Banja Luka, 15.2.2024.

Dear colleagues,

     It is an honour to invite you to apply for the official selection of 23rd International Festival of Children’s Theatres - BANJA LUKA 2024. The festival will be held from October **13th to October 19th of 2024.**

     The International Festival of Children's Theatres in Banja Luka has been organised by the Children's Theatre of the Republic of Srpska since 2002 with the support of the Ministry of Education and Culture and the city of Banja Luka. Children's Theatre of the Republic of Srpska as the organizer of the International Festival for Children has welcomed more than two hundred theatres for children from around the world.

 The International Festival of Children's Theatres in Banja Luka, with its actions promotes faster development of puppetry and theatre arts in the Republic of Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and it is considered one of the most important festivals for children in the Balkans.

 The Festival aims to strongly promote puppetry, as the most demanding, most attractive and most important format of theatrical expression for children, because the Festival has a primary goal which is the affirmation of the art of puppetry. Children’s Theatre of the Republic of Srpska was founded 1955 and its tradition and quality in drama and puppetry production were recognized by many great directors of the former Yugoslavian space, and directors of European countries.

 The International Festival of Children's Theatres is a competitive event and performances each year are judged by International jury of eminent puppet theatres experts as former members of the jury were: Professor Henryk Jurkowski (Poland), prof. Dr. Hartmut Lorenz (Germany), prof. Dr. Nikolina Georgijevna (Bulgaria), Dragan Dovlev (Macedonia), distinguished Artist of Russia prof. Dr. Boris Pavlovich Goldovski, prof. Zoran Djeric, theatrologist Miroslav Radonjic, playwright Igor Bojovic (Serbia), director Robert Waltl (Slovenia), Jaroslav Antonjuk (Poland), Nicolai Naumov (Russia), and others.

 The Festival annually presents awards: Grand Prix - the Best Overall Performance, the Award for the Best Director, set design, music, five equal acting awards, and the Award “Dragan Banjac“ for the most comic actor performance.

The Organizer of the Festival invites all professional theatres to apply for the Festival program with their best performance. The deadline for applications **is June 15th 2024**.

Only selected theatres will be reached by e-mail.

To participate in the selection of the shows that are to be performed in the official competitive festival program, it is necessary to send:

** Completed application form,**

** Video of the show,**

** 5 photos,**

** Summary of the play,**

** Technical requirements**

Please, send the applications to the theatre address:

Children's Theatre of Republic of Srpska

Djure Danicica Street, No.1

78000 Banja Luka

Republic of Srpska

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Or to our e-mail: festival.dprs@gmail.com

**The Festival organiser covers the full board accommodation costs of up to 12 people for two days.**

**Travel costs and fees are to be covered by the theatres.**

23rd International Festival of Children's Theatres- BANJA LUKA 2024 is competitive and the shows are evaluated by the members of the International Expert Jury which presents the following awards:

 Grand Prix for the best show

 Award for the best direction

 Award for the best stage design and costumes

 Award for the best music

 Five equal acting awards

 Special Festival award

 Award “Dragan Banjac“ for the most comic actor performance

For additional information please call +38765273552 (Viber, WhatsApp, Telegram) or e-mail: festival.dprs@gmail.com