatre brought a sense of hope. They mentioned constructing a cultural center and showed how it could be a space for everyone, not just young people. I saw myself attending community events, maybe even performances."



#### 4. Bojan, 28, IT Specialist

"Parking here is a nightmare. I drive around for ages just to find a spot, and half the time, people are parked on what's left of the green areas. The street theatre addressed this in such a clever way, portraying a future where we have underground parking and space for trees and parks. It was creative and really struck a chord. I started thinking, 'Why can't we actually make this happen?'"



## 4. Conclusion

The employed methodology of street theatre was greatly successful in activating citizens of the three neglected areas, thus proving that this format works. The local inhabitants greatly enjoyed the outdoor plays. Many of them expressed pleasant surprise to witness such an event in front of their houses and buildings. The plays especially attracted the youngest citizens, although they were not the main target population. The participating plays allowed spectators to express their perception of the show but also of their neighborhood, which allowed interesting insights into relevant topics.