

Pursuant to Article 13. of the Statute of the Students Theatre of Banjaluka

The Assembly of the Students Theatre of Banjaluka enacts,

**THE REGULATION OF  
THE „KESTENBURG“ FESTIVAL**

*APRIL 20-27, 2027*

In Banja Luka, September 1, 2025.

## 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Article 1.

The Student Theatre of Banja Luka, as part of its activities, organizes a festival called "CHESTENBURG".

### Article 2.

These Regulations regulate general issues of organization and activities of the seventh "CHESTENBURG" festival, and in particular:

- time and place of holding;
- method of selecting and determining the list of performances;
- administration and management of the Festival;
- awards.

As well as other issues of importance for the organization of the "CHESTENBURG" Festival.

The definitions used in these Regulations, which refer to gender, regardless of whether they are used in the masculine or feminine gender, all equally imply both masculine and feminine genders.

These Regulations are adopted bilingually: in Serbian and English, with the English version stating the name and surname of the person who translated the Regulations, which in this case was translated by Sandra Dakić.

#### Article 3.

The "KESTENBURG" Festival is an International Festival of Student Dramas and is organized with the aim of popularizing amateur and university theaters.

The official languages of the Festival are Serbian and English, while official correspondence is conducted exclusively in English.

#### Article 4.

The "KESTENBURG" Festival does not have the status of a legal entity, but rather represents part of the program of the Student Theater of Banja Luka, which is a partner of the city of Banja Luka.

#### Article 5.

The Seventh "KESTENBURG" Festival will last 7 days and it is possible to present performances that are in competition for awards and performances in the accompanying (OFF) program. The performances are selected by the Festival Management.

#### Article 6.

The Seventh Festival "KESTENBURG" will be held from 20 to 27 April 2027 in Banja Luka/Republika Srpska/Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## 2. FESTIVAL MANAGEMENT

#### Article 7.

The Festival is managed by the Festival Board, which consists of the President of the Assembly of the Student Theatre, and members of the Assembly and the Management Board of the Student Theatre Banja Luka. The Festival Management is obliged to appoint and manage the Organizing Committee, as well as the Administrative and Technical Committee.

## Article 8.

The Administrative and Technical Committee has as many members as are appointed by the President of the Assembly of the Student Theatre Banja Luka, who chairs the Board. The President of the Assembly of the Student Theatre Banja Luka has the authority to appoint the festival producer and executive producer, public relations associate, marketing and sales manager, official translators, as well as the technical director.

The Administrative and Technical Committee of the "KESTENBURG" Festival performs professional tasks related to the festival's activities and, in an organizational, marketing and technical sense, performs all necessary activities for the organization of the festival, and in particular:

- prepares and proposes the final program and financial plan of the entire Festival, within the funds allocated for that purpose,
- determines the method of using the allocated funds in accordance with the financial plan,
- examines the possibility of performing the proposed performances on stages in Banja Luka, selects and concludes contracts for the use of premises for performing performances,
- determines the order of performance of performances,
- proposes a marketing plan,
- organizes all additional content related to the Festival.

## 3. RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE

### Article 9.

The right to participate in the competitive part of the "KESTENBURG" Festival has the right to participate in all theater troupes, sections, associations, societies that have their headquarters and operate as part of one of the world's universities or student organizations operating at the University. One troupe can bring an unlimited number of its participants to the Festival.

Also, the winners (representatives) of the following Festivals have the right to participate in the special competition rank (amateur): Youth Festival of the Republic of Srpska held in Bileća in 2025, Festival FESTIVAL in Trebinje, held in 2025, 66th FESTIVAL OF THEATER AMATEURS held in 2026 in Vodice (two representatives), FEDRA Festival in Bugojno in 2026.

#### 4. CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

##### Article 10.

Student theaters whose performances are included in the Festival program must receive a written notification of participation from the Festival organizer, which must be certified by a representative of the Student Theater Banja Luka, which clearly states information about the technical aspects, deadlines and financial conditions of participation in the Festival. All student theaters send the initial confirmation of participation in the Festival in writing via the official Festival e-mail address [kestenburg@gmail.com](mailto:kestenburg@gmail.com) by the end of the application deadline, but the final confirmation of participation is considered to be the payment of 50 euros per registered participant to the foreign exchange or current account of the Student Theater Banja Luka at ATOS BANK .a.d. Banja Luka, no later than January 31, 2027.

