



FERA

Federation of European Film Directors

STATEMENT

Brussels, 11 September 2020

European Filmmakers Join in Support to Budapest University of Theatre and Film Arts' Students and Senate

Just like freedom of artistic expression requires artists to be independent and free of governmental censorship, political interference or pressures of non-state actors, sound academic practice requires universities' academic freedom and institutional autonomy.

Both are key indicators are the quality of the national social contract.

We join our Hungarian Film Directors colleagues in supporting the students and Senate of the Budapest University of Theatre and Film Arts in their actions against a re-organisation which has effectively resulted in the university's loss of academic autonomy.

This situation illustrates growing pressure on our common EU democratic standards and cannot be overlooked.

We call on European institutions to insist on a prompt resolution of the situation with the Hungarian government.

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Background Information

IN THE PRESS

September 3 – 3sat

https://www.3sat.de/kultur/kulturzeit/ungarn-studentenprotest-100.html?fbclid=IwAR2rwO8DkKs1pXyloy4BljV-3PU2PYcD9WLkTaie9_cyBkEgg_k3977hmqI

September 3 – Human Rights Watch

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/09/03/hungary-continues-attacks-academic-freedom>

September 4 – Euronews

https://www.euronews.com/2020/09/04/hungarian-students-blockade-university-in-protest-against-orban-reforms?fbclid=IwAR2rwO8DkKs1pXyloy4BljV-3PU2PYcD9WLkTaie9_cyBkEgg_k3977hmqI

September 5 – Nachtkritik

https://www.nachtkritik.de/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=18537%3Asolidaritaet-fuer-universitaets-besetzung-in-budapest&catid=126%3Ameldungen-k&Itemid=100089&fbclid=IwAR2rwO8DkKs1pXyloy4BljV-3PU2PYcD9WLkTaie9_cyBkEgg_k3977hmqI

September 5 – The Guardian

https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/sep/05/pieces-of-a-woman-director-gender-neutral-awards-a-logical-move?fbclid=IwAR2rwO8DkKs1pXyloy4BljV-3PU2PYcD9WLkTaie9_cyBkEgg_k3977hmqI

September 5 – Trouw

https://www.trouw.nl/buitenland/hongaarse-theaterstudenten-bezetten-universiteitspand-uit-protest-tegen-inmenging-kunstonderwijs~b3566c76/?fbclid=IwAR2rwO8DkKs1pXyloy4BljV-3PU2PYcD9WLkTaie9_cyBkEgg_k3977hmqI&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Ffacebook.com%2F

September 6 – ABC News

https://abcnews.go.com/amp/Entertainment/wireStory/hungarys-theater-film-college-protests-loss-autonomy-72850475?fbclid=IwAR1aOq2ZoWite6o_RuPAYB_nUaDL7aKHlrt8m35plrxiJkuV6ELAZq7txB4

September 6 – New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/06/world/europe/hungary-students-blockade-orban.html>

September 6 – Washington post

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/hungarys-theater-and-film-college-protests-a-loss-of-autonomy/2020/09/06/16b11204-f059-11ea-8025->

[5d3489768ac8_story.html?fbclid=IwAR1aOq2ZoWite6o_RuPAYB_nUaDL7aKHlrt8m35plrxijkuV6ELAzq7txB4](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54052182?fbclid=IwAR1aOq2ZoWite6o_RuPAYB_nUaDL7aKHlrt8m35plrxijkuV6ELAzq7txB4)

September 7 – BBC News

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54052182?fbclid=IwAR1aOq2ZoWite6o_RuPAYB_nUaDL7aKHlrt8m35plrxijkuV6ELAzq7txB4

September 7 – Le Monde

https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2020/09/07/en-hongrie-la-faculte-de-theatre-et-de-cinema-visee-a-son-tour-par-viktor-orban_6051264_3210.html?fbclid=IwAR3d-tv36GgMuBq3mpG-dPsnAtB99io1AHW-BkcXrC2XzsHmVUjc5vllpBE

FIRST EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT TO THE MOVEMENT

[#freeSZFE](#) on Social Media

The European Film Academy

[https://www.europeanfilmacademy.org/News-detail.155.0.html?&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=810&cHash=9708c141703b8240bbd1a0fc933636ef&fbclid=IwAR2rwQ8DkKs1pXyloy4BljV-3PU2PYcD9WLkTaie9_cyBkEgg_k3977hmqI](https://www.europeanfilmacademy.org/News-detail.155.0.html?&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=810&cHash=9708c141703b8240bbd1a0fc933636ef&fbclid=IwAR2rwQ8DkKs1pXyloy4BljV-3PU2PYcD9WLkTaie9_cyBkEgg_k3977hmqI)

MDW - Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien

https://www.mdw.ac.at/1161/?fbclid=IwAR2rwQ8DkKs1pXyloy4BljV-3PU2PYcD9WLkTaie9_cyBkEgg_k3977hmqI

Burgtheater

<https://www.facebook.com/Burgtheater/>

And many more.

About Us

Founded in 1980, FERA represents the independent voice of European film and TV directors in Brussels. With 47 organizations as members from 35 countries, it speaks for more than 20,000 European film and TV directors, representing their cultural, creative and economic interests at national and EU level.

Honorary President: Agnieszka HOLLAND (Poland)

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