

## Tickets go on sale for: Theatre World Festival Brno 2022 - Starts in May!

The 13th annual Theatre World Festival Brno returns in May to delight and entertain Brno - an eclectic and varied international showcase that is among the biggest of its kind in the country. With more than 50 theatre companies coming from all over the world and an exciting fringe programme - including workshops, discussions, debates, online events - it is sure to be a memorable event, especially with the premiere of a new documentary film about famous theatre director, Eva Tálská.

The main festival programme runs from 24th to 29th May. The festival kicks off with a prologue in the form of two performances and the premiere of a theatre documentary - and will be brought to a close by a short epilogue in June. As in previous years, the main organiser is the National Theatre Brno, in collaboration with several of Brno's leading theatres - City Theatre, Goose on a String, JAMU theatre faculty, Polárka Theatre and, after a short hiatus, Radost Theatre.

### In the lead role... the audience

This year's festival will turn its attention to the phenomenon of the audience. Instead of an overarching theme this year, we will be on a quest to discover what theatre can really be. What forms, perspectives and origins need to be rediscovered? The ambition of the organisers is to create an unrepeatable "theatre landscape", so that we can, as an audience, discover a theatre world. The Motto, "Theatre is..." (including the all-important three dots, the ellipsis...), is intended as a prompt. At the end of the festival, everyone will be able to complete the prompt in their own words.

### Theatre is... elemental

This year, yet again, there will be the opportunity to see several excellent international productions, from Israel, France, Poland, Hungary and Belarus. Each production starts a discussion about the vulnerability and fragility of our world and suggests various thematic lines for the festival. One such line is the "Female element", presented by the prestigious Polish production *Pieces of a Woman*, directed by Kornéla Mundruczó. The hot sociopolitical issues of today are addressed by several pieces: *Asylum*, an Israeli dance production by the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company; *Woyzeck* by the independent Belarussian company, Kupalaŭcy; the Polish cabaret performance *The revolution which never happened* by Teatr 21 and *Sarmatia* by Belarussian performer Palina Dabravolskaja. Audiences can experience something in a more classical line from Hungary - *Medea* presented by the company, KV Társulat – Trafó. Something new this year are the family shows - *The Waltz of Hommelettes* and *Ambergis* by French puppet theatre company, Les Antliacastes, with their special children's performances.

A special category this year are the so-called theatre trips and site-specific projects. As part of the festival, we will be setting out for Křtiny to see the production *Santini* by JEDL and to Prague for the pre-premier of the immersive performance, *The Master and Margarita* by the independent theatre group, Tygr v tísní (Tiger in Need). In cooperation with Dance Prague Festival, there will be an audience participation performance, called *Woods*, where the audience will be invited to get involved in the streets of Brno with four dancers from Brazil, Portugal and Slovenia. We will also be welcoming back co-production projects that were started by Theatre World Festival Brno in 2021, but had to be postponed because of the pandemic. These will take the form of two unconventional deep-dives into Czech history: *Hilsner and the others* by Brno's Theatre Feste and *27 Execution show by*

*Jan Mydlář* by Geisslers Hofcomedianen; and the interactive *Future World Pub Quiz* by Theatre LETÍ.

The online programme of Theatre World Festival Brno will open with the premiere of the documentary film *Deaths and Dreams of Eva Tálská: a Portrait of a Theatre Poet* about the founding director of Goose on a String Theatre, co-produced for Czech Television by Robin Kvapil. The grand screening will take place at Goose on a String Theatre, and in the same week the work will get its television premiere on ČT Art. The documentary will then be available to stream for free on the festival website. In cooperation with the Dramox platform, we will expand the festival's online program with other international titles. We will dedicate a special separate line to Ukrainian theatre. The fringe programme this year will again offer a range of discussions, lectures and unconventional discussion formats, for example... *Debate for puppets* by DISK theatre or a performative lecture by Alice Koubová and Miřenka Čechová, entitled, *Fears*. The more Gung-ho among us can join in with the experiential game, *You are Theatre!* an interactive journey for families with children into Theatre Landscape.

### Theatre is.... a woman

The women's line of the festival will concern itself with various aspects of womanhood, relationships with society, with the female body and the changing role of women in society. One of the highlights of the festival will be the performance by renowned Hungarian director Kornél Mundruczó *Pieces of a Woman*, performed by one of the best Polish ensembles, TR Warszawa. From perhaps the opposite pole of womanhood, comes the singer and performer Ridina Ahmedova and her confessional, based on her successful blog, *Lard*. From Belarus comes the writer and director, Palina Dabravolskaja, with her "one-woman drama" *Sarmatia*, while the Prague National Theatre will bring the award-winning production *Vassa Zheleznova* with Zuzana Stivínová in the title role. A strong female hero will be presented in *Marysha (silent)* by the Prague company Depresivní děti touží po penězích (Depressed Children Long for Money).

Various theatres from around the Czech Republic also have a strong presence at this year's festival. The City Theatre Zlín present their original interpretation of *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, the East Bohemian Theatre of Pardubice will re-examine our views of Czech writer, Božena Němcova in their production, *As a Razor*. From Olomouc, Theatre Na Cucky presents *Destruction of Total Thought* and from Uherské Hradiště, an improvised Chekovian piece called *Three Sisters*.

