

Rising Moon Production

Important announcement:

The terrible decision to cancel the 2017's of Ragnard Rock Festival has, by the strength of elements, and without fall-back position, to be taken by the steering committee.

The announced death of a festival

These last three years, the Ragnard Rock Festival was carried by a group of volunteers, ready of everything, enthusiasts to sacrifice themselves to carry this project and make the dream come true, to propose to the public and to the other enthusiasts an event which would look like them.

The first two years were carried at arm's length by a small local association, The Company of Edoras, established only by volunteers, and which worked in its maximum to propose both editions of the festival which you know. These editions you lived them, with us or by means of experience feedback of others festival-goers, and if they were far from being perfect in their organization, everything was made so that they were in the most possible adequacy with the will of sharing of the steering committee, whether it is with the bands or the festival-goers.

We were forced to notice that the public found himself in this event, and since the first edition, with a presence much more massive than what was expected. In spite of what we could think at first sight, such an influx, unexpected, finally created at the financial level more concerns than we could have imagined. Indeed, to adapt a festival a few days away from its opening for a bigger population of festival-goers created obvious additional costs. Additional costs which created the first loss-making edition. This deficit was very logically transformed into debts to the service providers and the partners of the first edition. These additional costs were also caused from in the time by the negative influence of certain local media which frightened partners and service providers.

Nevertheless, the second edition of the festival was able to be born, which allowed to pay off a big part of the creditors of the first edition. It is not a secret for anybody that the world of the culture is in trouble, in particular for the various festivals. This situation is well known, and to create an event of scale which is financially positive from the first edition seems almost impossible today. The fact of financing the claims of an edition with the following edition is a common and wide-spread practice, which allows numerous cultural events to take place. Once more it is with the support of an increasing number of festival-goers that the festival was able to take place in 2016.

But one more time, it is always in adversity the most total that it took place. We teach to nobody the ignominious attacks and the debates from which the festival suffered for the edition of 2016. These slanderous attacks, published by local newspapers, and relieved by national media affected organizers but also urged them to fight with a renewed spite so that the festival can take place in 2016, to prove by the facts, and not only by the speeches, that attacks and debates were based not at all. The proof was that the festival took place well one more time, without any overflowing, and none of the slanderous assertions carried before the festival came true. If this success was precious for the organization, it was not less generative of new financial difficulties bound directly to these attacks which, one more time, and it is

Rising Moon Production

very understandable, created a certain fear on behalf of the service providers and other partners, and which generated additional spending that could not be expected. After these first two difficult years from a financial point of view, and in view of the ceaselessly increasing participation of the number of festival-goers, it was decided to professionalize Ragnard Rock Festival, to take out of these problems.

The edition 2017 of the festival was thought to allow a purification of the current debts, with a better control of the budgets and a bigger rigor in the distribution of the tasks. As it seemed obvious that the association La Compagnie d'Edoras could not carry any more this project, Rising Moon Production, holder of the rights of the festival decided to appeal to professionals with various key positions of the organization, and to rest on several specialized associations as representatives of the exploitation of the festival. However, and contrary to what was said and shared by numerous times, the Company of Edoras was never liquidated or dissolved, which is easily verifiable.

With the projected budgets, less than a month before the festival, all the objectives were bearable, and the edition 2017 appeared under the best omens.

However, recently, new debates burst concerning the festival and its finances, which were nevertheless a secret for nobody. A slanderous article was shared and relieved in an important scale.

This article, added to technical dysfunctions, have driven service providers of first importance, to retreat of the project. Without these service providers, it is impossible to open to the public and to run correctly the festival in conditions of safety which we wish. A week before the festival, after the debate on the financing of the festival, service providers have either decided to quit the project, or modified their conditions of coming, by asking for guarantees and for incompatible financial advances for a festival of the size of Ragnard. As for example the payment of the entire service before the festival. The steering committee negotiated every hour of every day to find solutions, and many were found. But every day, and every hour, new conditions impossible to hold were imposed.

We fought, without sleeping for days, to find alternatives, we envisaged important changes in the festival, going as far as imagining to open the festival by reducing or by deleting certain elements of the project. Only, the time and the financing were lacking to us, and less than a week before the festival, it was necessary to state obviously that we could not open doors and welcome the public, the groups and the volunteers in acceptable conditions. It is impossible for us today to guarantee that we would succeed in opening the festival in the planned date.

And we refuse categorically to leave things as is and to risk that we find ourselves with a festival which cannot open its doors that very day, while everybody is already on site. It is necessary to remember, and it is important to underline it, that Ragnard Rock Festival is a completely autonomous event at the financial level, without any subsidy or partners' financial any outer support. It was always a will of the steering committee.

Today, thus it is the heavy heart, and with the measure of all which it involves that we announce to you that the festival cannot take place in 2017.

Rising Flame Production

It seems obvious that we were the victims of a doggedness against us, doubled by a wild will of certain people, in particular media, to lower the festival and to prevent its good behavior, by reprehensible actions by the law, in particular by the repeated defamation. But what affects us most, it is not to be, us, victims of it. What affects us most, it is that all those who believed in this project, who supported us since almost three years, when all the participants in this event, when each regained control, who was defended by a crowd of supports of any horizons and any countries, all these people find themselves the victims of a situation today in which they did not have a word to say.

We are in a terrible situation today, and we commit right now all our strengths in a new battle, to support all those who believed in us and who suffer from their faith in us today. We are as quickly as possible going to try to find solutions to allow the refund (repayment) and the compensation of all those who invested in the festival.

But we are not going to be passive one more time. In front of injustices which we underwent, in the face of the doggedness which beat down on us, in the face of all those who wanted the death of the festival and who worked in the latter, legal actions will be instituted, so that the responsibilities are established. We cannot accept that those who created this situation emerge unscathed there, with the satisfaction to have managed to break the dream of all the community which built up itself around Ragnard.

They wanted the death of Ragnard Rock Festival on 2017. They obtained it. But for the values we defend, for the flame we carry, for the passion we share, we shall not abandon. And the spirit of the festival will persist.

Friends, partners, volunteers, festival-goers, fans, groups, troops, which supported Ragnard Rock Festival within its hours of glory, we have an enormous need for you, for your support, for your understanding today. They won a battle; with you Ragnard can win the war. Without you our faithful troops we shall die on this battlefield of the ignominy and the ruins which they created.

Stay strong, stay pagan.