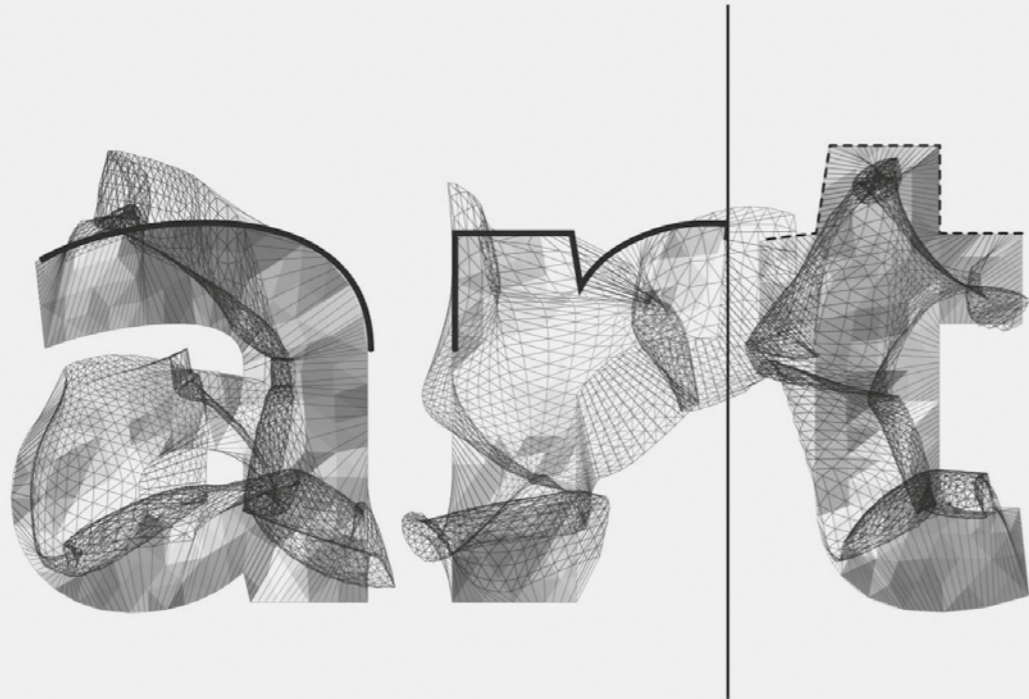


# Atlas

of Festival  
Theatre World  
Brno 12.-24. 5. 2026

ČT **art** každý den od 20 hodin



## A Tribute to Nations



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## Festival team

Campaign Photographer 2026: TOMÁŠ VRANA

Festival Director:  
MARTIN GLASER

Chief Dramaturg of the Festival:  
BARBARA GREGOROVÁ

Dramaturgical Board:

National Theatre Brno:  
JAROSLAV JUREČKA (NdB Drama Company),  
KAREL LITTERA (NdB Ballet)

Brno City Theatre:  
MIROSLAV ONDRA, JAN ŠOTKOVSKÝ,  
VOJTĚCH BALČAR

Husa na provázku Theatre:  
JAKUB MOLNÁR, VERONIKA ONHEISEROVÁ

Polárka Theatre:  
JÍŘÍ HAJDYLA, SÁRA MATUŠOVÁ

Radost Theatre:  
EVA KOLOMAZNIKOVÁ

Theatre Faculty of JAMU:  
HANA PRŮCHOVÁ

Graphic Design:  
ZUZANA BURGROVÁ (R. V. N. Studio)

Campaign Photographer 2026:  
TOMÁŠ VRANA

Festival Production:  
SILVIE ZEINEROVÁ SANŽA  
sanza@ndbrno.cz  
tel.: +420 702 221 970

Production of Co-productions, Accompanying  
and Industry Programme:

