

Stories on stage: journalists' resilience through theatre

Onsite 22-26 September 2025

Online 15-16 September 2025

Brief description:

This program is a follow-up of the BIP **Resilience in Journalism program (sept.2024)**, expanding its focus on professional resilience by transforming real-life experiences of journalists into theatrical performances. While the original program emphasized resilience-building strategies, this initiative offers a new dimension—using theatre as a medium to amplify journalists' stories and their struggles against censorship, trauma, and political pressure. By blending journalism with dramaturgy, participants will explore how to adapt personal and professional experiences into compelling stage narratives. The program includes both online courses (on storytelling, dramaturgy) and on-site workshops (where students collaborate with actors, and journalists to bring these stories to life).

Objectives:

- Strengthen resilience among journalism students and professionals through creative expression.
- Enhance storytelling skills by blending journalism with theatrical techniques.
- Raise public awareness about the realities journalists face worldwide.
- Foster interdisciplinary collaboration between journalists, theater artists, and scholars.

Virtual Component (Online Courses 10-16 September):

- Journalism & trauma: reporting under pressure (2h)
- Dramatic storytelling: adapting real stories for the stage (2h)

Physical Component (On-Site Workshops 22 – 26 September):

- Day 1: The power of storytelling – writing and structuring narratives
- Day 2: Character development – bringing journalists' voices to life
- Day 3: Directing real-life stories – staging techniques
- Day 4: Rehearsals & performance preparation

- Day 5: Final project presentation

Skills Acquired:

- Narrative adaptation & dramaturgy

- Public speaking & performance techniques

- Cross-disciplinary collaboration

Readings:

Trauma Reporting: A Journalist's Guide https://www.routledge.com/Trauma-Reporting-A-Journalists-Guide-to-Covering-Sensitive-Stories/Healey/p/book/9781138482104?srsIid=AfmBOoqMTjba0p3G8-tJ4On1JCV9z_RUqJBsgobo328foR4vnW8aSIMO

<https://www.snh.hr/en/english-theater-play-about-the-murdered-journalist-daphne-caruana-galizia/>

<https://gijn.org/stories/daphne-caruana-galizia-foundation-legacy-trailblazing-journalist/>