

Oslo, November 16, 2020

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Association of Norwegian Theatres and Orchestras (NTO) supports the creation of VIP on behalf of the professional theatres and orchestras in Norway. We believe the platform will strengthen Ibsen's position and relevance to performance arts and democracy, as well as contribute to develop, inspire and inform future productions of Ibsen's plays.

Henrik Ibsen's plays are continuously being produced and performed all over the world. The interpretations span from traditional approaches that seek to stand as close to the original text as possible, to modern genre-exploring stagings where Ibsen's text is set in new contexts and seen from new perspectives.

Theatre practitioners are constantly looking for new ways of opening up the complexity of Ibsen's dramas in order to make them relevant in new times. The process of staging new versions of Ibsen's plays are often based on new knowledge about the play's origin, its context and the playwright's situation when it was written. Living art and science are in touch with each other at all times, and should not be underestimated as a mutual source for development in both directions.

It is obvious that a world class open access Virtual Ibsen Platform (VIP) will provide relevant sources to arts practitioners both in Norway and internationally.

We also believe that Ibsen's iconic position in world drama and literature gives Norway a special responsibility in making research on Ibsen available.

Sincerely,

Morten Gjeltén
director