



**20th FIST - Festival of International Student Theatre
Belgrade (Serbia), 22–28 September 2025**

OPEN CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

In today's charged Belgrade, where **play goes beyond the stage**, you'll join students from around the world to push theatre's limits. Here, **performance becomes dialogue and action** — spilling into streets, public spaces, and urgent realities. **Come to Belgrade, bring your stories, and be part of a unique creative current where art and reality collide — where every play is a step toward change.**

We're inviting students from arts faculties all over the world to join this year's FIST! From the pool of individual applications, the FIST team will form creative teams who will work together to develop and perform a theatrical interventions around one of three themes during the festival.

MEET FIST

FIST is an international platform for **exchange, learning, and collaboration in performing arts**. Born as a student initiative, developed as part of the curriculum at the **Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade**, and passed down through generations, it remains fresh and relevant, presenting theatre that responds to today's artistic and social contexts.

This year's edition of FIST unfolds in a changed reality. **Since November 2024, we — as students — have stood in blockades, using our voices and presence to oppose decisions threatening education, culture, and the public good.** Those blockades continue today, alongside a growing wave of civic resistance. The festival reflects the urgent issues shaping our reality. We turn to a critical reflection on **EXPO 2027**, set to take place in our country examining the relationship between the state, citizens and the public good. **They call it *Play for Humanity* — we call it *Play against Humanity*.** FIST 2025 adopts the EXPO format but transforms it into a space for debate and resistance, exploring open questions around corruption, media manipulation, and environmental impact.

Inspired by EXPO 2027 and the ongoing social crisis, this year's festival is structured around three curatorial segments.

PLAY FOR PROGRESS OR PLAY FOR PROFIT

Is EXPO 2027 a genuine path toward national progress or a stage for private enrichment? This theme explores the tension between public interest and private gain, revealing how mega-projects often serve political and economic elites.

PLAY WITH(OUT) COMMUNITY

Through the lens of media spectacle, this theme questions whether EXPO 2027 represents true development or just the illusion of stability. Participants will examine how powerful imagery shapes reality and how pseudo-participation replaces authentic community.

PLAY BETWEEN GREEN AND GREED

This theme confronts how mega-events rebrand environmental destruction as progress. Performances will dismantle the green façade, exposing the lasting scars these projects inflict on our planet.

OPEN CALL GUIDELINES AND TIMELINE

Open Call period: August 13th - September 1st (23:59)

Participants should apply individually, choosing one of the three thematic areas described above as their focus and source of inspiration for their creative work.

This opportunity is open to art students from around the world — including theatre, performance art, new media, visual arts, and other creative disciplines — at all levels of study, up to 27 years of age.

Selection results announced: September 2nd

Based on individual applications, up to five participants per theme will be selected to form collaborative creative teams tasked with developing and performing a theatrical intervention at the festival. Participants should be open to collaborative work within a horizontal structure, embracing 'bottom-up' decision-making grounded in collective action and mutual responsibility.

Online creative process: September 3rd-21st

The creative process will begin with a three-week online collaboration, where participants will meet to get acquainted, explore their theme together, and develop concepts for their artistic interventions and performances.

Residency in Belgrade: September 22nd-28th

The creative process will be followed by an intensive one-week residency in Belgrade, culminating in the presentation of the performances at the festival. Production of the artistic projects will be managed by the FIST team.

While in Belgrade, international participants will be provided with:

- Accommodation for the entire stay (shared rooms).
- Meals
- Travel expenses reimbursed up to €150 per person

We look forward to welcoming you to a unique creative experience!

To apply for **FIST 2025**, please fill out the online application form:

<https://forms.gle/R3jBD6CGZao5fi6Z7>

For any questions or additional information, contact us at fist.mainprogram@gmail.com.

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