JOSEF KOŽNÁREK  
koznarek@ndbrno.cz  
tel.: +420 601 086 198

Marketing, PR:  
PETR NOVÁK  
novak@ndbrno.cz  
tel.: +420 604 919 879

Technical Support, IT:  
MICHAL JEDON, BARBORA KOLČAVOVÁ

Social Media:  
MARTINA MUŽÁTKOVÁ, ZDENĚK NĚMEC,  
MICHAL JEDON

Education Team:  
RADKA MACKOVÁ, ALEXANDR BLAHO

Ticket Sales:  
obchodni@ndbrno.cz, tel.: +420 542 158 120

National Theatre Brno, contributory  
organisation  
Dvořákova 11, 602 00 Brno

Written by: Barbara Gregorová

### A Tribute to Nations

We are organising the 17th edition of the Theatre World Brno (TWB) festival at a time of major geopolitical upheaval, which, while seemingly

# A Small Atlas of Great Experiences

taking place far away from us geographically, also reveals just how interconnected the world we live in has become. And to what extent these changes – coupled with the climate crisis and wars – will begin to affect our personal daily lives almost in real time.

This year, we are opening the festival with “*Figures*

*in Extinction*”, a production by the exceptional *Nederlands Dans Theater – NDT 1 & Complicité*, which captures exactly how many of us are feeling right now. Choreographers Simon McBurney and Crystal Pite also show that – despite all the uncertainty – sensitivity, courage, and the capacity for change can be found all around us. They invite us on a shared journey to learn anew to perceive and respect otherness and the diversity of opinions, and to resist easy polarisation and the creation of new boundaries between people, countries, and continents. The subtitle of this year’s TWB is “A TRIBUTE TO NATIONS” – a reminder of how diverse the world we share is, and how much our willingness to continually explore and rediscover it matter.

The festival programme is designed as a kind of “atlas of the theatre world,” in which we, together with all our colleagues on the dramaturgical council, invite you to join the club of globetrotters on a journey in which you chart your own course. You can discover new archipelagos of inspiration, sail through bays of hope on your way toward new theatrical experiences, and you won’t miss the tectonic fields of explosive topics or the arduous navigation around freshly emerging Bermuda Triangles. You may thus find yourself for a moment in territories that aren’t entirely comfortable – but that makes them all the more worth exploring.

It offers several possible routes as well as specific tips from all members of the dramaturgical council (hidden under QR codes). But we also want to encourage you not to be afraid to set off in a completely different direction. Jump into completely uncharted waters and, ideally, bring someone along with you – your grandmother, a neighbour, or your step-nephew – and then let us know where it led you.

Our colleagues in production and marketing described the festival as a “time bomb” during one of their meetings. And they were right. We have been putting together, fine-tuning, and adjusting this programme for you for a long time – and then comes the moment when we finally “set it off” together with you, hoping it will land right where you are, with just the right balance between fragility and courage.

Try one of our routes – or create your own.  
Take detours, explore, get lost.

The map is just the beginning. .

PREVIEW

## 14<sup>th</sup> April

Nederlands Dans Theater – NDT 1 & Complicité (NL/UK)

### FIGURES IN EXTINCTION

7 p.m., Janáček Theatre

150 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, dance

## 15<sup>th</sup> April

Nederlands Dans Theater – NDT 1 & Complicité (NL/UK)

### FIGURES IN EXTINCTION

7 p.m., Janáček Theatre

150 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, dance

EXCURSION

## 9<sup>th</sup> May

The Slovak National Theatre(SK)

### GHOSTS ARE ONLY HUMAN

3 p.m., Bratislava, the new SNT building - Studio

90 min., without intermission

# Program

## 12<sup>th</sup> May

Nederlands Dans Theater – NDT 2 (NL)

### FOLKÅ, SAABA

7 p.m., Janáček Theatre

90 min., incl. one intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, dance

## 13<sup>th</sup> May

Radost Theatre

### I'M WRITING TO YOU...

6 p.m., Radost Theatre - Small Stage

70 min., without intermission, Brno showcase, children from 7+

Ján Palárik Theatre in Trnava (SK)

### SNOW NEGATIVES: WETZLER, VRBA, SCHULMAN, LUX

7 p.m., Brno City Theatre - Drama Theatre

135 min., incl. intermission, CZE sub. + ENG sub.

