

Sopot, 10 May 2020 (1pm local time)

Dear All,

Somewhere on the Pacific Ocean, the festival week has just begun. I like to think about *Kosmopolis 2020* as a global event that encompasses all time zones. Indeed, this is reality for contributors and participants of *Between.Pomiedzy* this year: Debbie Mulholland lives in Palmerston North, New Zealand (175°E), Tatenda Matsvai and Jon McKenna in London, UK (0°), and Luz Maria Sánchez-Cardona in Mexico City (100°W). So, we consider the festival open now, notwithstanding the fact not everything is fixed and set yet.

Between.Pomiedzy 2020 has been organized in haste. Some 40 days ago there was neither the idea of the virtual festival nor the vibrant energy of the Team. It was on 4th April, after reading an inspiring essay by Kuba Szpilka, that we decided on the on-line adventure. It is a new land for us. The virtual world has got its own rules and we need to adjust to them. We've decided the festival is an *open work*. We propose a regular day-by-day program but everyone may take her/his own path through the labyrinth of the 21 chapters that we provide with no charge through the entire week. The website is still work-in-progress but I hope it is structured enough for you to operate it.

One major unexpected inconvenience is that due to technical problems we need to change the festival website at this rather late date. Please note – and share with others – that *Kosmopolis 2020* is located now at www.kosmopolis-between.pl. We also had some problems with the email address. Write to us again, if we haven't answered your enquiry. I am the only person to blame for this and other possible inconveniences. I hope you can understand how such things might happen when you are heading for the unknown in rush. [The problem seems to be fixed at present.]

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to Katarzyna, David, Ewelina, Małgorzata, Robson and the entire Team *Between 2020*. Your skilled and creative work has made it all possible. I would like to thank artists and institutions that have joined the program #SupportLocalCulture, which aims to help independent theatres, galleries, musicians and bookshops that are endangered by the lockdown. The gesture of support offered by Song of the Goat Theatre, "Gardzienice," Teatr Wybrzeże, Barakah, Teatr Wierszalin, and The Grotowski Institute as well as by Mimi Khalvati, David Constantine, Jon McKenna, Lee Ranaldo, Czarne Publishing House and others, must be recognized. Thank you all for offering us your materials free of charge. We see this as a gesture of true artistic solidarity, so precious in these dark times.

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Festiwal Literatury i Teatru
between.pomiędzy
Sopot, Gdańsk, Gdynia, 11–17 maja 2020

Special acknowledgements should go to Tobias Biancone for moral support at the stage of conceiving the project. Our gratitude goes to The International Theatre Institute, The Rector of the University of Gdańsk, The Marshall's Office of the Pomeranian Voivodeship, The Mayor of Sopot, The Embassy of Ireland in Poland, The Theatre Times, and other partner institutions for their trust. We are aware that at times your decisions were unconventional ones.

I do hope you will all enjoy your visit to *Kosmopolis 2020*.

Tomasz Wiśniewski

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