

# Visiting theatres

1.2 million people visited Estonian theatre performances this year. In 2022, the average number of performances per day was 18, and the average number of theatregoers was 3063 per day (with an average of 166 viewers per performance).

6744 performances were given (3419 of them in Tallinn), and 70.8% of them were on stationary stages. In comparison to the pre-COVID times, 5% more performances were given in stationary venues in 2022.

81% of theatregoers visited theatres in eighth theatre towns (with 50.8% of all theatre visits in Tallinn), 202 612 (18%) visitors watched performances in counties outside theatre towns and 12 546 or 1% of viewers saw Estonian performances abroad.

Throughout the years, Estonian theatres have, on average, performed 10% of their performances abroad, but the effects of the COVID-19 period have reduced this to 1.8% by 2022. Similarly to the rest of the Estonian theatrical landscape, nearly half (42,4%) of the productions performed abroad were spoken word performances.

33 productions were performed abroad in 22 different countries. Estonian theatres visited festivals and gave guest performances in theatres in Finland, Netherlands, Latvia, Lithuania, Italy, Belgium, Norway, etc. Foreign theaters from Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, and other parts of Europe, as well as Morocco, South Korea, Japan, and Canada, participated in 26 various festivals held in Estonia in 2022.

The **Estonian Theatre Agency** is a foundation dedicated to promoting Estonian performing arts in Estonia and abroad. We handle the performing rights of most of the contemporary Estonian playwrights, gather theatre statistics for the Ministry of Culture, handle the performing rights of foreign plays, organise play competitions, and maintain a library collection of plays. These activities make us an excellent partner for sharing information about and developing the field of performing arts in Estonia.

The Estonian Theatre Agency annually organises an Estonian contemporary performing arts showcase festival for foreign theatre managers, curators, and programmers. During the four-day festival, our guests can see and experience a concentrated selection of Estonian contemporary performing arts with international potential.

## Estonian theaters that received an operating grant from the Ministry of Culture in 2022:

### PUBLIC THEATRE:

National Opera Estonia [www.opera.ee](http://www.opera.ee)

### FOUNDATIONS:

Endla Theatre [www.endla.ee](http://www.endla.ee)  
Estonian Drama Theatre [www.draamateater.ee](http://www.draamateater.ee)  
Estonian Theatre for Young Audiences [www.eestinoorsooteater.ee](http://www.eestinoorsooteater.ee)  
Kuressaare Theatre [www.kuressaareteater.ee](http://www.kuressaareteater.ee)  
Rakvere Theatre [www.rakvereteater.ee](http://www.rakvereteater.ee)  
Russian Theatre [www.veneteater.ee](http://www.veneteater.ee)  
Ugala Theatre [www.ugala.ee](http://www.ugala.ee)  
Vanemuine Theatre [www.vanemuine.ee](http://www.vanemuine.ee)

### MUNICIPAL THEATRES:

Paide Theatre [www.paideteater.ee](http://www.paideteater.ee)  
Tallinn City Theatre [www.linnateater.ee](http://www.linnateater.ee)

### PRODUCTION HOUSES:

Kanuti Gildi SAAL [www.saal.ee](http://www.saal.ee)  
Sõltumatu Tantsu Lava [www.stl.ee](http://www.stl.ee)  
Vaba Lava [www.vabalava.ee](http://www.vabalava.ee)

