Árpád Schilling (1974) theatre director. He began staging productions at the age of 20 and set up Krétakör Theatre in 1995, the same year in which he started his directing studies at the Academy of Theatre and Film Art in Budapest. He continued to run Krétakör in parallel with his studies; from 1998 to 2000 he was invited by Gábor Zsámbéki to be a guest director at the Katona József Theatre in Budapest. He staged 'Platonov' by Chekhov in 1999 with students from the Théâtre National de Strasbourg, performing the play at the Union of the European Theatres Festival. The same year he won the Hungarian theatre critics' prize in the "up-and-coming professional" category for his production of István Tasnádi's 'Public Enemy' at the Katona József Theatre. In 2001, he directed Walpurgis Night by Yerofeyev at Schaubühne Berlin, in 2002 he staged Richard III by Shakespeare at Piccolo Teatro in Milan.

After rejecting several offers to join institutional theatres, along with cultural manager Máté Gáspár he turned Krétakör Theatre into a permanent theatre company. The most emblematic of their work is Chekhov's 'The Seagull', which premiered in 2003. In 2008, Árpád Schilling restructured his creative team, moving from a repertory system to project-based work. He also dropped 'theatre' from their name, retaining just the word Krétakör. He embarked on large-scale artistic experimentation, focusing on education, social development and talent management. Since 2008 he's been working as artistic director on several cultural and educational programs both in Hungary and abroad (Paris, Prague, Munich), moving his projects into schools, small communes and outlying communities in difficulty.

Since 2006 he's been leading workshops and courses in several European theatre academies and universities.

In October 2012, he presented his own work 'Noahplanet' at the Théâtre National de Chaillot in Paris, in December staged Verdi's 'Rigoletto' at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich. In 2015 he worked in Burgtheater Wien/Akademietheater as director and as writer (together with co-writer Éva Zabezsinszkij) on 'Eiswind / Hideg szelek', and in 2017 he staged a play written by him (together with co-writer Annamária Láng) 'Upadanie / Falling' at Teatr Powszechny. In 2018, he directed Lohengrin by Wagner at Staatsoper Stuttgart in Germany.

He has won numerous awards, including the Stanislavski Prize from Moscow in 2005, the Légion d'honneur from the French Ministry of Culture in 2008 and the Europe Theatre Prize in the New Theatrical Realities category in 2009. His foundation, Krétakör was awarded with the ECF Princess Magriet Award for Culture for its artistic and social work in 2016.

His works with(in) Krétakör:

- 1995. Jean Cocteau – Schilling – Krétakör: Great Game – director
- 1995. Schilling – Krétakör: Teatro Godot – director
- 1996. Ugo Betti – Schilling – Krétakör: Toronykút (Tower Well) – director
- 1997. Schilling – Krétakör: Kicsi, avagy mi van, ha a tiszavirágnak rossz napja van (Shorty, or what happens when the may-fly has a bad day) – director
- 1998. Bertolt Brecht: Baal – director
- 2000. Tasnádi – Schilling – Krétakör: Nexxt – director
- 2001. Ferenc Molnár: Liliom – director
- 2001. Georg Büchner: W-Workers' Circus (Woyzeck) – director
- 2002. Georg Büchner: Leonce and Lena – director
- 2002. Tasnádi – Schilling – Krétakör: Fatherland, my all – director
- 2003. Anton Pavlovich Chekhov: The Seagull – director
- 2004. Molière: The Misanthrope – director
- 2004. Schilling – Krétakör: BLACKland – director
- 2005. István Tasnádi: Phaidra – director
- 2006. Roland Schimmelpfennig: Before-after – director
- 2006. The Astronomer's Dream – artistic director
- 2007. hamlet.ws (based on Hamlet by Shakespeare) – director
- 2008. Eloge de l'escapologiste / Paris - artistic director
- 2009. Apology of the Escapologist / Budapest – artistic director
- 2009. Káva – Krétakör: Obstacle Race (TIE production) – artistic director
- 2010. Mother Analogy – director
- 2010. Utópia College – artistic director
- 2010. Káva – Krétakör – AnBlokk: New Spectator – artistic director
- 2011. Crisis Trilogy – artistic director
- 2011. The Pristess – director
- 2012. Mobil (TIE production) – artistic director
- 2013. Krétakör Free School Program – founder
- 2014. The Party – writer, director
- 2014. Schilling – Zabezsinszkij: Loser – writer, director, actor
- 2015. Schilling – Zabezsinszkij: The Day of Fury – writer, director

Other productions as a guest director in Hungary:

- 1998. Ladislav Klíma: Alulról az Ibolyát (From below the Violet) – Katona József Theatre / Kamra, Budapest
- 1999. István Tasnádi: Public Enemy – Katona József Theatre / Kamra, Budapest
- 2000. Federico García Lorca: The House of Bernarda Alba – Katona József Theatre, Budapest
- 2012. Tangle (TIE performance) – Káva Drama and Theatre in Education Association, Mu Theatre
- 2015. Johann Wolfgang Goethe: FAUST I-II – Katona József Theatre, Budapest

Productions abroad:

