



Dear friends of good theatre!

The international Theatre World Brno festival will return to our city in May. For the sixteenth time, it will bring tens of top-class shows from all over the country and from afar. Within just a few days, you'll have been able to get an idea about contemporary theatre and the course in which it's evolving.

The festival, in which most of the theatres in Brno take part (as well as the Janáček Academy of Performing Arts), has continuously grown in terms of its activities, bringing something entirely new each year. This year, it has become a co-producer of an international production for the first time — one thanks to which you, together with audiences in Lithuania, Poland, Belgium, and Greece, will be presented with QUANTA, a show by the Polish director Łukasz Twarkowski. Many of us were amazed by his sci-fi vision EMPLOYEES last year which exhibited an extraordinary employment of multimedia. Expectations are high, and this year's show won't fall short of them. Naturally, the festival continues to work with domestic companies too. THE LAST ONE TURNS OFF THE LIGHTS, an immersive and preparation-wise very demanding project, will let the youngest generation of theatre-makers be heard in the former Káznice prison as a result of collaboration of the TWB with the Letí Theatre.

Theatrical exchanges will make for yet another new introduction. You will be enabled to travel with us for quality shows to Prague, Bratislava, and Český Krumlov. And before the curtains of our theatres begin to rise, the biggest of them all — the Janáček Theatre — will open up for the first few days, turning into an OPEN HOUSE full of interesting things to do, serving also as a place for a moment's rest with some good coffee. There, you'll be able to look through our catalogue and choose those shows from the rich programme that are closest to your heart. And should you decide to take a chance with us and go to see a production that you might normally not seek out, you'd surely make the day of the whole festival team. To discover things yet unknown is a great adventure!

I'm looking forward to seeing you in the auditoriums of the theatres of Brno!

Martin Glaser Director of the National Theatre Brno and the Theatre World Brno



Ladies and gentleman, esteemed audience,

they say the best theatre is such that makes the spectators want to join the actors. I'm positive that precisely this sort of enthusiasm and energy will be brought by this year's international Theatre World Brno festival. When I took a look at its programme, it made the impression of one following a creed of togetherness and collaboration while at the same time encouraging diversity and tolerance towards different views of the human experience. In short, all the things that — to the dismay of many — seem to be withering away in today's world, and as such need to be defended, through art or otherwise.

However, the organisers of the festival, led by the National Theatre Brno, do not lack professionalism, creative zest, or a fighting spirit. The whole city will be made into a grand world stage for avant-garde artists, domestic and foreign. There are over 10 days ahead of you loaded with modern and innovative drama, intimate projects, dance productions, site-specific performances, shows for kids, and plenty of side events.

Many forms of art will combine and bring forth great performances, providing the creators and viewers alike with catharsis, joy, and hopefully the will to act and change. We can therefore be looking forward to the opening of a sixteenth Theatre World which will allow us to see the life around ourselves with a little more colour, intensity, and critical as well as humble view.

Let it be a view full of inspiration and one impossible to forget.

Markéta Vaňková Mayor of the City of Brno Dear organisers, artists, and visitors,

I am honoured to greet you in this way at the 16th Theatre World Brno international festival. For many years, this exceptional festival has enjoyed well-deserved attention, not only in Brno but also far beyond the borders of our region – and rightfully so.

For a few days in May, Brno turns into a living centre of stagecraft where prominent figures meet, new ideas come into existence, and where theatre shows its remarkable ability to reflect the world in which we live.

The Theatre World Brno festival serves as proof that openness, collaboration, and art can connect people across countries and generations.

I wish many inspirational experiences to all participants and spectators, a smoothly-running process to the organisers, and many more thriving years to the festival.

Enjoy the magic of theatre – since it often helps us better understand ourselves and the world around us.

Jan Grolich Regional Council President of the South Moravian Region

Theatre is... a centre/collision of interests

Dear audience, for the sixteenth time already we invite you to join us in creating a unique theatre world in Brno - one filled with more than 70 festival experiences. This year, Quanta takes centre stage in our theatrical universe: an international production by the Lithuanian National Drama Theatre, directed by Łukasz Twarkowski. Arriving from Vilnius, the project will be presented twice during the festival at the Janáček Theater. The immersive show places its spectators at the centre of the quantum theory and the emotional forces that shape human relationships. Time and space begin to dissolve, drawing us into a deliberate collision with a multitude of parallel realities. Even the most fundamental physical constants no longer play by the rules. A sensation which — in light of the many current geopolitical tensions (above all the unceasing war in Ukraine) — feels painfully familiar in our everyday lives.

When composing this year's festival programme, we drew inspiration from principles of quantum physics, mindful of the fact that observing the world as a mosaic of elementary particles is just as important as taking even the most infinitesimal wavelengths into account. To help you attune to this new approach, the first four days of the festival will feature an Open House in the foyer of the Janáček Theater, which will be transformed into an interplanetary lounge — a space with a café and multiple play corners where you can float freely with a book and a cup of coffee, take part in workshops, or simply wait for nightfall to enjoy a perfect view of the captivating open-air performance Between the Worlds.

After that, a free-fall theatrical storm lies ahead. We invite you, for example, to festival premieres from our production incubator platform. In the former Káznice prison, now a cultural venue, there will be eight opportunities to join the Letí Theatre in preparing for different versions of the end of the world, and to agree that The Last One Turns Off the Lights! At sunrise, over at the Tržnice Brno market hall on Zelný trh, you'll find a wholly unorthodox performance in Promising the Moon, Promising Episodes by the experimental group D'epog. A brief moment of reflection on your own (ID)ENTITY awaits in the movement-based performance by Divadlo Aldente — though only until you realize that Dad Can't Do It Anymore!, just like any exhausted parent, as brought to the stage by Ufftenživot. There will be no time to catch your breath as the immersive project The World Round the Corner by Studio Hrdinů will be waiting impatiently for its very first residents.

