

MAGIC CARPETS
New Theatre Institute of Latvia
Residency proposal 2024



New Theatre Institute of Latvia (NTIL) in the 3rd year of MagiC Carpets residency cycle will develop a residency based in **Seda**- a town in Valmiera county. It was established near a peat factory in 1953, in 1954 it became a workers' village. In 1961, Seda was granted the status of an urban village, and in 1991 it was transformed into a town with a rural area. Seda has wide streets with birch alleys and yellow Stalinist classical houses in such a clean and concentrated form are found nowhere else in Latvia.

Because of the impressive architectural inheritance and the shrinking amount of population Seda has been called a “ghost town” - there are a lot of empty apartments, rarely used stadium and sometimes quite empty streets. The contrast with the architecture and the street planning (center as a huge roundabout, streets going as sun beams in all directions) creates quite an unusual environment.

But nevertheless there are young people coming back to their hometown, some new people moving in and they are also trying to work together to improve public space, by setting up basketball nets, bringing community together by creating different sports and cultural events.

Sedas facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=10008997264759>





This year NTIL will collaborate with **Valmiera Summer Theatre Festival (VSTF)** which usually is located in Valmiera city center and closer neighborhoods, most often in public spaces. Expanding the festival's events to further places has always been the festival teams wish, Seda has been in their radar for some time. Therefore at the end of the residency we want to present a theatre performance created by two “MagiC Carpets” artists (one international and one local) and local community, to VSTF audience.

TOPICS: History of Seda and today's reality, competition and collaboration between towns, aging (buildings, people, ideas) architecture and how people feel and act in it, diversity of nationalities, nostalgia of old days and coming back to Seda. VSTF festival theme - life, alivliness.

COMMUNITY: active organisations (library as an informal meeting centre, NGO "Cerība" ("Hope")), culture centre, seniors, youth, children, church community, factory workers, gardeners etc. In total there are 16 different nationalities - Latvians, Russians, Belarusians, Poles, Estonians, Lithuanians, Marians, Georgians, etc. in Seda.

Area: the roundabout between the town hall, the shop and the school, the peat bog, the culture centre, the school etc.

We are looking for a theatre maker, theatre director who has an experience working with communities, experience and willingness to make performances collectively (devised). It is important that the artist is ready to take initiative, find their own personal interest during the process and engage the community.

We will invite a local theater artist (director/dramaturg/scenographer) to collaborate, so the project can be implemented in a collaboration between two MagiC Carpets artists.



TIME LINE:

End of February/beginning of March	Both artists (1 INT + 1 LV) are selected
March	Finalize the frame/theme/direction of the residency
April	3-4 day focused study trip to Seda (meeting people, maybe some workshops, research)
May, mid June	Remote preparation
17 June or 26 June to 6 August	Residency, performances during Valmiera Summer Theatre Festival (www.valmierasfestivals.lv/en/main)

Emerging Curator - Linda Krūmiņa

kruumina.linda@gmail.com

Project Manager - Sandra Lapkovska

sandra@theatre.lv

theatre.lv/category/magic-carpets/

