

ANA MARIJA TOMIĆ

autorica performansa

SMILE OF SHAME

Galerija BKC • 06.03.2024.

Uvodna riječ 14.00^h • Panel diskusija 14.30^h • Performans 15.00^h

JASNA ŽALICA
mentor

DAMIR ČOBO
svjetlo

RIJAD KANIŽA
zvuk

EMINA LAGUMDŽIJA
vizualni identitet



**Concept note Marking
IWD through WPS**

"SMILE OF SHAME"

About project:

This performance has been developed by the joint project entitled: Women lead the way towards peace and security in Bosnia and Herzegovina, under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund.

The overall goal of the project is to advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda through the amplified agency of women in sustaining peace and social cohesion and the improved delivery of services for conflict-affected and marginalized women in BiH. It rests on the key concept of human security, which emphasizes the interlinkages between peace, development and human rights. Human security is a multidimensional concept that extends beyond traditional notions of national security to focus on the well-being of individuals and communities. It encompasses a range of concerns such as economic stability, food security, health, environmental sustainability, as well as protection from violence and oppression. By adopting a people centered approach,

human security aims to empower individuals and communities to mitigate vulnerabilities and enhance resilience, thereby contributing to sustainable development and peace. It also focuses on strengthening the relevant institutions involved in the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 as well as strengthening women's and girls' voices, agency and partnerships in addressing key human security concerns that are affecting their well-being and socioeconomic position. Building on this perspective, the project will contribute to improving policies and services for women, especially for the conflict affected and marginalized, enabling them to strengthen participation in and accountability of local governance and addressing more effectively their human security needs, thus contributing to the localized implementation of the WPS agenda in BiH.

Artist Background:

Ana-Marija Tomic was born in 1997 in Borken, Germany. After graduating high school, she started studying at the Music Academy of the University of Sarajevo at the Department of Music Theory and Pedagogy in 2016. She moderated and participated in the creative workshop "Let's Share Knowledge" on the topic of "Musical Theater" in 2018 when she also participated in the second international "Forum of Performing Arts Students" of FSSU in Belgrade on the topic of "Performing together through musicals as the practice of interactive application subjects of music theory and pedagogy". She performed in three musicals: Songs For A New World, as part of the May Music Festivities directed by Alma Ferovic - Fazlic, and two professional productions under the US Embassy in Sarajevo The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee in the Sarajevo National Theatre and My Song, Chamber Theater 55. Ana-Marija

graduated from the Academy of Music with the subject: Significance and function of musical and stage activities in primary schools. She was awarded with the Golden Badge of the University of Sarajevo. After finishing the Music Academy she started her studies at the Academy of Performing Arts in Sarajevo and is currently a fourth-year student of Acting in the class of professor Senad Basic. As a student of the academy, she's worked on the play *Who am I this time?*, *Open Stage Obala*, *Phantom leg* - a post-apocalyptic story directed by Thomas Steyaert and produced by Sarajevo War Theatre, *Psychosis in 4'48"* at Children's Theater of Republika Srpska, Banja Luka. She is the winner of the Professor Sanja Buric Award for overall student engagement and results in the process for *Masks - Clown*, Academy of Performing Arts in Sarajevo. Ana Marija and her team were among winners of UNFPA Girl Advance Lab 2022 - *Not All Violence is Physical* project, and they proposed *Zea Mays* installation performed at Bosnian Cultural Centre. The installation, *Zea Mays*, is featured in NYC *Flowering Freedom* at the Black Gotham Experience gallery, supported by UNFPA.

About work:

Throughout my childhood, I faced an early loss of teeth, which instilled in me a fear of smiling, often covering it with my hand or sometimes refraining from smiling altogether. As a result, I was subjected to derogatory comments suggesting that my smile "resembled a graveyard". With the rise of social media, I would never dare to post photos revealing my smile, fearing the reactions of online friends. During my studies at the Academy of Performing Arts, I had dental veneers made, and as a drama student, I was compelled to perform on stage and be exposed to the scrutiny of others throughout the process.

As Sylvia Plath suggests, I enact a marriage with my fear and bury it in that same graveyard, that my teeth had been derogatorily compared to. I wish to share my greatest shame with others to encourage people to embrace themselves. The experience of personal shame and embarrassment due to not having teeth can be linked to broader societal contexts. In post-conflict societies, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, individuals often face profound traumas that extend beyond physical wounds, including the stigma associated with war rape or sexual harassment. Similarly, societal pressures regarding physical appearance contribute to stigmas associated with not having teeth, forming a connection through the shared experience of personal embarrassment. We usually internalize these stigmas, which leads to feelings of shame and isolation. The common thread lies in the intersection of personal experiences with broader social norms and expectations, highlighting the universal aspects of human vulnerability and the impact of societal attitudes on individual well-being. Recognizing and addressing these interconnected issues is crucial for fostering empathy and understanding across diverse contexts. We all have the right to our shame, and because of that, we don't have to become victims of it.

This event is implemented within the project "Women lead the way towards peace and security in Bosnia and Herzegovina" funded by the UN Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and implemented by UN Women, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), on behalf of the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



AKADEMIJA
S CENSKIH
U MJETNOSTI
S ARAJEVO