You might also want to dive into an entirely different microcosm with a special programme line dedicated to Slovak theatre. You can encounter projects by the Slovak National Theatre (SND) in three different forms across three shows. You could start with *Drain*, directed by Lukáš Brutovský, naturally

followed up by By the River, an international co-production with Schauspielhaus Wien. Or you might take part in a bold new experiment, a Brno inflow of sorts, and travel with us directly to Bratislava and the banks of the Danube. There, a special festival performance of the acclaimed production The Dog on the Road, directed by Dušan D. Pařízek, will take place, complemented by a guided tour of the SND's New Building, a dramaturgical introduction, as well as a post-show discussion with its creators. Through a kind of quantum tunnel — using which, under the right conditions, even the toughest obstacles can be crossed — you can also Come From Far, Far Away along with an interactive performance taking place in a yurt by the international NIE Theatre collective, or wait to see what happens When the Snow Melts in the intimate family drama by the Polish TR Warszawa company.

We look forward to this year's festival once again becoming the *centre* of your attention for a few days, and to each possible *collision* with the festival's programme opening a whole new capacity for your very own theatrical universe.

> Barbara Gregorová Chief Dramaturge of the Theatre World Brno

CO USANTA QUANTA QUANTA QUANTA QUANTA QUANTA QUANTA QUANTA

Łukasz Twarkowski, Poland's hottest theatre-maker, presents Quanta, the first part of his trilogy about science. Against the backdrop of two world wars, he shows how quantum physics revolutionized our perception of reality. Twarkowski focuses on the human stories of scientists like Schrödinger, Heisenberg, Einstein, and Bohr, connecting their conflicts to our contemporary search for truth.

Quanta takes the audience back to 1938, to a remote hotel in the Swiss Alps. Among the guests is Werner Heisenberg, discoverer of the uncertainty principle. Space and time begin to distort, as memories and biographies intertwine. The world seems to lose its framework, and the audience is drawn into a mosaic of interconnected stories and events. From an anthropocentric point of view, we do not doubt our understanding of the world around us: everything has a clear cause, and everything has its clear consequences. Yet the deeper our knowledge becomes, the more we are forced to give way to nothing but pure randomness...

"When we examine the quantum discoveries, we find an entirely new universe opening to us, one mostly based on probability. Such notions as the uncertainty principle and superposition may most probably grasp the complexity of our lives more accurately, at the same time liberating us from the Newtonian conviction that we will be able to control reality through calculations,"

says Twarkowski about his source of inspiration.

His visual and narrative talent is further amplified by collaborations with set designer Fabien Leden, costume designer Svenja Gassen, choreographer Paweł Sakowicz, composer Lubomir Grzelak, and video artist Jakub Lech. The result is a spectacular

and immersive theatrical experience where the boundaries between reality and imagination blur. Prepare for an intriguing journey through science, philosophy, and the human drive for understanding where nothing is as it seems.

• After its world premiere in Vilnius, *Quanta* won praise at the Boska Komedia international theatre festival in Kraków; after its presentation at the Theatre World Brno, it will travel to the deSingel art centre in Antwerp. The show was co-produced by the Lithuanian National Drama Theatre, the Boska Komedia festival, the Greece-based Onassis Stegi art centre, and the National Theatre Brno with financial support from the Adam Mickiewicz Institute.

(ŁUKASZ) (TWARKOWSKI)

In his work, the Polish director Łukasz Twarkowski (born in 1983) combines theatre with visual art — as a rule, his shows and performances are enhanced by the use of various intermedia approaches. Aiming to achieve a complex portrayal of the multi-layeredness of life in the 21st century, he looks for inspiration in art, cinema, and electronic music, chiefly that of so-called rave culture. At the centre of his distinctive personal technique lies the exploration of the possibilities (as well as the search for the limits) of theatre as a means of communication. Tearing down traditional modes of narration, he's become a stark enemy of convention. His unique stage language allows the audience to take an active part in each of his productions.

Twarkowski's first project with the Lithuanian National Drama Theatre, *Lokis* (2017), won four Golden Stage Crosses (the highest Lithuanian theatre award) and became a hit; his second show at the same theatre, *Respublika* (2020), was co-produced together with Münchner Kammerspiele. Another co-production of his, *Rothko* (2022), emerged in Riga, and received 11 nominations for the Latvian Spēlmaņu nakts theatre awards. The intimate sci-fi drama *Employees* (2023) — for which he returned to work in Poland after seven years abroad — was presented to the Czech audience at last year's Theatre World Brno festival.

* The term "quantum" (pl. quanta) means the smallest possible, further indivisible amount: it denotes the very foundations of all material existence. The human life consists of quanta of events; they create meaning only when in a sequence — only within the framework of time and space can we understand our lives as comprehensive stories. But what happens when even the most fundamental quantities cease to play by the rules as we're used to them?