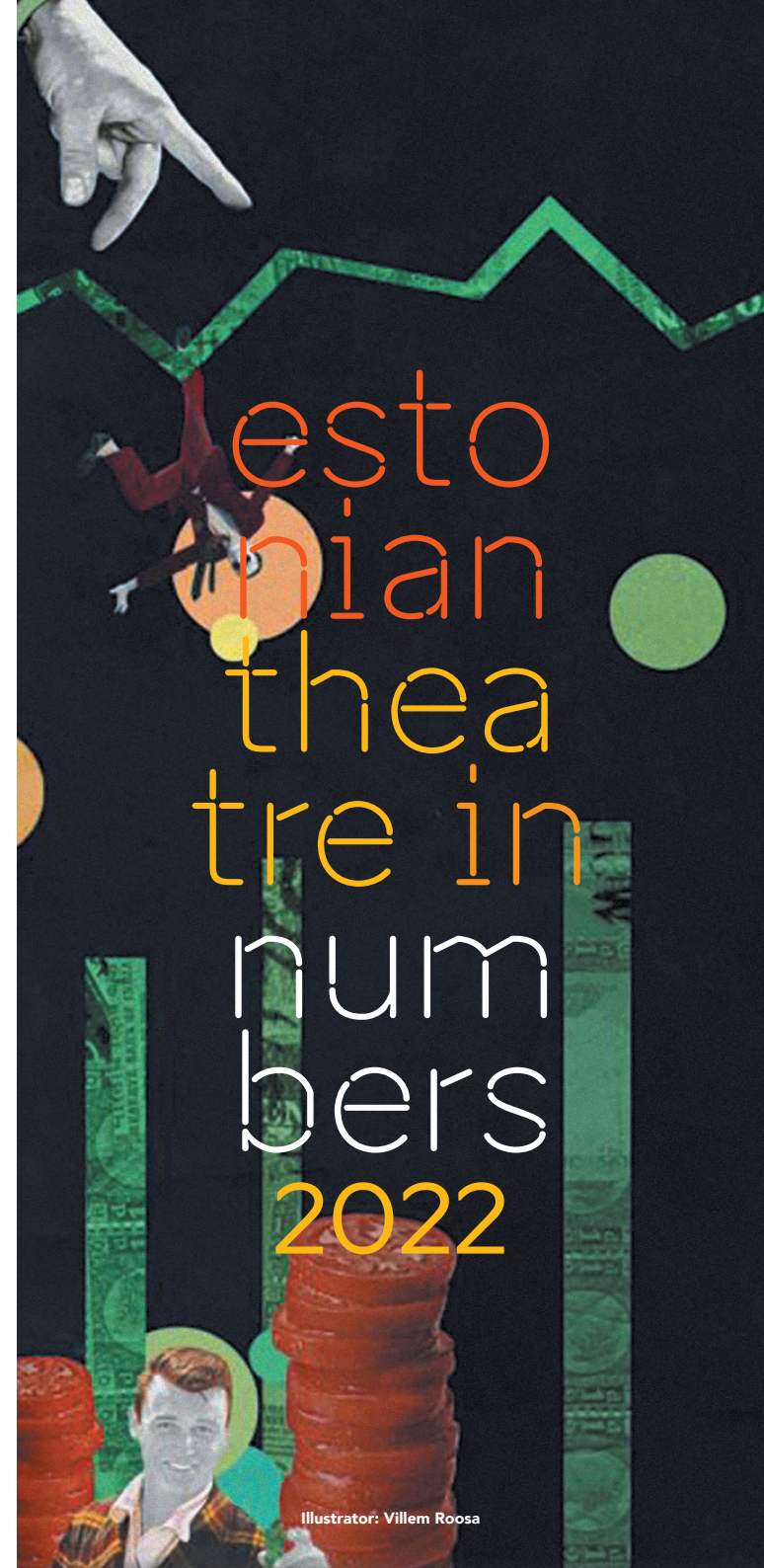
### PRIVATE THEATRES:

Ekspeditsioon [www.ekspeditsioon.com](http://www.ekspeditsioon.com)  
e'lektron [www.elektron.art](http://www.elektron.art)  
Fine 5 Dance Theatre [www.fine5.ee](http://www.fine5.ee)  
Ilmarine [www.ilmarine-teater.ee](http://www.ilmarine-teater.ee)  
Must Kast [www.teatermustkast.ee](http://www.teatermustkast.ee)  
Old Baskin's Theatre [www.vanabaskiniteater.ee](http://www.vanabaskiniteater.ee)  
Piip ja Tuut Theatre [www.piipjatuut.ee](http://www.piipjatuut.ee)  
R.A.A.A.M. [www.raaam.ee](http://www.raaam.ee)  
Tartu New Theatre [www.uusteater.ee](http://www.uusteater.ee)  
Theatrum [www.theatrum.ee](http://www.theatrum.ee)  
Tuuleveski [www.tuuleveskitheatre](http://www.tuuleveskitheatre)  
VAT Theatre [www.vatteater.ee](http://www.vatteater.ee)  
Von Krahl Theatre [www.vonkrah.ee](http://www.vonkrah.ee)



### CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Estonian Theatre Agency**  
Telliskivi 60A-9, 10412 Tallinn  
[info@teater.ee](mailto:info@teater.ee)  
[www.teater.ee](http://www.teater.ee)



# Estonian theatre in numbers

Estonian theatre's 2022 statistics show, that as the COVID-19 period has passed, theatre activity has returned and in even greater numbers than before. Alongside an average of 75 theatres producing new performances, there are also over 20 new theatre projects each year. 26 theatres and theatre companies received support from the budget of the Ministry of Culture in 2022. These companies include state-subsidised repertory theatres, incl. one with three genres – spoken-music-dance theatre, and one with two genres – music-dance theatre, municipal theatres, non-profit small theatres, foundations, and dance companies.

