

Lithuanian theatre in numbers:

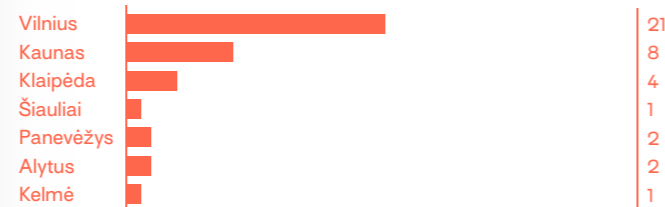


2019

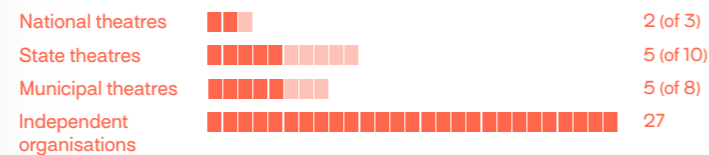
01 General information

The study *Lithuanian Theatre in Numbers*, conducted by Lithuania's Association of Performing Arts Critics, is based on data submitted by 39 companies creating drama, puppet and object theatre, dance and musical performances, circus, and other productions in 2019.

Participating companies by city



Participating companies by founding status



Participating companies according to stage availability



Participating companies according to status as a professional performing arts institution



During 2019, the performing arts companies participating in the study showed 518 works. Within Lithuania and abroad, there were a total of 4,216 shows, receiving 723,204 spectators. In 66% of cases, organisations performed in the cities where they are based, while touring in Lithuania accounted for 28% of all shows, reaching 57 of the country's 60 municipalities.

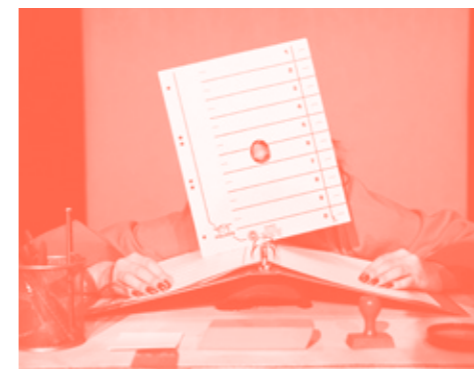
"Psychos" ("Psichai") by theatre Domino. Photo from the theatre archive



Vilnius (1,203) and Kaunas (1,155) hosted the most shows – an average of over 3 per day each. The other two important cities for performing arts in Lithuania were Klaipėda (335) and Panevėžys (328), with an average of almost 1 show per day. Of the regions with no permanent performing arts companies, the municipalities of Neringa (42), Anykščiai (28), Varėna (26) and Marijampolė (26) presented the most shows.

56 works of Lithuanian performing arts have been presented abroad – various types of theatre productions, performance art, and circus. The most visited countries were Latvia (62 shows), France (30), China (29), Norway (19), and Poland (13).

"Traps" ("Spąstai") by "Theatre Stories". Photo by Véronique Lespérat-Héquet



The organisations participating in the study "Lithuanian Theatre in Numbers"

Repertory theatres:

- Alytus City Theatre
- Alytus Puppet Theatre "Aitvaras"
- Apeiron Theatre
- Juozas Miltinis Drama Theatre
- Kaunas City Chamber Theatre
- Kaunas Dance Theatre Aura
- Kaunas State Musical Theatre
- Kaunas State Puppet Theatre
- Kelmė Little Theatre
- Klaipėda Puppet Theatre
- Klaipėda Youth Theatre
- Lithuanian National Drama Theatre
- National Kaunas Drama Theatre
- Oskaras Koršunovas Theatre
- Panevėžys Theatre "Menas"
- Russian Drama Theatre of Lithuania
- Šeiko Dance Company
- Šiauliai State Drama Theatre
- The Table Theatre
- Theatre "Domino"
- Theatre "Meno Fortas"

Troupes:

- Artūras Areima Theatre
- Be Company / Be kompanijos
- Hand Shadow Theatre
- "Budrugana Lithuania"
- MMLAB, Art and Science Laboratory
- Okarukas
- Teatronas
- Theatre "cezaris group"
- Vytis Jankauskas Dance Company
- WE Compagnie

Production companies:

- Arts Agency "Artscape"
- Kosmos Theatre
- Operomanija
- Theatre Stories

Venues:

- Arts Printing House
- Children's Theatre "Pradžia"

Other:

- Solo Theatre
- The Baltic Circus
- The Theatre of Winds

Pictured on cover: "The Thirteenth Apostle, or a Cloud in Pants" ("Tryliktasis apaštalas, arba Debesis kelnėse") by Russian Drama Theatre of Lithuania. Photo by Dmitrijus Matvejevas

02 Financing

According to the data provided by the organisations, the funds of organisations participating in the study amounted to EUR 34.7 million.

Funds allocated from the state budget



Half of these funds were, in various ways, allocated to organisations from the government budget. EUR 9 million was allocated through the Ministry of Culture, with state theatres receiving the largest share of this amount; EUR 1.2 million were allocated through the Lithuanian Council for Culture, mainly to independent organisations; EUR 4.6 million were provided through other state budget allocations, mainly to national theatres; and EUR 2.5 million were allocated through municipalities, mainly to municipal theatres.

Sources of funding for performing arts organisations



Financial support from the EU structural funds – EUR 7.2 million – increased the total amount of funding for performing arts organisations by more than a fifth. Those funds went to 3 state theatres.

Some organisations used resources provided by other foreign and Lithuanian funds. In total, those amounted to more than EUR 111,000. The contribution of donors in the performing arts sector amounted to a similar sum, as organisations reported receiving EUR 98,000 in financial support.