ANTA CHANTA CHANTA

19th MAY MONDAY

19th MAY

MONDAY

19th MAY

The Last One Turns Off the Lights

10 AM & 6 PM - Káznice 90 mins., no interval dress rehearsal



20th MAY TUESDAY

20th MAY

TUESDAY

20th MAY

The Last One
Turns Off the Lights

5 PM & 8:30 PM - Káznice 90 mins., no interval premiere

DENÍK N Spheres LIVE: Quantum Physics as a Science and as a Metaphor

5 PM - Reduta Theatre 60 mins., no interval live podcast recording part of the off-programme NATIONAL DRAMA THEATRE LT

Quanta

7 PM - Janáček Theatre 190 mins., 1 interval CZ+ENG subtitles ■

POLÁRKA THEATRE
Love from TikTok

7 PM - Polárka Theatre - Small stage 75 mins., no interval BSC ●



The Last One Turns Off the Lights

19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd May

The end of the world can have a myriad of forms. The doomsday clock shows 90 seconds to midnight. Time to start packing your bags. But how do you prepare yourself for the end if you hate saying goodbye and the flame of your hope still hasn't gone out? Escapism, rebooting society, freeing the spirit from the body, searching for another planet – there are many dealing strategies, but which will be the one of yours? The future may bring much greater threats than inclusive language.

Spheres LIVE: Quantum Physics as a Science and as a Metaphor 20th May

The play *Quanta* will be discussed by Petr Koutský and Vítek Svoboda with Samuel Kováčik, a Slovak physicist and a science communicator – the year of the hundredth anniversary of the quantum physics boom, no less. A scientific field that changed the world, yet continues to fail to describe it completely.



The Last One Turns Off the Lights

Love from TikTok

20th May

Jack and Sienna used to be TikTok influencers, each of them having over 10 millions followers. Both were America's teenage darlings. In a plethora of videos they show so much affection that some of their followers began to doubt whether they really formed a couple in private. In 2021, a friend of Jack publishes a post on Twitter in which he accuses Sienna of sexually assaulting Jack. Whose side is the truth on? Who manipulates whom, who abuses whom? A theatrical probe into the intimate life of two teenage influencers who threw themselves into a crazy, exciting relationship because their public fancied it.

21st MAY WEDNESDAY 21st MAY WEDNESDAY

The Last One
Turns Off the Lights

10 AM & 6 PM - Káznice 90 mins., no interval 6 PM - ENG friendly LITHUANIAN
NATIONAL DRAMA THEATRE (LT)
Quanta

6 PM - Janáček Theatre 190 mins., 1 interval CZ+ENG subtitles ■





Collaboration Above All

Over the past years, the TWB Festival has become a co-producer of numerous performances, providing financial support to Czechia's independent theatres. Since the pandemic, the independent theatre sector has been facing funding difficulties. It is therefore of growing importance to support it, whether by producing new performances or by showcasing the already existing ones at our festival. This year's programme abounds with performances co-produced by the festival; the audience will be offered five such co-productions - three from Prague and two from Brno.

Lights Off, Farewell...

The first performance of the main 2025 programme is *The Last One Turns Off the Lights* by a team of young authors associated within a two-year workshop held under the patronage of the Fabulamundi – Playwriting Europe network. Both the script and staging were created with the aim to let the young generation express their views on issues that matter to them: at the heart of the play are coming to terms with the looming end of the world and examining life strategies to face the unavoidable doom. The immersive production about visions of the future, composed of shards rather than fragments, will lead you through the entire premises of the former Káznice prison.

Another Day, Another Me

The Brno-based theatre Aldente is an important community and art institution, even though its scope of activities is non-midstream. Aldente's productions involve actors and actresses with Down syndrome. The company's manager Jitka Vrbková, together with renowned dancer and choreographer Martina Hajdyla Lacová, has created a performance about examining one's identity, or rather one's identities which depend on whether I'm observing or being observed, whether I make part of a group or feel excluded from it. (ID) ENTITY, which can be seen at the Goose on a String Theatre on May 27th, is what we call a 'work-in-progress' staging – a look into the creative process of a specific theatre.

At the End of Your Tether

Leading personality of the Prague theatre Ufftenživot Jiří Šimek has created an authorial performance about parenthood which is inspired by his personal experience and that he collected. He approaches common parenting problems from the less common perspective of a tending father. Through a play intended for both children and their parents he deals with the issue of parental burnout, the moment when exhausted parents become alienated from their child as well as from themselves, and then they try to find their way back, together with their offspring. Dad Can't Do It Anymore! looks into the important yet often neglected issue in a playful manner on the edge between a fairy tale, an adventure story and — every now and then — a family horror.

Promises Gone Amiss

The production titled *Promising the Moon, Promising Episodes* by the independent theatre D'epog explores the limits of change and inviolableness. Can something be promised for eternity? How big is the space between stubbornness and cowardice? Designed for the Brno market hall, the show works with the most natural and inviolable of all changes – it can be performed only at sunrise or sunset.

Cornering Worlds

In his production *The World Round the Corner* stage director Jiří Adámek Austerlitz examines the relationship of humans with the environment they inhabit, scrutinizes the interdependencies, and explores the limits between responsibility and vulnerability. Have humans eventually found themselves dominated by things? Studio Hrdinů is a leading independent theatre and Adámek Austerlitz an eminent independent stage director.



