

Dear family, friends and relations,

True to tradition, we have been asked again to perform as a Dutch jury at the International Puppet Theater Festival 'Two is little, three is much' (Dwama sa malko, trima sa mnogo) in Plovdiv from 3 to 7 September 2018, to award prizes on behalf of the Foundation Eastern Europe Projects (STOEP) to the best Bulgarian small-scale theater company. We have been visiting this festival since 1991 and since 1996 we have been awarding three prizes for a small Bulgarian theater that combines high quality with the requirements of modern times. This year the jury consists of the undersigned: Ada d'Hamecourt, Ton Delemarre, Tineke and Steve Adeney.

The first prize is a sculpture by Jan Asjes van Dijk; that is a substitution price. We commit an amount of 250 euros to this, the second price is 150 and the third 100 euros. The award-winning companies appreciate it very much and mention it proudly on their CV, and although it is not great amounts, 100 euros in Bulgaria is always worthwhile.

The reason for this award was the difficult economic situation for small puppet theater companies. In communist times there was ample government support. It has largely expired. At the same time it was possible to criticize the government in the theater through fairy tales and fables. The critical function of the theater is also essential now, because freedom of the press in Bulgaria has been severely affected. It therefore remains important to support small companies. The current economic situation also gives reason for this (almost a quarter of the population in Bulgaria lives on or below the poverty line). Thanks to your support, we help the little theaters to keep their heads above water. Your gift is well spent.

In the initial period the prize money was paid for by the Dutch Embassy, but that ended after a few years. The last 12 years we collect the money through crowd funding. The first 100 euros is already in. We hope that you will contribute also. Small contributions are equally welcome. In return, the donors receive a report from the festival and those who sponsor 50 euros or more can, if they so wish, be named specifically on the diplomas that we hand out at the award ceremony.

We request that you transfer your contribution to the bank account of the STOEP at Triodos Bank,

IBAN: NL69 TRIO 0198 4249 06

BIC: TRIONL2U

stating: Plovdiv.

The Foundation for Eastern Europe Projects is recognized as an ANBI (public welfare institution), which means that donations can qualify for income tax deductions in The Netherlands.

We thank you on behalf of the jury members and especially on behalf of the Bulgarian Puppetplayers.

If you are interested in being present at the festival, please contact tonada@planet.nl.

Sincerely,

Ada d'Hamecourt, Ton Delemarre, Tineke and Steve Adeney

On the website of the Plovdiv theater you can find more info: www.pptheatre.com and www.facebook.com/kuklenteatarplovdiv.pptheatre. See also www.stoep.eu.