THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF WOMEN IN MONTENEGRO

Background note on the play to be performed on Sunday, 11th December, 7 pm.

Room: Petrovic and Balsic Dynasty, 3rd floor

The multimedia play "Women's political history" was designed to mark the 70th anniversary of women’s voting rights in Montenegro. Envisaged as a short overview of key events in the history of women’s political activism in Montenegro, the play also raises the question of how much women have succeeded in their efforts over decades to obtain political space and assume political responsibility on an equal basis with men in Montenegro.
The play covers the period from the 1930s to today and begins with the suffrage movement in Montenegro where women fought for their civil rights, finally gaining the right to vote in 1946. It spans the establishment and dissolution of the Antifascist Women’s Movement in the 1960s, the anti-war movement in the 1990s and the present political climate in Montenegro characterized by the human rights agenda. It eventually leads to the conclusion that women’s status hasn’t substantially changed and that barriers to women’s political participation in Montenegro today are, on many levels, similar to those faced by women in the 1940s.

The play is shown on the first night of the conference as a thought-provoking introduction to an event dedicated to gender equality and the position of women in society. It will provide an insight into the context of women’s struggles to have their voices heard. As the history of women’s political activism in Montenegro is similar to that of other women in this region, it is expected that the play will resonate well with the audience and highlight common themes for action.
The play’s first performance took place in the Montenegrin National Theater in June 2016. The author of the play is a Montenegrin playwright, Natasa Nelevic. It is directed by renowned director Marija Perovic and performed by three Montenegrin actresses, Dubravka Drakic, Ivana Mrvaljevic and Kristina Stevovic. It presents a combination of fiction, whereby particular situations from women’s lives in different periods are portrayed, and excerpts from documentaries, photos, and music of the particular periods in history. It is performed in Montenegrin with English subtitles. The duration of the play is about 60 minutes.