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LETÍ THEATRE The Last One Turns Off the Lights

5PM & 8:30 PM - Káznice 90 min., no interval 8:30 PM - ENG friendly

NTB DRAMA **Patriots**

6 PM - Mahen Theatre 165 mins., 1 interval ENG subtitles

RADOST THEATRE Animal Farm

6 PM - Radost Theatre - Big hall ENG subtitles •

NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIAN THEATRE Birdies

6 PM - Brno City Theatre -Drama theatre 190 mins., 1 interval

NTB 2 BALLET Serenity/A healthy dose of madnes/The House of Bernarda Alba

7 PM - Reduta Theatre 100 mins., 2 intervals ▲

GOOSE ON A STRING THEATRE Someday the Kids Will Thank Us

8:30 PM - Goose on a String Theatre provázek.sál 95 mins., no interval ENG subtitles

NOD THEATRE Scammers Attack

6 PM - Theatre on Orlí Street 90 mins., no interval / ENG subtitles

POLÁRKA THEATRE The First Time

7 PM - Polárka Theatre - Big stage 50 mins., no interval ENG subtitles / BSC •



23rd May FRIDAY 23rd May FRIDAY

THEATRE FACULTY OF THE JANÁČEK ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS 0?lando

8 PM - Marta Drama Studio 170 mins., 1 interval

SLOVAK NATIONAL THEATRE (SK) Drain

8:30 PM - Reduta Theatre 90 mins., no interval ENG subtitles •

LOSERS CIRQUE COMPANY National Collection of Bad Habits

8:30 PM - Brno City Theatre -Music theatre 80 mins., no interval ENG subtitles A





Someday the Kids Will Thanks Us

At the beginning of the story, fate brings two young people together. Will the relationship survive all the Someday the Kids discords and prejudice that have been mounting for more than a century of hatred, war, and terror? Will Thanks Us This multilayered play not only brings up the topics of remembering our roots, heritage of wars and crimes of the 20th century, but most importantly, it challenges you to think about the purifying power of self-discovery. Family traumas are not inscribed

22nd May

A merciless battle rages in the city streets: cyclists versus motorists. A world reduced to those with two wheels and those with four. No dialogue is possible through the car window. Just frenzied gestures. The only way to meet is to crash. How far are we willing to go, convinced of the righteousness of our "iust" cause?

Scammers Attack 23rd May

in our chromosomes.

Scamming is an art. Scammers have been with us since the beginning of mankind. They are all around us. And there are more and more of them. There's no place you won't run into them. Do you think you wouldn't fall for them? Do you want to bet? A theatre encyclopaedia of authentic fraud scenarios they use every day to drain our bank account, our wallet or our self-esteem. The only reliable method of self-defence is to know and recognise them.

National Collection of Bad Habits 23rd May

Sara finally moves out of her roommate's apartment into a small studio apartment and decides to find a boyfriend. Everything looks idyllic. But she soon discovers that the house is inhabited by obnoxious neighbours whose bad habits are getting louder and more annoying. And her new boyfriend is not without fault either... A playful romantic comedy full of pop culture references, snappy dialogues and exaggeration.



National Collection of Bad Habits

10

From Near TR WARSZAWA PL When the snow melts 24th and 25th May

NIE THEATRE CZ/NO
We Come from Far,
Far Away 28th May

Inside the tent there is a smaller tent, and inside the smaller tent there is a boy. He has travelled a long way, mostly on his own. He can show the things he has brought with him, he can tell the reasons for his journey, he can tell about the route he has taken but he can't tell you where the story ends... The play, which retraces the journey of teenage refugees, was created in cooperation with the centre for asylum seekers in Asker, Norway, which receives unaccompanied foreign minors. The hardships that these teens have to overcome are often beyond our imagination. Still, as most young people, they are full of energy, life expectations and hope for a better future.

A portrait of a family in multigenerational crisis. Tragedy brings members of a family to the family home. For some, it's a difficult return after a long absence, whilst others have lingered there for decades. How should they talk about an incident that cannot be admitted? How can you seek comfort from someone who, in theory, is close to you, but who remains a mystery to you? As the characters struggle with the suicide of a teenage girl they invoke a tangled web of narratives about her. They revisit the past and meddle in the nets of one another's memories, contriving artificial levels of dreams and illusions in order to rid themselves of unbearable reality. Their hopes and nightmares, as well as their escapes from emotions, are fuelled by fear, fairytales, video games, and faith.

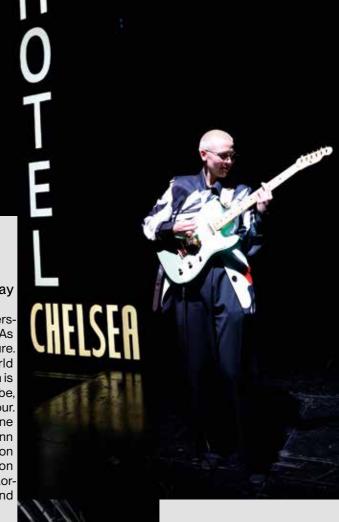
(ADAM) (MICKIEWICZ) (INSTITUT)

is a cultural organisation of the Polish government whose goal is to promote and popularise Polish culture around the world. Through co-operation with foreign partners, it initiates international cultural dialogue in line with the goals and aims of Polish foreign policy. It has put on projects in 70 countries on 6 continents. The institute is funded by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland.

THEATER BREMEN DE

Because the Night:
Patti Smith
24th and 25th May

In 1967, Patti Smith, barely twenty years old, immerses herself in the dazzling world of New York City. As early as the seventies, she becomes a cult figure. Her song *Because the Night* makes her a world star. In 2005, during her trip to Vienna, Patti Smith is seated opposite Helene Hegemann, a writer-to-be, and both keep silent for three quarters of an hour. At that time, Patti is eighty years old, while Helene has not even turned fourteen. In 2021, Hegemann writes a book about this get-together: a confession of love to her deceased mother. The production *Because the Night* recounts the life of an extraordinary artist. It relates music, loss, memories, and the redemptive force of art.