- 2002. Wenedikt Yerofeyev: Walpurgis Night – Schaubühne, Berlin, Germany
- 2003. William Shakespeare: Richard III – Piccolo Teatro / Teatro Studio, Milan, Italy
- 2005. Hamlet3 (after William Shakespeare's play) – Burgtheater / Casino, Wien, Austria
- 2009. Árpád Schilling: URBANRABBITs – National Centre of Circus Arts, Châlons-en-Champagne, France
- 2010. Gioacchino Rossini: La Cenerentola – Bayerische Staatsoper / Opernstudio, Munich, Germany
- 2012. Árpád Schilling: Noahplanet – Théâtre National de Chaillot, Paris, France
- 2012. Giuseppe Verdi: Rigoletto – Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich, Germany
- 2013. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Idomeneo – Stadttheater, Klagenfurt, Austria
- 2014. Hector Berlioz: La damnation de Faust – Theater Basel, Switzerland
- 2014. Leoš Janaček: The Macropulos affair – Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich, Germany
- 2015. Marius Ivaskevicius: The Great Evil – Lithuanian National Theater, Vilnius
- 2016. Árpád Schilling – Éva Zabezsinszkij: Eiswind – Burgtheater, Wien, Austria
- 2016. As Fas As the Eye Can See – Royal Montenegrin Theatre Zetski Dom, Cetinje, Montenegro
- 2017. Árpád Schilling – Annamária Láng: Exit - Teatrul Maghiar de Stat Csiky Gergely, Timisoara, Romania – The Narodno Pozoriste Sombor, Serbia - The Teatrul Clasic Ioan Slavici, Arad, Romania
- 2017. Árpád Schilling – Annamária Láng: Upadanie / Falling – Teatr Powszechny, Warsaw, Poland
- 2017. Árpád Schilling – Éva Zabezsinszkij: Erleichterung / Relief – Landestheater Niederösterreich, St. Pölten, Austria
- 2018. Árpád Schilling – Ildikó Gáspár: Autonomy – Vilnius State Youth Theatre, Vilnius, Lithuania
- 2018. Árpád Schilling – Éva Zabezsinszkij: Kučka/ Bitch – Royal Montenegrin Theatre Zetski Dom, Cetinje Montenegro
- 2018. Richard Wagner: Lohengrin – Oper Stuttgart, Germany
- 2018. Juli Jakab – Árpád Schilling – Éva Zabezsinszkij: Pension Eden – Zagrebačko Kazalište Mladih (Zagreb Youth Theatre), Zagreb, Croatia
- 2019. Árpád Schilling – Éva Zabezsinszkij: Die Latzte Gast (The Last Guest) – Berliner Ensemble, Berlin, Germany
- 2019. Árpád Schilling – Mátyás Dunajcsik: Elbfuge (Elbe Fugue) – Staatsschauspiel Dresden, Dresden, Germany
- 2020. Árpád Schilling: The Gun – a coproduction of The Imaginists, Santa Rosa, US and Z-Space, San Francisco, US (in preparation)

Filmography:
- 2001. Nexxt (long feature film)
- 2002. No comment (short feature film)
- 2003. Overborder (short feature film)
- 2006. BLACKland (theatrefilm)
- 2012. Potato angel (fiction and documentary)

Courses:
- 2006. Budapest, Hungary (University of Theatre and Film Arts)
- 2006. Paris, France (Conservatoire National Supérieur d'Art Dramatique)
- 2009. Châlons-en-Champagne, France (Centre National des Arts du Cirque)
- 2012. Lyon, France (École Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Techniques du Théâtre)
- 2013. Lausanne, Switzerland (La Manufacture)
- 2014. Strasbourg, France (École Supérieure d'Art Dramatique)
- 2014. Bordeaux, France (École Supérieure de Théâtre de Bordeaux en Aquitaine)
- 2015. Athens, Greece (Onassis Cultural Centre)
- 2016. Le Pont-de-Claix, France (Chantiers Nomades)
- 2017. Klaipeda, Lithuania (Klaipėdos Jaunimo Teatras)

Awards:

- 1997. Best alternative production (Shorty) – Critics Award, Hungary
- 1999. Most promising debutant – Critics Award, Hungary
- 2004. Best production (The Seagull) – National Theatre Meeting, Pécs, Hungary
- 2004. Best production (The Seagull) – Critics Award, Hungary
- 2004. Gundel Art Awards: Best director (The Seagull) – Hungary
- 2004. László Vámos Award – Hungary
- 2004. Grand Prix (Overborder) – Film Festival of Angers, France
- 2005. Best production (The Seagull) – International Studio Theatre Festival, Rijeka, Croatia
- 2005. Best director (The Seagull) – International Studio Theatre Festival, Rijeka, Croatia
- 2005. Best foreign production (Woyzeck) – Montreal, Canada
- 2005. Mari Jászai Award – Hungary
- 2005. Stanislavski Award (The Seagull) – Russia
- 2006. Grand Prix (The Seagull) – BITEF, Serbia
- 2006. Sándor Hevesi Award – Hungary
- 2008. Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres – France
- 2009. New Theatrical Realities – European Commission
- 2015. Golden Stage Cross (The Great Evil) – Lithuania
- 2015. Best performance (Great Evil) – 38th Lithuanian Theatre Festival Spring, Kaunas, Lithuania

- 2016. European Cultural Foundation Princess Margriet Award for Culture (Krétakör)
- 2017. Best director (As Far As the Eye Can See) – 22. Brez Prevoda Theatre Festival, Serbia
- 2017. Best Director (As Far As the Eye Can See) – FIAT - Festival of International Avantgarde Theatre, Montenegro