## 14<sup>th</sup> May

Polárka Theatre

### THE BODY THAT HAPPENED TO ME

10 a.m., Polárka Theatre - Main Stage

55 min., without intermission, Brno showcase, children from 5+

The Goose on a String Theatre

### DARWIN & CO.

6 p.m., Goose on a String Theatre - Grand Hall

90 min., without intermission, ENG sub., Brno showcase

Radost Theatre

### A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

6 p.m., Radost Theatre - Main Stage

90 min., without intermission, Brno showcase, children from 13+

The Drama Company of the Brno National Theatre

### THE WILD DUCK

8 p.m., Mahen Theatre

105 min., without intermission, ENG sub., Brno showcase

Lenka Vagnerová & Company

### MYSTICAL SELF

8 p.m., Brno City Theatre - Drama Theatre

60 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, dance

## 15<sup>th</sup> May

Ufftenživot Company

### DAD CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE!

3 p.m. and 5 p.m., Radost Theatre - Small Stage

70 min., without intermission (40 min. show

+ 30 min. in playroom), coproduction, children from 5+

Polárka Theatre

### THE GRAND HOTEL OF FEELINGS

3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Polárka Theatre - Small Stage

50 min., without intermission, Brno showcase, children from 3+

Hodworks (HU)

### CHARLIE

6 p.m., Orlí Street Theatre

70 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, dance

Brno City Theatre

### SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

7 p.m., Brno City Theatre - Drama Theatre

170 min., incl. intermission, ENG sub., Brno showcase

The Goose on a String Theatre

### MY HOOVES HAVE ALREADY DUG THE GROUND

7:30 p.m., Goose on a String Theatre - Cellar Hall

100 min., without intermission, ENG sub., Brno showcase

## 16<sup>th</sup> May

The Naive Theatre of Liberec

### OPERATION WOLVERINE

3 p.m. and 5 p.m., Polárka Theatre - Grand Stage

45 min., without intermission, children from 4+

Alfred ve dvoře

### LOOPS AND HOOPS

3 p.m. and 6 p.m., Goose on a String Theatre - Cellar Hall

45 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, YOUNG ADULT

The Slovak National Theatre (SK)

### RHINOCEROS

4 p.m., Brno City Theatre - Music Stage

135 min., without intermission, ENG sub.

Jitka Sara Páníková

### SLIP GRIP

5 p.m., Orlí Street Theatre

50 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, dance

Forman, Ivanović, Jirků, Pechar, Smetana

### MY FATHERLAND

7 p.m., Janáček Theatre

120 min., incl. intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, children from 6+

Plexus Polaire (FR/NO)

### A DOLL'S HOUSE

7 p.m., Mahen Theatre

90 min., without intermission, CZE sub.

## 17<sup>th</sup> May

Nebe Motýlová, Bibi Stevens

### NATURE CULTURE

10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., Mahen Theatre – Small Stage  
45 min., without intermission, children from 6+

Alfred ve dvoře

### LOOPS AND HOOPS

11 a.m. and 3 p.m., Goose on a String Theatre – Cellar Hall  
45 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, YOUNG ADULT

Plexus Polaire (FR/NO)

### A DOLL'S HOUSE

3 p.m., Mahen Theatre  
90 min., without intermission, CZE sub.

TMEL Troupe

### FLAWS

3:30 p.m., Polárka Theatre – Small Stage  
90 min., with one intermission, coproduction, children from 5+, PREMIERE

# Program

Forman, Ivanović, Jirků, Pechar, Smetana

### MY FATHERLAND

5 p.m., Janáček Theatre  
120 min., with one intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, children 6+

The Drak Theatre

### THE METAMORPHOSIS

5 p.m., Orlí Street Theatre  
65 min., without intermission, YOUNG ADULT 13+

The F. X. Šalda Theatre

### DANGEROUS LIAISONS

7 p.m., City Brno Theatre – Drama Theatre  
160 min., incl. one intermission

## 18<sup>th</sup> May

The Drak Theatre

### THE METAMORPHOSIS

9:30 a.m., Orlí Street Theatre  
65 min., without intermission, YOUNG ADULT 13+

Kolektiv TMEL

### FLAWS

9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Polárka Theatre – small stage  
90 min., incl. intermission, coproduction, children 5+  
The show is followed by a workshop (upon reservation only).

