

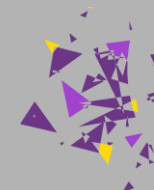
# The Show Must Go On: Theatre as an Example of Re-thinking the Role of Culture and Creativity

International Symposium:

## Temporality – Pandemic, War, Theatre

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*Levan Kharatishvili,*  
*CEO & Founder @ Creative Strategies Lab*  
*Executive Director @ Creative Spark*



CREATIVE  
STRATEGIES **LAB**



# Many facets of theatre in wartime



While many studies have been devoted to the role of theatre in the construction of war memories, as well as to the depiction of war on stage, the same attention has not been given to the role and the multiple manifestations of theatre during conflicts.

In times of war, inside the armies or in prisoners camps, behind the lines as in besieged cities or in occupied areas, the theatrical activity finds new forms of expression and provides people a help to cope with extreme situations.

# The show must go on... safely

When theatres shut in 2020 because of pandemic, no one imagined that 'going dark' would last so long and cost so much. Theatres were forced to close their productions, resulting in many permanent job losses and hundreds of self-employed actors and technicians taking an unwanted "rest".

Theatre historians reminded us of closures for plague and war and speculated about how quickly live performance would bounce back.

In Georgia, the government's support scheme made the difference for some, but others were not so fortunate.

From the beginning, it was evident that, while theatre buildings went dark, theatre itself would not be silenced by the virus. An amazingly diverse range of virtual theatre sprang up.

Of course, many have felt the loss of being 'in the room'. But, we have also felt a deep appreciation for the way virtual events have opened us up to new audiences. Barriers of all kinds - geographical, financial, socio-cultural - have been broken down, and the mood is clear: theatre must build on this.

Many theatres are considering how to retain and develop the online audiences they have won, even as doors re-open. While some are anxious to get back in the building, others found new possibilities online.

# The show must go online

The pandemic nearly killed theatre, but the creative way it fought back could leave it stronger

While streaming served as a suitable stopgap, audiences arguably thrive on live entertainment, relishing the excitement and proximity offered by it. Theatre and Netflix are not interchangeable. Back catalogue streaming is an excellent accompaniment to our thirst for theatre, but not a substitute.

Innovation services emerged:

Online Theatre  
3D Festivals  
Behind-the-scenes Tours  
Pay as you view  
Plays for Zoom  
etc.

Importantly, the need to take theatre online has resulted in global collaborations, accessible productions, and the incorporation of modern techniques to bring theatrical culture to anyone with a taste for it. For theatre to keep building, this momentum should be taken advantage of to ensure that the inclusivity and innovation of lockdown is not left behind.

# Even when the show goes online or offline

## Theatre vs. Shopping Mall



# Embracing **change** & building a stronger **theatre**

*Theatre reflects  
contemporary society  
and mirrors current issues.*



## Theatre as a Creative Space

### Co-working Space

Space for Workshops,  
Conferences, Master Classes,  
Lectures, Lessons, etc.

Art Residences



## Theatre as a Multi-Purpose Space

### Exhibition Space

Cafeteria

Gifs & Souvenirs Shop

Cinema

Musical Concerts

# Transversal role of culture & creativity



How can we help theatre?



How can theatre help you...?

Alongside other sub-sectors within Europe's creative and culture sector (CCS), theatre is a significant contributor to social cohesion and the well-being of the population.

***“I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being” - Oscar Wilde***

Levan Kharatishvili,  
CEO & Founder @ Creative Strategies Lab  
Executive Director @ Creative Spark  
[www.creativestrategieslab.org](http://www.creativestrategieslab.org)  
[www.creativespark.ge](http://www.creativespark.ge)  
[lkharatishvili@gmail.com](mailto:lkharatishvili@gmail.com)



**Thank you!**