

## **An Open Letter to: Vladimir Putin (President of Russia) and Vladimir Medinsky (Minister of Culture, Russia)**

cc: Alexander Kalyagin, Chairman of the Russian Theatre Union

Sirs:

### **Free Kirill Serebrennikov**

We, the members of the European Theatre Convention, representing over 40 European theatre institutions from over 20 countries, call for immediate action by Russian authorities to set theatre and film director Kirill Serebrennikov free.

Since the end of August 2017, Kirill Serebrennikov has been placed under house arrest in Moscow. He is not allowed to communicate freely or to travel, although no evidence of any illegal activity by Kirill Serebrennikov, the director of the renowned Gogol Centre, has been produced. The mere allegation of 'masterminding fraud schemes of state subventions' serve as a tool to silence and arrest one of the great artists of contemporary Russia. Kirill Serebrennikov was not allowed to finish his work as opera director at the State Theatre Stuttgart, and all his artistic activities have been stopped.

It is not for the first time in recent years that Russian authorities use their power and their influence on legal structures in Russia, in order to suppress any thought or art that does not fit with the ruling ideology. Due to his reputation and international work, Kirill Serebrennikov is one of the representatives of contemporary Russian art, who bridges the political gap between Russia and the countries of the European Union. We want to support all theatre artists, and ask the political authority in Russia to intervene and thus to inhibit any kind of ideological censorship and suppression of art.

Free Kirill Serebrennikov!

*This call for action has been endorsed by the [ETC Member Theatres](#) at the ETC General Assembly on 28 October 2017 in Tbilisi, Georgia.*

**European Theatre Convention - Convention Théâtrale Européenne**

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