

Aleksandras Špilevojus (b. 1987) is a director, playwright, actor and theatre teacher.

He studied music technology at Kaunas University of Technology, later completed bachelor’s and master’s studies in acting at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, and is currently pursuing a doctorate in theatre directing.

Špilevojus has worked as an actor, playwright, and director at the Lithuanian National Drama Theatre, the Old Theatre of Vilnius, and the Menų Spaustuvė (Arts Printing House). Presently, he is the artistic director at the Juozas Miltinis Drama Theatre, and the head and founder of the theatre-laboratory called Meno Alchemija (The Alchemy of Art). He also acts and directs in Lithuanian theatres as well as film projects in various European countries.

In 2016, Špilevojus received recognition for his first play titled *Neišmoktos Pamokos* (Unlearnt Lessons), winning the Open Space competition at the Menų Spaustuvė, and being shortlisted for one of the most prestigious contemporary drama festivals, Lyubimovka (Moscow). He has also won the Dalia Tamulevičiūtė Lithuanian Drama Competition, and in 2017, his production based on the same play was nominated for the Golden Cross of the Stage Award in the Theatre+ category.

In 2018, Špilevojus received the Young Creator Award from the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture, and the Golden Stage Cross in 2019 for the dramaturgy of the play *Bagadelnia*, which he directed at Šiauliai Drama Theatre. In 2020, he directed the performance of the band The Roop, which won the Lithuanian Eurovision Song Contest national selection. In the same year, Špilevojus won the Best Director Award at the Dalia Tamulevičiūtė Theatre Festival for his production *Irano Konferencija* (The Iranian Conference, Ivan Vyrypaev), and was named Panevėžys Citizen of the Year for his contributions to theatre. In 2021, he was nominated for the Golden Stage Cross for the play *Irano Konferencija*, and won the Best Performance Award at the COM MEDIA International Theatre Festival for this work.

**Playwriting portfolio**

2023 *Jona*

2022 *Sala, kurios nėra*

2022 *Pakeliui*

2021 *Stepai, gazo!*

2021 *Anti. Gone*

2020 *Žmogus iš KGB*

2019 *12 gramų į šiaurę*

2018 *Bagadelnia*

2016 *Babelis*

2015 *Neišmoktos pamokos*

**Productions directed**

2023 *Jona* (Aleksandr Špilevoj), Juozas Miltinis Drama Theatre

2022 *Sala, kurios nėra* (Aleksandr Špilevoj), Juozas Miltinis Drama Theatre

2022 *Pakeliui* (Aleksandr Špilevoj), Šiauliai Drama Theatre

2022 Jaudulys / Excitement (Ivan Vyrypaev), Kaunas National Drama Theatre and Meno Alchemija

2022 *Šv. Speigas* (inspired by Quentin Tarantino’s *The Hateful Eight*), Juozas Miltinis Drama Theatre

2022 *Pasitikėjimo žaidimas* (Miglė Anušauskaitė), Lithuanian National Radion and Television

2021 *Stepai, gazo!* (Aleksandr Špilevoj), Meno Alchemija

2021 *Anti* (Aleksandr Špilevoj), Meno Alchemija and Panevėžys *Menas* Drama Theatre

2020 *Irano konferencija / The Iranian Conference*  (Ivan Vyrypajev), Juozas Miltinis Drama Theatre

2019 *12 gramų į šiaurę* (Aleksandr Špilevoj), State Small Theatre of Vilnius

2018 *Bagadelnia* (Aleksandr Špilevoj), Šiauliai Drama Theatre

2018 *Urodas/ The Ugly One* (Marius von Mayenburg), The Old Theatre of Vilnius

2016 *Neišmoktos pamokos* (Aleksandr Špilevoj), Menų Spaustuvė

**Key acting roles**

2021 Narrator in A. Špilevojus’s *Stepai, gazo!,* dir. A. Špilevoj

2018. Jim Morrison, presenter in A. Špilevojus’s *Bagadelnia*, dir. A. Špilevoj

2018 DJ in M. von Mayenburg’s *Urodas / The Ugly One*, dir. A. Špilevoj

2016 Lead in A. Špilevojus’s *Neišmoktos pamokos*, dir. A. Špilevoj

2016 Judas Iscariot in A. Andreev *Septyni fariziejaus Sauliaus penktadieniai / Seven Fridays of Saul the Pharisee,* dir. J. Vaitkus

2016 Lead in *Kodas: HAMLET* (based W. Shakespeare’s play), dir. O. Lapina

2015 Dervish, Prisoner in Nizami Ganjavi’s *Septynios gražuolės / The Seven Beauties*, dir. J. Vaitkus

2014 Vadimas in P. Priazhko’s *Puikus gyvenimas / Life is Grand*, dir. T. Jašinskas

2014 Edgaras; Cornwall’s servant in W. Shakespeare’s *Karalius Lyras / King Lear*, dir. J. Vaitkus

2013 Andriušis in K. Binkis’s *Atžalynas*, dir. J. Vaitkus

2013 Moscow gentleman in A. Pushkin’s *Eugenijus Oneginas / Eugene Onegin*, dir. J. Vaitkus

2012 Soldier in A. Vvedensky’s *Eglutė pas Ivanovus / Christmas Tree at the Ivanovs,* dir. J. Vaitkus

**Professional achievements and awards**

2021 Award for the play *Irano konferencija* as best play at the COM MEDIA International Theatre Festival.

2021 Golden Stage Cross nomination for the acting team for the play *Irano konferencija*

2020 Panevėžys Citizen of the Year Award for contributions to art and education

2020 Best Director at the Dalia Tamulevičiūtė Theatre Festival for the play *Irano konferencija* (Ivan Vyrypayev).

2020 First place in the Eurovision Song Contest national selection as the director of the The Roop’s performance of the song *On Fire*

2019 Golden Stage Cross (National Drama category) for the play *Bagadelnia*.

2018 Young Creator Award, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania

2017 Golden Stage Cross nomination in the category Theatre+ for the play *Neišmoktos pamokos*

2016 Main Award of the Dalia Tamulevičiūtė Lithuanian Drama Competition of the play *Neišmoktos pamokos*

**A Performer’s Personal Stance and Will**

One of the fundamental postulates of storytelling states:

* The storyteller is always the author of their own narrative;
* The storyteller must possess and convey a personal stance concerning the narrative and the actions of its characters.

Having a personal stance and a strong inner desire to convey the author’s story to the audience empowers the performer to harness their will, strength, resolve and determination. This significantly enhances the logical, emotional and auditory dimensions of the narrative. Hence, contemporary theatre educators and the most skilled professional actors frequently employ storytelling as an effective method to nurture artistic creativity and develop essential professional skills.