24th MAY SATURDAY 24th MAY SATURDAY 24th MA

NAIVE THEATRE LIBEREC The Red Balloon

11 AM & 3 PM - Goose on a String - provázek.sklep 40 mins., no interval ●

SCHAUSPIELHAUS WIEN SLOVAK NATIONAL THEATRE AT SK By the River

3 PM & 8 PM - Brno City Theatre - Drama theatre 110 mins., no interval CZ+ENG subtitles ■

ŽILINA PUPPET THEATRE SK Robinson.ette

4 PM - Theatre on Orlí Street 55 mins., no interval ●

MINOR THEATRE Hamlet Junior

5:30 PM - Polárka Theatre - Big stage 50 mins., no interval ENG subtitles ●

THEATER BREMEN DE Because the Night: Patti Smith

6 PM - Mahen Theatre 120 mins., no interval CZ+ENG subtitles ■

T.I.T.S. PERFORMANCE GROUP Let My Hand Be My Hand

6 PM - Goose on a String Theatre - provázek.sál premiere ▲

NTB DRAMA The Love Hotel Keeper

7 PM - Reduta Theatre 100 mins., no interval BSC

DEKKADANCERS Jonathan Livingston Seagull

8 PM - Brno City Theatre -Music theatre 70 mins., no interval CZ+ENG subtitles ▲



Hamlet Junior

24th May

The most iconic story of all time about the troubles that our parents can cause us. To go, or not to go? How to take the right decision? Roughly one half of Czech children experience parental separation. It has become nothing unusual. We, adults, ought not to be afraid of discussing it with our kids. If we do it right we can show them that even though there are some unpleasant moments in life they don't last forever.



Let My Hand Be My Hand

24th May

In our Western society – focused on target and victory – death is forced out, suppressed. Nearly everyone lacks the tools allowing them to talk about death, whether that of his or her close relatives, or one's own. After all, even grief and mourning can be a social taboo. Death has been hidden, pushed to the periphery. What would you do if you learnt that you had only one month left to live? What would be your last wish? What should your funeral look like?

Jonathan Livingston Seagull

24th May

The young seagull Jonathan is crazy about flying. He's not interested in scrounging for food like most of his companions. He loves to fly as high, as far as he sees fit! Despite all the self-doubt and his rejection by the flock, through perseverance he is granted freedom, knowledge, and the joy of being. Faith in ourselves serves us as our inner compass that, with humbleness and good intentions, can guide us beyond our dreams.



Jonathan Livingston Seagull

D'EPOG

Promising the Moon, **Promising Episodes**

6 AM & 9 PM - Brno Market 95 mins., no interval premiere

TERÉN The Visit

11 AM & 3 PM - CED Studio 60 mins., no interval BSC •

UFFTENŽIVOT Dad Can't Do It Anymore!

2:30 PM & 5 PM - Radost Theatre -Small stage 80 mins., 1 interval premiere

OSTRAVA PUPPET THEATRE The Pilot and the Little Prince

4:30 PM - Theatre on Orlí Street 60 mins., no interval •

THEATER BREMEN (DE) Because the Night: Patti Smith

5 PM - Mahen Theatre 120 mins., no interval CZ+ENG subtitles •

DEKKADANCERS Jonathan Livingston **Seagull**

6 PM - Brno City Theatre -Music theatre 70 mins., no interval CZ+ENG subtitles A

GEISSLERS HOFCOMOEDIANTEN Simply Simplicius, or Sancta Simplicitas!

6 PM - Marta Drama Studio 120 mins., 1 interval

3+KK THEATRE Franz Kafka Is Alive:

7:30 PM - Káznice 110 mins., no interval BSC

A Feast!

SLOVÁCKÉ THEATRE How We Got This Far

8 PM - Brno City Theatre -Drama theatre 85 mins., no interval





Little Prince 25th May

A childhood, dreams, a career as a mail pilot, missions during World War II as well as a fatal flight over the Mediterranean Sea... The production relates the life story of the pilot who enjoyed reading and writing in the cockpit of his plane. It is a story of how to surmount (not only) gravity and how to push the limits of what a single man can accomplish.

How We Got This Far

25th May

Have you ever tried to tell your life story in full? Even if it was just to yourself? What matters is the interpretation. We don't usually see what is interesting about ourselves. On the contrary, we often tend to present that what is in fact uninteresting. What counts is to tell our story up to the present moment, to be really HERE and NOW: "I am!" Here, everyday life is observed though the lens of artistic interpretation.

Franz Kafka Is Alive: A Feast!

Well, not really. He's dead - and he's inviting you to a family dinner. Aren't traditional family gatherings a nightmare for you? None can compare with this one. Kafkaesque themes that never die: family, repression, gossip, patriarchy, one's inability to love oneself, schnitzels... How are social hierarchy, the institution of the family and tyrannical fathers connected? Are boys allowed to cry? A dinner is served during the performance.



(SK) Focus

The festival always aims not to shy away from current phenomena which resonate in society and inevitably shape the state of our culture on local as well as international level. For that reason alone the TWB dramaturgical board saw it crucial to express its support above all to Slovak theatre-makers who are facing unprecedented political pressure. That is why this year's programme includes productions of distinct engagement and with certain "fearlessness" in their message. In addition to that, there will be a debate with distinguished Slovak journalists about the condition of Slovak democracy as part of the festival...

