

« Car le vrai rôle d'un festival est d'aider les artistes à oser, à entreprendre des projets... »  
(Bernard Faivre d'Arcier)

# European Atelier for Young Festival Managers

Press Release - April 2009  
European Atelier for Young Festival Managers  
26 April - 3 May 2009  
Varna, Bulgaria

## A unique platform for learning, inspiration and networking to be launched on 26 April

From 26 April to 3 May 2009, the second edition of the European Atelier for Young Festival Managers is taking place in Varna/Bulgaria. The Atelier is an initiative of the European Festivals Association (EFA), the umbrella organisation of arts festivals in Europe, to "offer to emerging festival directors a stage to explore creative ideas and open up new perspectives", as Kathrin Deventer, EFA Secretary General, underlines.

The Atelier brings together **45 talented and pioneering young festival managers from 25 countries** with an outstanding variety of cultural backgrounds. "The opportunity that presents itself through the Atelier provides a valuable group of people with fresh views and perceptions, meshed with the guidance, knowledge and support of those who have worked and managed across different festivals," explains a 2009 participant from Australia.

**Bernard Faivre d'Arcier** (former Artistic Director of the Avignon Festival - France), **Rose Fenton** (co-founder of London International Festival of Theatre - UK), **Hugo De Greef** (General Director of the Flagey and former EFA Secretary General - Belgium) and **Nele Hertling** (Member of the strategy group of A Soul for Europe - Germany) guide participants throughout the week. They are joined by a remarkable group of festival directors including **Robyn Archer** (Light in Winter Festival - Australia), **Agnes Havas** (Mezzo Opera Festival - Hungary), **Tzvetelina Iossifova** (The Red House Centre & Festival Balkan Dance Platform 2009 - Bulgaria), **Gundega Laivina** (New Theatre Institute of Latvia & Homo Novus Festival), **Jonathan Mills** (Edinburgh International Festival - UK), **Kristina Rady** (Sziget Festival - France), **Mark Russell** (Under the Radar Festival - USA), **Marie-Agnès Sevestre** (Festival des Francophonies en Limousin - France), **Galin Stoev** (Company Fingerprint - Bulgaria), **Tom Stromberg** (Impulse Festival - Germany)...

The Atelier is unique as it focuses on the **artistic aspects of festival management** following the motto borrowed from Bernard Faivre d'Arcier: "The true role of a festival is to help artists to dare, to engage in new projects...". The **closing session on Saturday 2 May 2009** from 2 pm at the **Varna Art Gallery** is open to the public. A lecture, a concluding round table with an outstanding group of festival directors and the certificate ceremony give an end to the intense working week.

The European Atelier is hosted by the **Varna Summer International Music Festival** and co-organized with the **Municipality of Varna** in partnership with the **Festival and Congress Centre**. The working sessions take place in various venues of the city including the Archeological Museum, the Opera Theatre, the Puppet Theatre and the Art Gallery.

### Contact

European Festivals Association  
Kleine Gentsstraat 46  
B-9051 Gent • Belgium  
Tel: + 32 9 241 80 80  
Fax: + 32 9 241 80 89  
atelier@efa-aef.eu  
www.efa-aef.eu

### Atelier partners

European Festivals Association (EFA), Initiator and Coordinator



Festival & Congress Centre - Varna, Associated partner



Varna Summer International Music Festival, Host



Municipality of Varna, Co-organizer



### Structural partners

A Soul For Europe



The European House for Culture, an initiative of EFA



### Financial partners

