



BANJA LUKA 2026

25th International Festival of Children's Theatres

14 – 20 October 2026

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to apply for the **25th International Festival of Children's Theatres – Banja Luka 2026**, which will take place from **14 to 20 October 2026**.

The International Festival of Children's Theatres in Banja Luka has been organized by the Children's Theatre of the Republic of Srpska since 2002, with the support of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Srpska and the City of Banja Luka. The festival promotes the development of puppetry and theatre arts in the Republic of Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Over the years, more than a hundred professional children's theatres from Europe and around the world have participated, making it one of the most important events for children's theatre in the Balkans.

Since 2023, the International Children's Theatre Festival has been awarded the European quality label "EuFinder", joining the ranks of Europe's leading festivals and becoming a member of the EFA – European Festivals Association.

This year's jubilee edition of the Festival is especially significant as we are celebrating **70 years since the first premiere** of the Children's Theatre of the Republic of Srpska, which took place on **14 October 1956**. The festival continues to promote the development of puppetry and theatre arts in the region, highlighting puppetry as one of the most demanding and expressive forms of theatre for children

The International Festival of Children's Theatres – BANJA LUKA 2026 is a competitive event. Performances are evaluated by an international jury, which awards the following prizes:

- Grand Prix – for the best overall performance
- Award for Best Direction
- Award for Best Scenography and Costume
- Award for Best Music
- Five Equal Acting Awards
- Special Festival Award
- “Dragan Banjac” Award for the funniest acting performance

Applications for participation are open until **15 June 2026** and must be submitted exclusively via the online form (Google Forms), including all required materials at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/UbWCEdwJxoJnFA47>

The festival organizer will provide accommodation for up to 12 participants from each theatre on a full-board basis, including meals and lodging. Travel and any additional expenses are the responsibility of the participants. For further information, please contact us at **festival.dprs@gmail.com** or by phone at **+387 65 273 552** (Viber, WhatsApp).

We would be honored if you joined us and enriched this jubilee edition of the Festival, becoming part of the festive gathering of theatre artists in Banja Luka.

Kind regards,

Organizing Team

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Bearer of the EFFE Label – European Festivals Association