The FRAS Theatre Company

### KAWLOON: THE LARGEST HOUSE IN THE WORLD

10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Radost Theatre – Small Stage  
50 min., without intermission, children 8+

A Studio Rubín

### BEADS AROUND THE NECK

5 p.m. and 8 p.m., Goose on a String Theatre – Cellar Stage  
coproduction

Petr Bezruč Theatre

### THE LATECOMER

6 p.m., Brno City Theatre – Drama Theatre  
95 min., without intermission

KAM JDEŠ? Theatre

### BEČVA (TRUE CRIME)

6 p.m., Koráb Theatre  
70 min., without intermission

The National Theatre

### HEDDA GABLER

7 p.m., Mahen Theatre  
145 min., incl. one intermission, ENG sub.

The Dejvice Theatre

### THE VULTURES

8 p.m., Reduta Theatre  
95 min., without intermission, ENG sub.

## 19<sup>th</sup> May

A Studio Rubín

### IN THE HALL OF MIRRORS

6 p.m., Studio Marta  
50 min., without intermission

The South Bohemian Theatre

### RIDICULOUS DARKNESS

6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m., Goose on a String Theatre – Grand Hall  
90 min., without intermission

The Dejvice Theatre

### THE VULTURES

7 p.m., Reduta Theatre  
95 min., without intermission, ENG sub.

The Brno City Theatre

### JENŮFA, HER STEP-DAUGHTER

7 p.m., Brno City Theatre – Drama Theatre  
Brno showcase

The Forman Brothers' Theatre

### THE CONFERENCE OF THE BIRDS

7 p.m., Circus tent Komarov  
75 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, new circus, children 8+

Theatre Faculty of the Janáček Academy of Performing Arts

### GILGAMESH'S LAMENTS (A BROKEN EPIC)

7 p.m., Orlí Street Theatre  
65 min., without intermission, Brno showcase, 15+

Bažant's Puppet Troupe

### FAUST

8 p.m., Radost Theatre – Grand Hall  
60 min., incl. one intermission

## 20<sup>th</sup> May

Mikro-teatro

### THE DELICACY

3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Café Kaprál Residence  
65 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, coproduction,  
FESTIVAL PREMIERE, children 8+

The Bratislava Puppet Theatre (SK)

### THE SNOW QUEEN AND THE BLACK MIRROR

6 p.m., Radost Theatre – Grand Stage  
55 min., without intermission, children 8+

420PEOPLE  
**SMOKE AND MIRRORS**  
6 p.m. and 8 p.m., Studio Marta  
55 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, dance

The Drama Theatre of the Brno National Theatre  
**PHAEDRA**  
7 p.m., Reduta Theatre  
110 min., without intermission, Brno showcase, dance

The Forman Brothers' Theatre  
**THE CONFERENCE OF THE BIRDS**  
7 p.m., Circus tent Komarov  
75 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, children 8+

Viktor Černický  
**PNEU**  
8 p.m., Co.labs - Grand Hall  
50 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, new circus,  
Echoes of the Small Inventory

# Program

## 21<sup>st</sup> May

Na Zábradlí Theatre  
**MY STRUGGLE: A MAN IN LOVE**  
7 p.m., Reduta Theatre  
100 min., without intermission

Vzlet Theatre  
**CAPTAIN'S FIRST STRIKE**  
10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Goose on a String Theatre - Grand Hall  
90 min., without intermission, YOUNG ADULT

The Theatre Faculty of the Janáček Academy of Performing Arts  
**THE PANELAK**  
8 p.m., Studio Marta  
75 min., without intermission, ENG sub., Brno showcase

Spitfire Company  
**TWENTYONE**  
8 p.m., Co.labs - Grand Hall  
60 min., without intermission, Echoes of the Small Inventory

Mikro-teatro Theatre  
**THE DELICACY**  
3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Café Kaprál Residence  
65 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, coproduction, children 8+

## 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Mikro-teatro Theatre  
**THE DELICACY**  
3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Café Kaprál Residence  
65 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, coproduction, children 8+

Theatre Aldente  
**(ID)ENTITY**  
6 p.m., Co.labs - Grand Hall  
Coproduction, dance, FESTIVAL PREMIERE

The Forman Brothers' Theatre  
**THE CONFERENCE OF THE BIRDS**  
7 p.m., Circus tent Komarov  
75 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, new circus, children 8+

The Theatre on the Balustrade  
**MRS. DALLOWAY**  
7 p.m., Reduta Theatre  
110 min., without intermission, ENG sub.

