

Nordic network of theater directors: recovery from the corona crisis will take years

Nordiska Teaterlederråd network also stated common principles in relation to war and co-operation with Russian artists. In times of crisis, it is important to strengthen Nordic co-operation.

Nordiska Teaterlederråd, a joint network of Nordic theater organizations and theater directors, met in Helsinki on 10-11 March 2022. The network brings together representatives from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland. As part of the meeting, the network met with all the Nordic ambassadors at the Swedish Embassy to discuss current issues in the theater field.

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At its meeting, Nordiska Teaterlederråd discussed how the corona pandemic has significantly affected the entire performing arts sector in the Nordic countries. Long closures and restrictions on operations have affected the availability of labor: in all the Nordic countries, for example, professionals in theater technology and performers have changed their field. In addition, the crisis has changed the public's relationship with theater. Audiences have partially found their way back to the theater, but uncertainty and a change in behavior of buying tickets can be seen everywhere.

Nordiska Teaterlederråd stated that the traces of the corona crisis will be visible on the theater field around the Nordic countries for many years to come. Teaterlederråd appeals to decision-makers in all the Nordic countries that while the corona-related health crisis now seems to be easing, the consequences for the theater industry must not be forgotten. Our industry needs support for reconstruction and recovery, in all Nordic countries.

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Russia's unreasonable and reprehensible attack on Ukraine has also aroused in the theater field a desire to help and support the Ukrainians. Theaters want to do their best to help Ukrainian refugees and artists fleeing Ukraine. In addition, the Nordic theater field recognizes the difficult position of Russian artists opposed to the war and the need to support them as well.

Nordiska Teaterlederråd stated all Nordic countries recognize [the principles set out by the Norwegian Theater and Orchestra Association \(NTO\)](#). Co-operation with Russian state-run and state-affiliated organizations should be frozen. However, freedom of art and freedom of expression are core values, which is why the boycott should not directly affect individual Russian artists and the collaboration with them. Consideration should always be given on a case-by-case basis.

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During and as crises recover, the importance of cooperation and discussion is further emphasized. The Nordic theater community is loyal and united. Nordiska Teaterlederråd will continue to work to strengthen the importance of the performing arts in the Nordic countries.

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