The Tale of Two Cities by One River

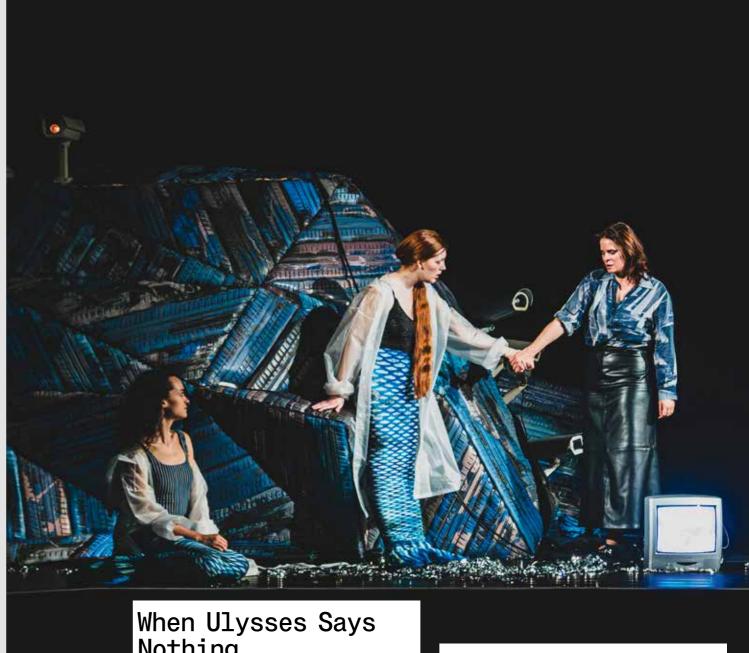
This year's third show by the Slovak National Theatre. this time a co-production with Schauspilehaus Wien: Am Fluss / Pri rieke is about the lasting presence of the past — stories, encounters, and events of fifty vears mix here. Set in the shadow of European fascism and the AIDS crisis, the characters' fates flow and float together as if caught in the stream of a river. Each and every one of them a victim of some kind of violence. All of them enter into a multi-voiced discussion, not being aware of one another's existence... By the River is a probe into unsuspected connections between fragile lives of people searching for their little freedom.

Slovak National Theatre Twice

The first Slovak production of this year's TWB will be Drain, a visually as well as musically impressive show presented by the drama ensemble of the Slovak National Theatre. The new play by Lukáš Brutovský, who's also its director, is full of fleeing folks, searching for one's root and the roots of one's national identity. In playful ways, it addresses acute issues such as brain drain, rewriting history, or the growing power of the far-right. The second production of the same theatre, The Dog on the Road, is in no way any less forceful. Based on the novel of the same by Pavel Vilikovský, an author we can rightfully envy the Slovaks for having, the show under the direction of the renowned Dušan David Pařízek combines urgency, fragility, and hope, using dynamic theatrical techniques. Philosophical here and there and grotesque elsewhere, it is a spectacle topped off with fantastic acting.



The Dog on the road



Nothing

Those fond of ancient Greek mythology and concentrated dramatic stylisation shouldn't miss Odysea brought over by the Ludus Theatre from Bratislava. Dávid Paška, a young director of Europewide renown, and a group of young actresses play around with Homer's famous epic using lots of irony, aptly reshaping it for the present day. As a result, basic links of the story about Troy, Penelope, and the adventurous deeds of the king of Ithaca become unmasked. What does it mean to be a hero these days? What does marriage look like after twenty years of separation?

From the Land Over the Sea

Robinsonette lives by the sea, and the sea lives by her. The young adventurer has no idea how to cope with the big world. What lies hidden beyond the mapped boundaries? From where is she to draw courage for a dangerous journey to a fabled place? Robinson.ette is a puppet show for the youngest audience made for the Žilina Puppet Theatre by the Odivo company, well-recognised both home and abroad.

0dyssey

26th MAY MONDAY 26th MAY MONDAY 26th MAY

GOOSE ON A STRING THEATRE From the Sexual Life of Our People

6:30 PM - Goose on a String Theatre - provázek.sklep 80 mins., no interval BSC

NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIAN THEATRE Medea

7 PM - Mahen Theatre 90 mins., no interval

PETR BEZRUČ THEATRE Mary Stuart

7 PM - Brno City Theatre - Drama theatre 170 mins., 1 interval

LUDUS THEATRE SK Odyssey

7 PM - Goose on a String Theatre - provázek.sál 60 mins., no interval ENG subtitles ■



Medea

What would happen if we replaced love and fidelity with egoism and pragmatism? What sort of awful combats and victims would such substitution generate? Medea introduces the topic of betrayal and revenge, but also that of abandonment. The experience of being betrayed and abandoned by a close person unavoidably undermines the safety of our world. Can we actually trust other people? In his interpretation of the famous myth, Euripides contests traditional gender roles, inquires into the issue of evil in us and round us, and ponders why man is incapable to defy it permanently.

From the Sexual Life of Our People

Sex sells; no wonder – it is one of our basic instincts. Yet it remains a social taboo. Even Adam and Eve had their genitals covered with fig leaves. We may no longer sing dirty folk songs but we lock ourselves into virtual dating apps with all sorts of specialisations. So why is someone's sexual orientation or preference still a reason for social exclusion? Why do we feel ashamed of our instincts? We invite you to an opening night of our relationship with sexuality – or, in other words, a vernissage of our own shame...