Studio G  
**CRYSTALMAKER**  
7 p.m., Studio Marta  
75 min., without intermission

## 23<sup>rd</sup> May

Tání  
**SEARCHING FOR ROBINSON**  
10:30 a.m., Polárka Theatre - Big Stage  
100 min., without intermission

8lidi  
**WE LOVE SHOOTING**  
5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Brno City Councillors' Club  
90 min., without intermission

Divadlo X10  
**AMADOKA**  
6 p.m., Co.labs - Grand Hall  
Coproduction, FESTIVAL PREMIERE

The Forman Brothers' Theatre  
**THE CONFERENCE OF THE BIRDS**  
7 p.m., Circus tent Komarov  
75 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, new circus, children 8+

## 24<sup>th</sup> May

The Forman Brothers' Theatre  
**THE CONFERENCE OF THE BIRDS**  
3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Circus tent Komarov  
75 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, new circus, children 8+

Divadlo X10  
**AMADOKA**  
4 p.m., Co.labs - Grand Hall  
Coproduction

Khwoshch  
**BRR & SKRR**  
5:30 p.m., Polárka Theatre - Small Stage  
45 min., without intermission, EXPAT FRIENDLY, YOUNG ADULT,  
Echoes of the Small Inventory

EXCURSION

## 13<sup>th</sup> June

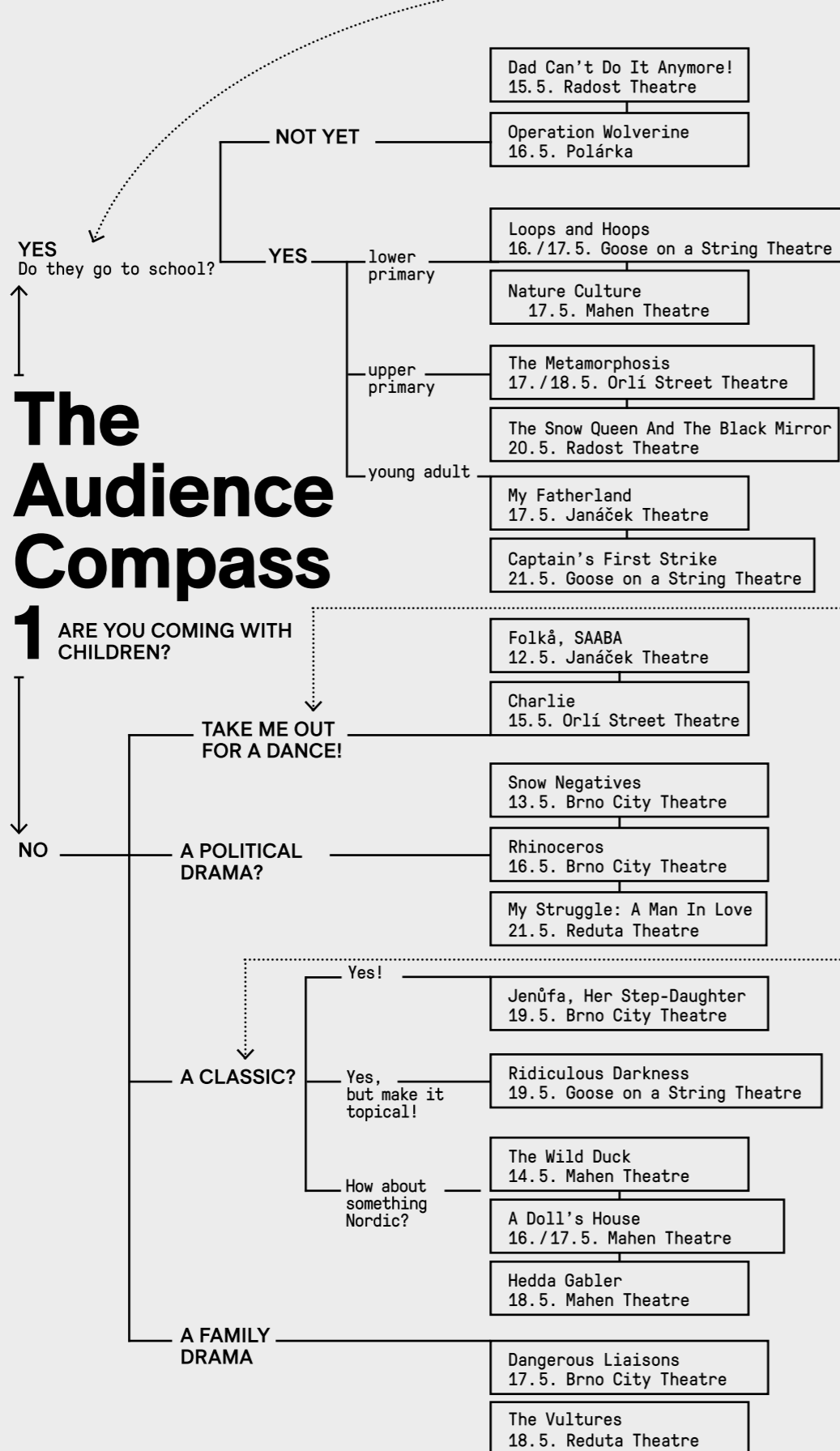
The South Bohemian Theatre  
**HERCULES**  
11:30 a.m., Revolving Auditorium of Český Krumlov  
80 min., without intermission

