

## INTRODUCTION

This specialized, 14<sup>th</sup> volume of Latvian Academy of Culture's journal "Culture Crossroads" is a continuation and resume of a crucial event in the scientific life of the Baltic States, a conference "Poetics and Politics of History in Film and Theatre".

The conference was dedicated to various perspectives of historical counterpoints and took place in Riga, at the Latvian Academy of Culture, from 29 November to 1 December 2018. In the conference were included 28 papers by prominent and respected film and theatre researchers and practitioners from 10 countries. These reports were in-depth analyses of spectacular arts and historical traces of artistic language that tried to answer whether and how through the artistic work it is possible to reconstruct previous time and scenes. Most of the papers were dedicated to the exploration on how performing and audio-visual arts have modelled, interpreted and reflected the history and people of Latvia and the countries bordering the Baltic Sea, and how historical processes have influenced fates of theatre and film makers.

The conference was organised as part of the project The European Regional Development Fund within the project Facilitation of Research at the Academy of Culture, and it was financially supported by State Culture Capital Foundation, Riga City Council and the Embassy of the United States in Latvia.

In this journal, we have gathered 12 articles that further develop themes which were discussed in the conference "Poetics and Politics of History in Film and Theatre". Authors of the journal represent six countries – Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America –, and their daily professional activity covers not only theatre and film research and academic work in universities, but also is linked with different scopes from producing films and theatre performances to administrating creative processes. Therefore, the spectrum of published articles has an extensive range – from scientifically and theoretically-based researches to empirical historical shreds of evidence and artists' reflections on making their own work within the context and course of history. The journal has been made into a unified formatting style, yet the preferences of the authors and idiosyncratic way of expression has been taken into account and respected.

Special attention has been paid to those artistic phenomena which were devoted to the centenaries of the Baltic States in 2018. As it is usual, the majority of films and

theatre performances, which in the period of celebrating centenaries were made with the support of Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian state programmes, were dedicated to the history or took a focalization from today's stance to see the past in a novel perspective. The most significant is that part of these articles tried to look into the future through the past – either through the eyes of a child or having a direct interplay, even a confrontation between a modern person and his own past.

Read about it in the special edition of the “Culture Crossroads” journal!

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International research conference

**VĒSTURES POĒTIKA  
UN POLITIKA TEĀTRĪ  
UN KINO**  
POETICS AND POLITICS  
OF HISTORY IN FILM  
AND THEATRE

Latvijas Kultūras akadēmijas Zinātniskās pētniecības centrs  
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