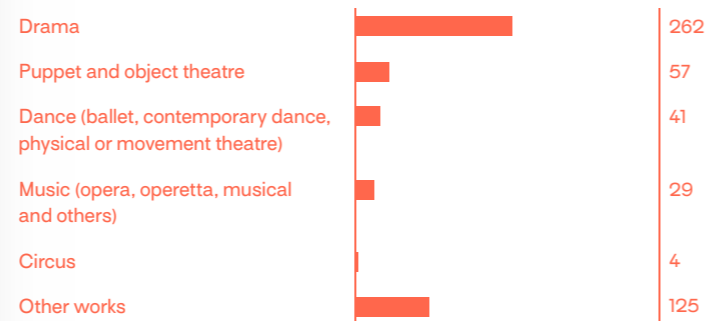
Lithuanian performing arts companies earned a total of EUR 9.4 million in 2019. Of this, the larger part of this income – EUR 5 million – was made by independent organisations. The 10 companies that earned the most presented more than half of the shows of all companies. Of these, 7 used their own stage for presenting works, while the other 3 used a stage under a long-term lease or use agreement.

03 Repertoires

Companies involved in the study produced 131 new works. Almost half of these were created by independent organisations, with an average of 2.4 new works per year per each organisation. Municipal theatres created an average of 5.2 stagings of new works, while state institutions produced 5.8 each. The highest number of new works per company was delivered by national theatres, with 7.5 premieres each.

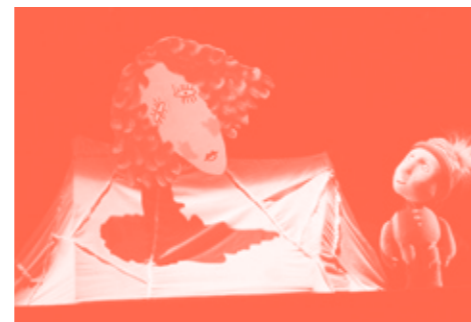
60 new works were reviewed, with a total of 112 critical articles about these works. The performance that received the most reviews (6) was Jonas Vaitkus' *The Thirteenth Apostle, or a Cloud in Pants* ("Trylikztasis apaštalas, arba Debesis kelnėse"), created by the Russian Drama Theatre of Lithuania.

Number of productions by type of work



In theatre repertoires, new works accounted for 25%, works performed for one or two years – for 33%, works performed from three to ten years – for 34%, while performances shown for more than ten years accounted for 9% of all productions.

"How the darkness became the best friend" ("Kaip tamsa geriausiai draugu tapo") by Kaunas State Puppet Theatre. Photo from the theatre archive



Performing arts companies tend to reach as broad a range of spectators as possible, and offer performances to wide target groups – adults, children and families. Of all productions presented in 2019, the participants of the study marked 63% of performances as suitable for adult audiences, 34% for children (infants, preschool age, primary and middle school pupils) and 48% for youth audiences (high school students and people up to 29 years).

"ANO(t)HER" ("KI (t) OKIA") by Alytus City Theatre. Photo by Audrius Šidlauskas

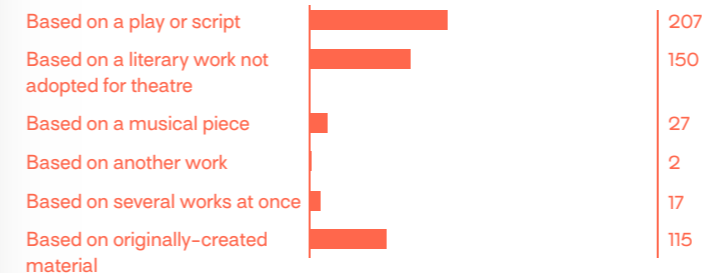


A majority of the shows presented were led by male Lithuanian directors. The most frequently shown productions were also created by theatre artists of the older generation – their pieces accounted for 41% of shows, and 182 of those works were directed by men, with 66 by women. The young generation of stage artists worked mostly on new productions – with female and male creators leading an equal amount of works (30 each).

04 Dramaturgy

Dramatic theatre productions were mostly based on a play or script (58% of all drama productions). Puppetry and object theatre works were mostly based on other types of literature (67%). Performances based on musical pieces mainly came from artists working in the fields of music theatre (opera, operetta, musicals, etc.) and ballet. Creators of contemporary dance, movement and physical theatre, performance art, and circus do not generally rely on any of the above-listed sources.

Number of performances by source



Classical literature and classical music accounted for the least number of sources transferred to the stage: works by writers or composers created in the 19th century and earlier formed the basis of 23% of all productions shown. 34% of productions were based on contemporary, 21st-century works. The largest part of the repertoire, 41%, consisted of stagings based on modern, literary and musical works written in the 20th century.

In 2019, theatre audiences were most able to see productions based on works by foreign writers and playwrights – most often France, Russia, Germany, the USA, and the United Kingdom, but also others. Those shows were mostly presented by national theatres (64% of all shows). Shows based on works by Lithuanian authors accounted for 26% of all shows, which were mostly presented by municipal stage institutions (36% of all shows).

"Drifted" („Užpustyti“) by Šeiko Dance Company. Photo by Donatas Bielkauskas



05 Association of Performing Arts Critics

The study *Lithuanian Theatre in Numbers* is organised and carried out by Lithuania's Association of Performing Arts Critics (APAC). This organisation, operating since 2017, unites performing art theorists and critics of various generations and tastes, who are living and working in different Lithuanian cities. One of the main tasks of APAC is to monitor the processes taking place in the field of performing arts. The association's activities and this study are financed by the Lithuanian Council for Culture using the resources of the programme *Implementation of Strategic Programmes of Art Creators*.

Study "Lithuanian Theatre in Numbers"
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