## 19<sup>th</sup> June

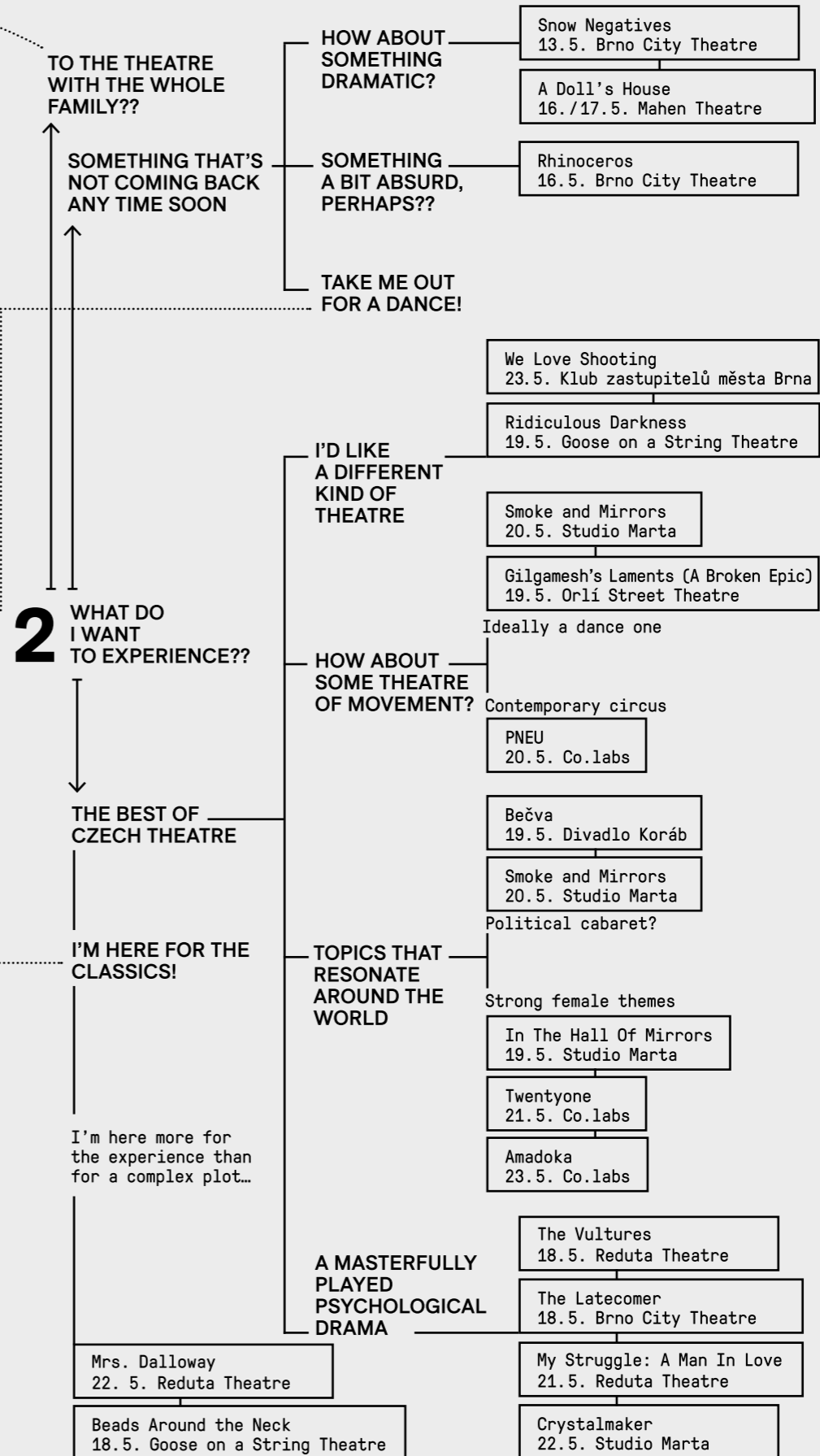
Opera Ballet Vlaanderen  
**PARSIFAL**  
2 p.m., Wiener Festwochen  
320 min., incl. two intermissions

