

Bilbao, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear European Theatre Convention members.

Fellow theatres, artists and colleagues of the performing arts entourage,

I am delighted to introduce you to the Arriaga theatre, an institution that for more than one hundred years has been presenting to its audience extraordinary stories in the shape of theatre plays, lyrical productions, dance, contemporary music and recitals.

Located in the heart of Bilbao, in Biscay one of the provinces of the Basque Country, we are proud to present and produce artistic works both in Spanish and Basque, the local language of our region, that has its own distinctive musicality.

Open to a diverse audience, built in 1890, with a capacity to host 1,200 people, the Neo-baroque building is one of the landmarks of the city.

The Arriaga theatre initiated an international path years ago, that since the incorporation of Calixto Bieito as its artistic director, has been reinforced with the international productions he incorporates every season in the programme.

We want to continue expanding this international outreach and take it further. To do so, we are very interested in **building solid and long-term relationships with fellow theatres all over Europe to exchange** experiences, originate **coproductions, research** together and participate in what we see as an interesting and ambitious project to develop a European artistic endeavour that reflects the diversity and multiculturalism of the European landscape.

During the pandemic, we have attentively witnessed how the cultural landscape was reshaping. The theatre is undergoing a **transformation** to redefine its position to become a more **sustainable, diverse and inclusive** structure. We would like to participate with other fellow theatres in the discussions and activities proposed in the framework of your network to make the most of our own transformation. Learning with others is a more fruitful process for our theatre, our artists, our audience current and future, and the close institutions we work with.

We hope that our theatre can **contribute** with its experience of more than a century as one of the most important theatres in the country and share its know-how with the other members of the network when requested in this transforming process.

We are looking forward to joining this exciting project and becoming part of a network where fruitful exchanges will certainly materialise.

Besarkada, Euskadiren bihotzetik  
(Warm regards from the heart of the Basque Country)

Jose Ignacio Malaina  
Managing Director



11922107B  
JOSE IGNACIO  
MALAINA (R:  
A48211205)

# Application Form

*Please fill out this form on your computer.*

## Theatre Details

Name of the Theatre: **Teatro Arriaga**

Acronym:

Street & no.: **Plaza Arriaga 1.**

Postcode: **48005**

City: **Bilbao**

Country: **Spain**

Website: **<https://www.teatroarriaga.eus/?lang=en>**

## Legal Representative

Name: **José Ignacio**

First name: **Malaina Sánchez**

☐

Ms

☒

Mr

Professional position: **Managing Director**

Email: **malaina@teatroarriaga.eus**

Telephone: **0034 94 4163533**

## ETC Contact Person

Name: **Raquel**

First name: **Castells**



Ms



Mr

Professional position: **Head of Internationalization**

Email: **international@teatroarriaga.eus**

Telephone: **0034 606867236**

## Information about the Theatre Structure

Date of creation: **1890**

Number of employees: **46**

Number of artists working for the theatre: **71 in 2021**

Total number of audience/season: **75.119 in 2021**

Average number of new shows (premieres)/season:

Average number of performances/season: **194**

Average number of invited international guest performances/season:

Average number of internationally touring performances/season:

## Legal Status

- ☒ Public organisation
- ☐ Private organisation (association, NGO, limited company, etc.)

Public funding authorities:

1. Bilbao City Council
- 2.
- 3.

Annual budget: 7,200.000

Membership in national theatre organisations:

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please indicate the organisations' name(s) and membership type:

Membership in international theatre organisations:

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please indicate the organisations' name(s) and membership type:

THE ASSOCIATION OF HISTORIC THEATRES IN EUROPE

Please present your theatre structure briefly (max. 300 words). This text will be used for ETC communication purposes and published on the website. Please note that the text might be edited to fit the format of ETC's publications.

The Arriaga Theatre is a public theatre located in the heart of Bilbao.

As one of the most important theatres in the Basque Country and Spain, it is open to a diverse audience. Its vast program includes lyrical productions, dance, theatre, contemporary music and recitals. We produce in our two official languages, Basque and Spanish, and program productions in their original language.

Built in 1890, the theatre turned partially into ashes in a major fire in 1914 and it was rebuilt and reopened in June 1919. After the city floods of 1983, a restoration was completed with taste and respect for the original conception, and the Neo-baroque construction that we appreciate today resembles the style of certain other theatres in Europe.

With a capacity to host 1,200 people, Arriaga Theatre is one of most significant landmarks of the city.

The theatre employs 46 people as permanent staff and works with around 70 freelancers per season, including artists and technicians.

We produce and share extraordinary stories. Season 22/23's programme proposes a total of 82 artistic works; five entirely produced by Arriaga theatre, four co-productions, and five premiers. Of the 82 artistic works, 31 are local productions, 37 are national, and 14 are international productions.

Montserrat Caballé, Rostropovich, Penderecki, Martha Graham, Elliott Gardiner, Teresa Berganza, Tadeusz Kantor, Juliette Greco, Peter Brook, Lindsay Kemp, Julio Bocca, Chavela Vargas, Marcel Marceau or Peter Brook are some of the international artists that our theatre has welcome.

Under the artistic directorship of European Culture Award winner and internationally acclaimed Calixto Bieito, Arriaga has recently coproduced and hosted works by Romeo Castellucci, Declan Donnellan, Simon Stone, Lia Rodrigues and Pascal Rambert.

Over the season, the theatre runs an average of 200 performances and welcomes an audience of more than 150.000 people that attends the performances live in the theatre

## ETC Membership

Please outline your motivation to become member of the European Theatre Convention (max. 300 words).

The Arriaga theatre initiated an international path years ago, that since the incorporation of Calixto Bieito as its artistic director, was reinforced with the international productions he incorporates in the programme.

The Arriaga Theatre intends now to not only widen the landscape of peer theatres to exchange its productions with but also to expand its horizons by building new bridges with other European cultural partners, developing collaborations, and forming mixed artistic teams from their theatres, festivals and our own Basque artists.

We want to continue expanding this international outreach and take it further. We are very interested in building solid and long-term relationships with fellow theatres all over Europe to exchange experiences, originate coproductions, research together and participate in what we see as an interesting and ambitious project to develop a European artistic endeavour that reflects the diversity and multiculturalism of the European landscape.

During the pandemic, we have attentively witnessed how the cultural landscape was reshaping. The theatre is undergoing a transformation to redefine its work to become a more sustainable, diverse and inclusive structure. We would like to participate with other fellow theatres in the discussions and activities proposed in the framework of your network to make the most of our own transformation. Learning with others is a more fruitful process for our theatre, our artists, our audience present and future, and the close institutions we work with.

We hope that our theatre can contribute with its experience of more than a century as one of the most important theatres in the country and share its know-how with the other members of the network when needed in this transforming process.

I hereby declare that the theatre structure I represent wishes to become:

- ☒ A Full Member of the European Theatre Convention e.V.
- ☐ An Associate Member of the European Theatre Convention e.V.

The adherence is subject to final decision of ETC's General Assembly.

I confirm having knowledge of all the rights and duties related to a membership in the European Theatre Convention e.V. and that the above listed theatre structure will commit to the ETC Statutes and Charter and settle the annual membership fee within the deadlines.

The applying theatre structure allows ETC to save and process the provided data.

Date: 2022-09-26



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MALAINA (R: A48211205)

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Signature of Legal Representative