In special cases, it is possible to give the option of making the payment upon the theater company's arrival in Banja Luka, but only if previously agreed with the organizer.

All visa costs are borne by the theatre companies, with the possibility for the organizer to assist in the process of obtaining a visa if an invitation letter from BiH is required.

##### Article 11.

Each theatre or University theatre, with a signed confirmation of participation in the Festival, authorizes the Festival Management to begin marketing and information activities for the purpose of organizing and presenting performances, without any special permissions or third parties. Members of the theatre companies, whose performances have been selected for the competition of the "KESTENBURG" Festival, accept the festival's organization of meetings, conversations, round tables of authors, performers, theatre representatives with media representatives, as well as photographing and recording scenes of performances for the purposes of radio and television broadcasting, creating a video and photo archive of the festival, and in the sense of the above, they waive all financial merit. Each theatre company is obliged to appoint one Festival captain. The captain represents the theatre and may be one of the members of the troupe.

## 5. RIGHTS AND CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATION

### Article 12.

The Festival organizer is obliged to ensure maximum technical conditions, which include all replaceable scenery, large and small props (consumables) if necessary and possible to provide. All student troupes will have the theater stage at their disposal from the morning until the beginning of the festival premiere, while amateur troupes will have a limited number of hours to prepare and perform the performance.

The organizers cover all accommodation costs as well as all costs of public transportation during the Festival, and organize sightseeing, including cultural, sports and religious attractions.

### Article 13.

By submitting an application for a performance to participate in the Festival, student or University theaters, as well as amateur groups, confirm that they accept the conditions for participation in the Festival, which are stated in the invitation.

The application can be sent in electronic form via e-mail to [kestenburg@gmail.com](mailto:kestenburg@gmail.com), no later than November 17, 2026 at midnight Central European Time.

- a fully completed application form that will be available on the Festival's official website: [kestenburg.com](http://kestenburg.com)

- 5 photos of the play and a play poster

Amateur groups that are winners of the festival are not obliged to send a recording of the performance.

## SELECTION

### Article 14.

The Selection Committee shall submit all its decisions in writing to the Organizing Committee and all theatres by the end of January 2027.

## 6. JURY

### Article 15.

The Festival Management shall propose and appoint the members of the International Jury for the “Golden Chestnut” Award, and they shall be reconfirmed by the Organizing Committee of the “KESTENBURG” Festival. The members of the Jury shall independently determine the manner of their work, appoint the President of the Jury, and make decisions in accordance with the professional rules and provisions of these Regulations.

The members of the Jury shall monitor the performance of each performance at the “KESTENBURG” Festival. After the performance of the last performance in the official competition, the Jury shall gather, including all its members, and make a decision on the “Golden Chestnut” Award. The announcement of the awarded performances and artists and the award ceremony will be organized in the "Sestra Gajić" library in Banja Luka at 12:00, on the penultimate day of the festival, April 26, 2027.

## 7. AWARDS OF THE "KESTENBURG" FESTIVAL

### Article 16.

The following types of awards may be awarded at the "KESTENBURG" Festival:

- "Golden Chestnut" award,
- "Silver Chestnut" award,
- "Bronze Chestnut" award,
- University Professors of Acting Award
- as well as special awards from the festival friends
- special awards from the festival management
- "Little Chestnut" awards for the best actor in a performance

Article 17.

The "Golden Chestnut", "Silver Chestnut" and "Brass Chestnut" awards are works of art by puppeteer Zoran Bjelošević.

Article 18.

The "Golden Chestnut" award is awarded by an expert jury for the best student performance as a whole. The jury's decisions are made unanimously or by majority vote.

Special awards are also awarded by representatives of the jury from various fields.

Special awards are awarded by the Festival Directorate for works of art in the fields of acting, directing, production, set design, costume design and other similar fields. The number of awards is not limited

## 9. PUBLICITY OF THE FESTIVAL

Article 19.

The organizers are obliged to publish the Festival schedule in Serbian and English.

Article 20.

The activities of the "KESTENBURG" Festival are public. Information and data about the Festival are provided by the "KESTENBURG" Festival Directorate and a person authorized in writing by the President of the Assembly of the Student Theater from Banja Luka.

President of the Assembly of the Student Theater from Banja Luka

Aleksandar Pejaković

---