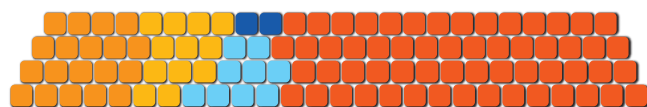
With its population of 1.36 million, Estonia has 8 cities or towns that have professional theatres (Tallinn, Tartu, Pärnu, Viljandi, Rakvere, Paide, Narva, Kuressaare). In 2022, there were more than 250 stationary and non-stationary locations for performances.

## Financing

(All the numbers below are based on Estonian Theatre Statistics 2022)

Estonian theatres can apply for direct assistance and project-based support from the state budget, and it is also possible to apply for funding from the Cultural Endowment of Estonia for financing the staging of productions.

State support forms 58% of all income for theatres, (in fact, 12.1% of that support in 2022 was direct investment into the renovation of theatres) the profit that theatres get from selling tickets is on average 19%, and local governments contribute 9%.



income from box-office receipts	13 810 515	19%
other income	8 365 089	12%
project grants from foreign countries, local government, and state budget	1 228 030	2%
support from the local governments	6 518 194	9%
support from the state budget	41 721 763	58%

## Tickets

Compared to 2019, the ticket revenue of theatres has remained more or less the same, but the average ticket price has increased by 2 euros. The average cost of a theatre ticket in 2022 was 15.4 euros (2019 was it 13.4 euros)\*, which is over 1% of the average monthly wage in Estonia. Across different types of performances, the ticket prices are understandably highest for musicals (18.6 euros) and the lowest for puppet performances (6.5 euros). Most of the performances were aimed at adults, whose average ticket cost 17.2 euros. Performances for young people, however, were only slightly lower – 16.9 euros. Ticket prices were lowest for performances made for toddlers and children – 6.5 and 10.4, respectively.

\*All the prices are shown without VAT

## Repertoire

In 2022, 656 productions were on repertoire, 239 (36.4 %) of them were new productions. For years, the number of new productions in all 11 state and municipal theatres has remained at around 100 new productions per year (92 in 2022), with usually about 50% of the repertoire of all theatres, i.e. around 300 per year (314 in 2019).

The most active repertoire turnaround was in multiform and dance performances, where new performances made up 47.3% and 50.8% of the repertoire, respectively. The longest-running performances are in the puppet theatre (8.8% new) and among musicals (30.4%), whereas spoken word theatre had a repertoire turnover of about 34%.

### Performance form      Number of Productions

Spoken word	420
Music	46
Dance	58
Puppet and object theatre	34
Other (mixed type and circus)	98

The share of spoken word productions in the total repertoire in 2022 was 64%, and 58.2% of all new productions were in spoken word theatre. Among spoken performances, the share of dramas was 75.2%, comedies 20.5%, and others 4.3% (incl. poetic plays).

The most popular genre in Estonian music theatre is opera, and it is the biggest audience magnet as well (42.2%), but musicals also gathered audience (35.1% of all musical theatre visits).

Within the last five years, dance theatre – both contemporary and classical – has gained more popularity, contemporary dance constitutes 58.1% of the performances, however, 71.9% of the audience prefers classical dance.

In the 2022 repertory for children, teenagers and youth, there were 207 productions, of which 49 were new. There are 10 theatres in Estonia whose target audience mostly consists of children and youth: Estonian Theatre for Young Audiences (previously NUKU Theatre), VAT Theatre, Piip and Tuut Theatre, Theatre Ilmarine, Theatre Tuuleveski, Miksteater, Must Kast, Children's Theatre Sõber, Banaanikala and Teatribuss. All the other repertory theatres and a few private theatres also produce performances for children and youth, even though their main target audience is adults.

There were 105 summer productions (performed from the end of May until the end of August, mostly outside of the theatre buildings, in nature, parks, manors or farmhouses, castles, etc.) in 2022, of which 51 were new productions. Summer theatre performances have become very popular, and their numbers are increasing every summer. They are produced by both repertory theatres and projects brought together especially for summer performances.



Ratio of Estonian to foreign plays among spoken word performances:

Orange	Estonian drama	162	39%
Blue	Stage adaptations of Estonian literature	30	7%
Light blue	Stage adaptations of foreign literature	60	14%
Yellow	Foreign drama	166	40%