Mary Stuart

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Two women, two sides of the same coin. Both of them as victims of a male conspiracy. Mary Stuart, Queen of Scotland, is forced to run away from her country where she is accused of having murdered her husband. After her arrival in England she hopes to be protected by Queen Elisabeth, her cousin. However, Elisabeth, who fears that Mary would make her rightful claim to the English throne, casts her into prison. That is how the political manoeuvres full of lies, intrigues and demagogy begin. Where is the borderline between politics and personal integrity? Can one ever find it?



Mary Stuart

Theatre is collaboration

Industry program 21ST MAY - 27TH MAY

The 16th TWB presents another opportunity for both domestic and foreign professionals to meet. A rich programme is prepared which includes gatherings, discussions, sharing advice, and a variety of practical workshops, interconnecting the international theatrical world. Thanks to the auspices of the Czech AS-SITEJ centre, a number of foreign guests specialising on creative education and audience engagement will come to Brno. Simultaneously, the three-day professional gathering of theatrical dramaturges Visible dramaturgy will take place. Apart from traditional discussion formats focusing on an interview with the foreign guests, a special episode of the CED Talks series will be held as part of the festival on the topic of Collective leadership as well as a meeting at a round table dedicated to the issues of international co-production. A continuous reflection of the festival will be provided in *Theatrocene* — a multimedia newsletter edited by students of the Department of Theatre Studies of the Masaryk University.

Visible dramaturgy 21ST MAY - 24TH MAY

As part of the festival, the third professional gathering of dramaturges will take place whose programme will include a discussion with international presence on the topic of the role of dramaturges in international projects and about the non-hierarchical leadership of cultural institutions, followed by an independent workshop with HR experts focused on the specifics of dramaturgical work. At the end of the gathering, the Association of theatrical dramaturges will be officially established on Saturday 24th May.

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Echoes of the Malá inventura Festival 26TH MAY - 27TH MAY

Malá inventura is an international festival of new theatre which has presented and supported distinctive projects of Czech independent and experimental theatre for over 20 years. It takes place in Prague at the end of February and, as so-called Echoes of the festival, in other parts of the Czech Republic and even beyond its borders. A long-standing collaboration with the Nová síť service organisation and the Malá inventura festival in Prague has led to this year's first ever Echoes of the festival in Brno, showcasing two productions — Fairy Tales and Wandervogel, including a joint discussion about the future of independent theatre in Brno.

Visitors' Program ASSITEJ

23RD MAY - 25TH MAY

Since 2001, the Czech ASSITEJ centre has held the Theatre display for Children and Young People, since 2022 taken over by the Visitors' Programme for Foreign Theatre Professionals. This year's auspices were granted to the Theatre World Brno festival.

The programme is focused on creative theatrical education of children and young people, development of audience engagement, both expert and informal debate, and networking.

For this occasion, the festival has prepared a special showcase for children and young people with thematical workshops by the Norwegian director Kjella Moberga and the German dramaturge and educator Petra Jeroma.

Theatre is a jo ur n

SATURDAY 31ST MAY

The Dog on the Road

Slovak National Theatre -SND New Building 2PM departure from Brno 120mins., no interval ■

A book editor named Iks Ypsilon has to present two ey may not be the most prominent sample. The editor's narrative allows room for many micro-stories, tragicomic situations, brilliant associations and precise comments on the theme of genuine Slovakness, national character and pettiness. Suddenly, the respective experiences and historical peripeteia of two small neighbouring nations are juxtaposed, or rather placed side by side. As he wanders through the Austrian countryside, however, Iks happens to meet Margaret, as if by some miracle, and thus another layer of the story is revealed. One that speaks of the changing forms of love, of maturity and the need to live life while we have the chance.



WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY

NATIONAL THEATRE Wernisch

National Theatre - The New Stage 1:30PM departure from Brno 105mins., no interval / ENG subtitles

The work of Ivan Wernisch, a poet, translator, editor, journalist, pundit, mystifier, solitaire, wanderer and dreamer, viewed through the lens of his friend, director Jan Nevsky. Wernisch's seemingly simple, yet elusive and refined verse, his secular and spiritual poetry, words masked as earthy mockery and wistful confessions of uncertainty and longing, a candid celebration of words and rhythm, new bursts of meanings, sparks of the birth and death of worlds. Beloved poems, forgotten poems, unknown texts as well as new works written especially for this production. And above all, a dream and word that will materialize in a magical ritual called "theatre", as a celebration of one of the most important living Czech poets.



SATURDAY 21ST JUNE

South Bohemian theatre Sense and Sensibility

South Bohemian Theatre – Český Krumlov Revolving Theatre 11.30AM departure from Brno 95mins., no interval

The beautiful and sensible Elinor, and even more beautiful and wild Marianne, two sisters who grew up in luxury in a castle, face a harsh fate after their father's death. According to ancient laws, their half-brother inherits the property and they (and their mother and their underage sister) must move to a simple village house. Who would want to marry girls who have no dowry to offer? And who are so stubborn to want to marry for love! But gentlemen have already appeared on the scene – the shy and witty Edward, the brave Colonel Brandon, the charming Willoughby and the rich Lord Quido... The one who had a taste of pride and prejudice in their life should be given sense and sensibility.