# The Audience Compass

**1** ARE YOU COMING WITH CHILDREN?



**2** WHAT DO I WANT TO EXPERIENCE??



MARTIN GLASER, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL THEATRE BRNO AND THUS ALSO OF THE THEATRE WORLD BRNO (TWB) FESTIVAL, OFFERS A GLIMPSE INTO HIS WORLD – ONE THAT SO OFTEN REMAINS HIDDEN BEHIND THE CURTAIN – THROUGH A VARIATION ON PROUST'S FAMOUS QUESTIONNAIRE.

Written by: Martin Váša

The seventeenth edition of the festival will offer nearly a hundred exceptional performances and other accompanying events that you won't find anywhere else in Brno. When I was given the opportunity to interview Martin Glaser for this booklet, I knew that the traditional route was the last one I would take. I knew that I had to seize such an opportunity to uncover something different, something that you won't see anywhere else.

It is called '*The Proust Questionnaire*'. In reality, however, the famous writer isn't its author – not entirely. The set of several questions, simple at first glance, comes from a leather-bound album that a governess bought in the 1880s at the Galignani bookstore in Paris for little Antoinette Faure, the daughter of the future French president. The purpose of such an album was simple – a young girl was to record her thoughts and feelings in it, as was proper and customary at the time,

or to lend this little confessional, in the style of a scrapbook, to her friends to fill out. But as history has shown, the album was by no means insignificant in its significance...

# Behind-the-Scenes Insights

When one of Antoinette's friends, a certain Marcel, takes up the questionnaire again after many years, he is twenty years old. One year later, in 1892, Marcel's answers are published in *La Revue illustrée XV*. The questionnaire, whose original author remains unknown, goes down in history as the *Proust Questionnaire* and becomes a favourite, more playful way for journalists around the world to conduct interviews. It is said that whoever fills it out offers a glimpse into their soul.

When the questionnaire asked Marcel Proust a second time about his current state of mind, the writer replied: "Irritation at having to think about myself in order to answer these questions." But his gentle warning didn't stop anyone, and the questionnaire has been publicly completed by many various celebrities: actresses Isabelle Adjani and Brigitte Bardot, writer Alain de Botton, fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg, perfumer Serge Lutens, basketball player Tony Parker, and even social butterfly (or, rather, a social swan) Lee Radziwill.