### Theatre is... movement

One of the highlights of the festival will be the performance by the Israeli dance ensemble, Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, which returns to Brno again after a break of a few years. The renowned Israeli ensemble under the artistic guidance of the exceptional Rami Be'era is one of the most important ensembles of contemporary dance in the world. The choreography of *Asylum* deals with one of the hottest contemporary problems in the world, the problem of refugee status, immigration, and the fate of asylum seekers. It is an autobiographical story in which the choreographer himself reveals his own perception of frustration, confusion and alienation as a member of a Jewish family surviving the Holocaust.

From the genre of Neo-circus, we welcome the ever-popular, Cirk La Putyka with a production entitled, *Runners*. A performance that will speak to everyone who feels they are a "slave to the grind." For the first time, the festival will present the physical theatre of Burki&com by Jana Burkiewiczová. An environmentally conscious piece entitled *The Island!*, superbly cast with leading Czech dancers from the independent scene. In *Metamorphosis* DEKKADANCERS will present their unique take on Kafka's tale in the form Dance Grotesques. In the movement line, there will also be performances for children *Paper Story* by Laterna Magiky and Radim Vizváry.

### Theatre is... classical

The long line of classical dramatic texts and their adaptations demonstrate their relevance and longevity. Even in the 21st century, classical drama and mythology seem to provide an inexhaustible supply of themes, situations and stories for European theatre, capturing something universal about the human experience and the world.

The foreign view of a strong female heroine is represented in the classical line by the Hungarian ensemble KV Társulat – Trafó with a significant adaptation of Euripides' *Médea*, which is transformed into a purely contemporary environment of collective maternal therapy, within the framework of which the harsh tragedy of the original story gradually threatens. There will be two strong contrasting *Antigones*, different in form and interpretation. A strongly political reading by director Dodo Gombár, *Antigone (Fuck You, Daddy!)* from the drama studio in Ústí nad Labem and a ritualistic and playful production of *Antigone* by Theatre ALDENTE, directed by Jitka Vrbkova. An online version of Seneca's *Oedipus*, which was recorded last year and performed for Theatre World Festival Brno by actors from the National Theatre Brno with director Lukáš Kopecký. *The Mad Hercules* by Roman dramatist Seneca will be performed in Theatre Marta. Directed by Gombarček, who is in his final year of study at JAMU.

### Theatre is.... a game

The aim of the children's line is to present modern theatre for children (and their parents) to the Brno audience. To the joy of the organisers, this year's children's line is very extensive and includes performances for audiences of all ages. Two productions of the French puppet ensemble, Les Antliacastes, *Ambergris* and *The Waltz of Hommelettes* are bound to captivate at this year's festival. The creators were inspired by the work of Jan Švankmajer, so they will look very familiar to the Czech audience. In addition, they are full of magic, unique puppets, machines, devices and music. Studio ALTA are performing *Krabat*; Puppets without borders *Nilas and the thousand-headed herd*, and Lanterna Magika *Paper Stories*. One of the best children's theatres in the Czech Republic, Drak Theatre arrives with a poetic grotesque about falling asleep *Bedtime!* and PONEC – dance theatre invites you to the world of fantasy *Boxing Up*. Students of the Prague Department of Alternative and Puppet Theatre DAMU will also be presenting *O as Little Otik*. The Lampion Theatre in Kladno brings *Komodo* to Brno; the South Bohemian Theatre – Small Theatre and LIVE4K present a performance for teenagers *Invisible Man*, which includes live cinema, and expect the unexpected with *Arctic Robinson* by Wariot Ideal from Prague. Brno's theatres will also be represented – Theatre Polárka with its *Homo Zabijens: The End of Mammoth Hunters* and Theatre Radost will present their productions: *Hamlet on the Road* and *Pinocchio*.

### Theatre is... landscape

This year's festival brings something new – theatre trips. And the audience is transported twice... Once to the famous village of Křtiny, where in the Church of the Virgin Mary, the JEDL theatre company will present their allegory on the subject of seeking perfection, entitled *Santini*. The second trip will be to see *The Master and Margarita (An immersive production)* by the independent Prague ensemble Tygr v tísní (Tiger in need), which will revive the "Bulgakov world" right in the historic centre of Prague, in the unique premises of the baroque, Hrzán Palace. Among other site-specific projects this year, we will see Theatre Na Zabradli's *Zdeněk Adamec + Sebeobviňování; Debatu pro loutky* by Theatre Disk from DAMU and *Fears* – a performative lecture by Alice Koubova a Miřenka Čechova.

### Theatre is... Brno and with English subtitles!

Of course, there will be several performances by our own Brno theatres too. Several Czech performances will have English subtitles, so that international visitors and residents living in Brno can also enjoy them. The National Theatre Brno will be performing Havel at the festival: *The Increased Difficulty of Concentration* (SUBTITLES) and Albee *Who is afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Brno City Theatre will offer the chamber musical *Next to Normal* (SUBTITLES), Goose on a String Theatre *The Khazarian Dictionary* (SUBTITLES) and *Pammrová/Březina*. Studio Marta JAMU will be presenting *The Mad Hercules* (SUBTITLES), and the Theatre on Orli Street will present *The Castle Inside*. The new team at Theatre Radost will perform two productions *Hamlet on the Road* (SUBTITLES) and *Pinocchio* and Divadlo Polárka will perform *Homo Zabijens: The End of the Mammoth Hunters*.

### Practical information

Tickets for festival performances can be purchased either online on the festival website or at the ticket offices of the participating theatres. The opening hours of the box offices and all other information: [www.divadelnisvet.cz](http://www.divadelnisvet.cz).

### Contact for media:

Alena Kastnerová  
Marketing & PR  
[kastnerova@ndbrno.cz](mailto:kastnerova@ndbrno.cz)  
+420 603 541 296