ALDENTE THEATRE (ID)ENTITY

5PM - Goose on a String Theatre provázek.sklep 50 mins., no interval work in progress

POCKETART Fairy Tales

6PM - Mahen Theatre 70 mins., no interval ▲ Echoes of the Malá inventura festival

THEATRE FACULTY OF THE JANÁČEK JAN MOCEK ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS Fun Home

7PM - Theatre on Orlí Street 105 mins., no interval / BSC

BRNO CITY THEATRE The Father

7PM - Brno City Theatre -Drama theatre 100mins., no interval ENG subtitles / BSC

TR WARSZAWA PL (PL) When the Snow Melts

7:30PM - Reduta Theatre 120mins., no interval CZ+ENG subtitles ■

Wandervogel

8PM - Marta Drama Studio 90mins., no interval ENG subtitles



28th MAY WEDNESDAY

28th MAY

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WEDNESDAY

NIE THEATRE (CZ/NO) We Come from Far, Far Away

10AM & 5PM - Mahen Theatre 75 mins., no interval ■ •

RADOST THEATRE

1950: Horáková ON AIR

5PM - Radost Theatre - Small stage 60mins., no interval BSC •

BRNO CITY THEATRE Jackal Years

6PM - Brno City Theatre -Music theatre BSC

RESPEKT

Slovak Media at the Centre of the Fight for Slovak Democracy

6PM - Divadlo Reduta 60 mins., no interval debate / part of the off-programme

PRAGUE CITY THEATRES Frankenstein

7PM - Brno City Theatre -Drama theatre 65 mins., no interval

KÁZNICE Benteha / Бентега

7:30PM - Káznice 120 mins., 1 interval / BSC

HRDINŮ STUDIO The World Round the Corner

8PM - Goose on a String Theatre provázek.sál premiere



Wandervogel

27th May

A story of love, fellowship, and fascism. In 1918, Sudeten Germans find themselves in a new state where they didn't choose to live. Who is going to save the sacred homeland from the Czech aggressor? An intimate war diary, authentic police protocols, and historical political speeches mix with the present-day experience of the performers, revealing tensions between more recent and earlier conceptions.





Fairy Tales

In search for womanhood and the values that the feminine essence brings to the world, the production returns to places of our childhood. With lightness, we try on and off different roles, as if it were just another game or another dress. Roles that we all know from popular fairytales or real life stories. We create new fantasies for ourselves, reimagining our identities and the ways we see our own happy endings.

Slovak Media at the Centre of the Fight for Slovak Democracy

28th May

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A debate with Matúš Kostolný, the editor-in-chief of the Denik N daily, and Zuzana Kovačič Hanzelová, a journalist with the SME daily. Hosted by Erik Tabery, the editor-in-chief of the Respekt weekly magazine.

Frankenstein 28th May

Duality of the creator and the progeny, woman and man, life and death. Are human beings shaped more by genetic background, or rather by their environment? Welcome to a wedding reception during which it turns out more and more clearly that Viktor Frankenstein and his fiancée Elisabeth will lead a happy life only after their death.

Theatre is borderless

Side events, such as dramaturgical introductions or follow-up discussions, make up an inseparable part of the festival. A team of educators of the co-organising theatres has again prepared a series of unconventional tours of their respective theatres as well as a number of workshops for young and old and anyone in between. Don't hesitate to travel the theatre world and come join us in experiencing the festival with all senses and no borders.

Projekt INSIDE DSB 2025

The INSIDE TWB project was piloted last year. It was meant to provide young audience members (secondary school students of 15 year of age and older) with an insight into all aspects of necessary preparations — that is to say into the planning and realisation of a theatre festival of magnitude comparable to that of the biggest European festivals. A group of TWB "insiders" emerged and underwent a workshops aimed at individual components of the festival: dramaturgy. marketing, production. The cohort also met with professionals of the TWB festival team. An essential part of the project lay in collective theatregoing to see TWB+ shows supplemented by spectators' reviews. discussions with theatre-makers and actors, and tours of the buildings of the participating theatres. In the 2024/2025 season, the INSIDE TWB project continues: a group of experienced insiders has been extended by six newcomers. As participants of the NTB Backstage immersive programme prepared by our drama educators, they have been meeting once a month since November. Apart from that, the project will encompass more thematic gatherings, focusing for example on drama education or theatre studies and criticism. In the course of the project, the participants document their progress with videos, interviews, and backstage news entries on the project's Instagram account @inside_dsb. Join us in following this year's twelve insiders along their journey around the Theatre World Brno.

The TWB Festival Over Time Exhibition

Last year saw the fifteenth Theatre World Brno festival. For the occasion of this jubilee, an exhibition mapping the individual years as well as showing the gradual evolution of the festival was put together. For this year, the exhibition has been expanded to include new panels and perspectives from last year. It will be held in the Reduta Theatre throughout the festival. An online version of the exhibition is available on the festival website.

The Theatrocene Newsletter

Theatrocene is a multimedia festival newsletter composed by students of the Department of Theatre Studies of the Masaryk University. The editorial board is joined by students of theatre-focused programmes from all over the Czech Republic. With an online blog consisting of reviews, short essays, and both audio and video podcasts, the students reflect on the festival day by day as it unfurls.

FESTIVAL THEATRE WORLD BRNO 2025

The 16th International Theatre Festival Theatre World Brno instagram.com/divadelni_svet_brno facebook.com/divadelnisvet

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CHIEF FESTIVAL CO-ORDINATOR Národní divadlo Brno, p. o. Dvořákova 589/11, 602 00 Brno-město +420 542 158 120 www.ndbrno.cz The festival is held under the auspices of the Governor of the South Moravian Region Mgr. Jan Grolich, Mayor of the City of Brno JUDr. Markéta Vaňková, and Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic Mgr. Martin Baxa.

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The programme is subject to change