I borrowed the questionnaire and slightly adapted it for my latest book entitled *I'd Like To, But I Don't Feel Like*, in which the main protagonist's close friends and family fill it out. And it was precisely this version – once again edited to fit the respondent well – that I presented to Mr. Glaser.

**W**

**hat is the trait that describes you best?**

Perseverance.

**And what do you value most in your co-workers at the National Theatre Brno and in the staff of the Theatre World Brno festival?**

Creativity.

**What do you consider your greatest strength?**

That I'm perhaps a good listener and I'm not afraid to get persuaded when colleagues offer a better solution than the one I proposed.

**And your greatest weakness?**

The desire for perfection, perfectionism, latent workaholism.

**Which mistake do you have the most understanding for in a performance, regardless of the troupe?**

Any mistake that happens in the heat of the moment.

**Your favourite activity?**

Currently, tending my garden.

**Your idea of happiness?**

Simply just being with the people I love.

**And, conversely, misery?**

When I'm falling behind and holding others back from their work.

**If you had the chance to stage anything at the National Theatre in Brno, what would it be and why?**

I don't have that kind of dream. Our theatre has excellent dramaturges who know what I like as a director, so every new production is actually a fulfilled dream – one I often didn't even know I had. As a director, however, I could imagine a very long list of productions that I would love to bring to our festivals so that our audiences could see them and experience the same joy from theatre that I felt while watching them.

**Your favourite colour?**

Definitely blue.

**And your favourite flower?**

A rose.

**And scents?**

I'm almost hypersensitive to scents. I can't name just one. Maybe when you scratch the peel of a bitter lemon, or grind fresh coffee beans.

**Which production do you never get tired of?**

Mine or someone else's? I don't experience my own ones that way. I used to really get into Lébl's *The Seagull*, which I saw about ten times. *The plays about Mary* directed by Jiří Herman – a wonderful experience I've happily repeated several times.

**What do you think is unnecessarily overrated?**

What others think of us.

**And what is underrated?**

Caring for others who need it.

**Which of your views on theatre as an art form is generally unpopular?**

I suppose it depends on the person. I try not to make strong judgments. Generally speaking, I think that as theatre people, we shouldn't say that audiences should see something, or that we're staging a play because it offers good acting opportunities. Or that it's still relevant when it really isn't, or when we can't bring it to life on stage.

**Who do you admire most in real life?**

All brave people.

**And when it comes to fictional characters?**

The fragile ones who bravely struggle with life.

**What little thing always gets on your nerves?**

Little things don't get on my nerves – I don't have the time or energy for that. What bothers me is when people lie or manipulate others.

**You can have one superpower. Which one would you choose?**

To know what others are really thinking.

**What would most likely surprise audiences at the National Theatre Brno and the TWB festival if they found out about you?**

I probably can't say that out loud.

**What is your current state of mind?**

Right now (two days before the premiere of the opera *Agrippina*), total exhaustion and a glimmer of hope.

**Your motto?**

Let's go – we can do this!

**And what do you understand under the Czech word 'brdo'?**

A sizeable sensation.

# Atlas

**DIVADLO HUSA NA PROVÁZKU**  
Zelný trh 294/9, 602 00 Brno  
provazek.cz

**DIVADLO NA ORLÍ**  
Orlí 19, 602 00 Brno-střed  
divadlonaorli.jamu.cz

**DIVADLO POLÁRKA**  
Tučkova 34, 602 00 Brno  
divadlopolarka.cz

**DIVADLO RADOST**  
Bratislavská 216/32, 602 00 Brno  
divadlo-radost.cz

**DIVADLO REDUTA**  
Zelný trh 313, 602 00 Brno-střed  
ndb.cz

**JANÁČKOVO DIVADLO**  
Rooseveltova 31, 602 00 Brno-střed  
ndb.cz

**MAHENOVO DIVADLO**  
Malinovského nám. 1, 657 70 Brno-střed  
ndb.cz

**MĚSTSKÉ DIVADLO BRNO**  
Lidická 16, 602 00 Brno  
mdb.cz

**STUDIO MARTA**  
Bayerova 575, 602 00 Brno-střed  
studiomarta.cz

