

Triennial International Conference

Dubrovnik

Courtesy of Joseph Seipel

S Y M P O S I U M

JULY 15-18, 2008

*Libertas: Freedom as a Result and Condition of Art*

Libertas! This expression is the heart and soul of Dubrovnik, a magnificent city that is an assimilation of a thousand years of different cultures that have replaced one another. The bustling medieval-walled city, called the "Pearl of the Adriatic," will be the site of ICFAD's 2008 summer symposium where you will meet and hear from some of Croatia's leading arts administrators and creative leaders, celebrate the 500th anniversary of playwright Marin Držić, who has been compared to and offered as an inspiration for Shakespeare, and learn about the traditions, challenges, and values of international festivals and

cultural exchanges. Each evening you will have the opportunity to enjoy performances of the Dubrovnik Summer Festival in open-air sites throughout this fascinating city.

The home base for the symposium will be the Neptun Hotel, a perfect location to enjoy the wonders of Dubrovnik and the Dalmatian coastline. Located on a promontory overlooking the Adriatic, all rooms for the conference have a sea view (115 Euros – single, 159.5 Euros double, including breakfast and VAT). Bus transportation is in front of the hotel and goes directly to old town!

**DAY 1**

Tuesday, July 15

Enjoy a traditional Croatian welcome dinner for participants and registered guests at the outdoors terraces of the Komin Restaurant.

**DAY 2**

Wednesday, July 16

Location: Revellin Fort in the Old Town walls

*Session One*

9:00 A.M. ~ **Celebrating the Dubrovnik Arts Festival**  
The Dubrovnik Festival, its history, its future, and its importance as a location and as an institution that fostered international understanding and cooperation during the Cold War, was endangered by war in the 90s. It continues today to fly the banner of artistic freedom and will be introduced by a leading Croatian authority.

*Session Two*

10:30 A.M. ~ **Celebrating 500 years: Marin Držić, Priest, Playwright, and Political Provocateur**

An exploration of the artistic, political, and personal life of the man some have called the Croatian Shakespeare. Držić lived during the Croatian Renaissance and his plays open a window on that time of creative and political ferment, blending the commonplace with the fantastic by rendering unforgettable portraits of the people of Dubrovnik.

3:00 P.M. ~ **Afternoon tour of the Old Town of Dubrovnik with scenic drive above Dubrovnik**

At the very start of the 20th century the Balkan Peninsula was perceived as 'the restless corner of Europe'. Many who endeavor to explain what was actually going on feel that the deep, underlying reasons were not easy to understand. The historical background will help you to see how recent conflicts have their roots in the past. Find out some of the misconceptions people had about the recent war, what it was like to live in a besieged town, and how everything got back to normal. First-person accounts by your guide, stories from the ancient and modern history of the region, all in the spectacular setting of the Old Town, will give you a deeper insight into the true nature of Dubrovnik and its people.

Evening ~ Festival Performance to be attended by participants and registered guests

**DAY 3**

Thursday, July 17

A day-trip for participants and registered guests to Mostar.

During the centuries, Mostar has been a melting pot of various cultures and religions. The city is situated in a beautiful valley bedded between the high mountains of Herzegovina. It is thanks to the river Neretva that Mostar was able to develop as a city in the desert-like landscape of Herzegovina. Neretva's size turned Mostar very early into a trading center of the region. The Mostar Bridge was a very famous and historical bridge before its destruction in 1993 during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The rebuilding of the bridge in 2004 is a symbol of reconciliation as well as an appeal to the regional and international community to protect and promote its cultural heritage, and is intended to bring former belligerents together, helping them to resume dialogue, recreate a common identity and build a sense of a shared future.

Evening ~ Festival Performance to be attended by participants and registered guests

**DAY 4**

Friday, July 18

Revellin Fort

*Session One*

9:00 A.M. ~ **Bologna in Action. A View from the Academy**

The session will feature a panel of Deans from the Academies of Art, Music, and Drama in Zagreb, Croatia and from the Academies of Art and Music in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Our panelists will speak to the changes attendant upon the Bologna Agreement, on freedom in their countries, artistic and political, and whether Bologna is seen as an enhancement or as a constraint to either or both.

*Session Two*

10:30 A.M. ~ **Working with European Institutions: Profiles in International Partnerships**

International partnerships are attractive to educational leaders for many reasons. Among other benefits, such partnerships offer enrolled students with opportunities for new and meaningful educational experiences without requiring substantial new investment in resources. Featuring a panel made up of educational leaders from both sides of international partnerships, this special session will aim to help all deans better understand the opportunities and challenges of different types of international partnerships.

P.M. ~ Closing reception for participants and registered guests

Evening ~ Traditional folk dancing performance