DenizBank and IKSV Present an Inclusive Theatre Experience with The Farewell Ritual

Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV) and Accessible Art Partner DenizBank are bringing their ongoing collaboration, which is aimed at making arts and culture accessible to everyone, to the 30th Istanbul Theatre Festival.

Within the scope of the festival, The Farewell Ritual, performed by deaf theatre artist Ramesh Meyyappan, will offer an artistic experience shared by audiences with diverse hearing experiences through a narrative that brings together sign language, mime, rhythm, body movement and creative subtitles.

As part of the **30th Istanbul Theatre Festival** taking place between October 22 and December 3, 2026, **The Farewell Ritual** by deaf theatre artist Ramesh Meyyappan will meet audiences at **Paribu Art** on **November 7-8**.

Focusing on Arjun, a character deaf from birth, who returns to India for the funeral of his father, who refused to learn sign language, and confronts his unresolved father-son relationship, the play explores communication and family bonds through a unique stage language.

Bringing together sign language, mime, rhythm, body movements, and Turkish creative subtitles, the production enables deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing audiences to experience the same story together. The high bass frequencies used in the play create a theatre experience appealing to different senses by allowing sound to be felt through physical vibrations.

"We aim to expand accessibility opportunities in arts and culture"

DenizBank Human Resources Group Executive Vice President Tuba Köseoğlu Okçu stated the following in her evaluation of the collaboration: "We initiated our Accessible Art Partnership last year by bringing together IKSV's over 50 years of experience in arts and culture with our Bank's vision of supporting participation in cultural life. Within the scope of our collaboration ongoing for two years, we support the equal participation of individuals with physical, sensory, and neuro-developmental needs in cultural life. This year, we contributed to enhancing accessibility opportunities in music with Relaxed Concert at the Istanbul Music Festival. Now, we are pleased to support the access of audiences with diverse hearing experiences to theatre through The Farewell Ritual. We aim to carry this valuable collaboration with IKSV even further in coming years and expand accessibility opportunities in different areas of arts and culture."

"Accessibility is one of the core components of our efforts"

IKSV General Manager Yeşim Gürer Oymak made the following evaluation on the topic: *"As the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV), we believe that arts and culture should be accessible to everyone, and we view accessibility as one of the core components of our efforts.* In line with this shared understanding, through our Accessible Art Partnership with DenizBank, we aim to reduce barriers faced in accessing art and strengthen inclusion and diversity in the field of arts and culture. In the second year of our collaboration, we are pleased to open up space for audiences with diverse hearing experiences to experience the same story together with the performance of The Farewell Ritual, to be staged within the scope of the 30th Istanbul Theatre Festival. We do not see accessibility as a practice limited to individual events, but as a permanent part of cultural and artistic life; in line with our shared vision with DenizBank, we aim to spread this approach across different art disciplines and contribute to the proliferation of more inclusive art experiences."

The Farewell Ritual Performances

Date: Saturday, November 7, 2026 - 20:30 / Sunday, November 8, 2026 - 15:00
Venue: Paribu Art