

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Vaclav Havel Library Foundation  
Contact:  
Jacquelyn de Villiers  
917 371 5962  
[jacidevilliers@vhlf.org](mailto:jacidevilliers@vhlf.org)

## **Rehearsal for Truth**

**Theater Festival Honoring Vaclav Havel Presents:**

**SCALE 1:5**

**From HOPPart, Budapest, Hungary**

**Saturday, September 29, 2018, 12 p.m. & 3 p.m.**

**Bohemian National Hall**

**312 E73rd Street, New York, NY 10021**

***“What matters is not whether a play is light-hearted or serious, but—be it comedic or otherwise—whether it speaks to people about their problems, how it speaks to them, what impact it has on them. . . We wish only to put on plays that meet certain standards of urgency, that are intellectually penetrating, complex, challenging, and powerful.”***

*--Vaclav Havel, “The Kind of Theater We Want to Do,” from a letter to Alfred Radok, August 4, 1963*

The Vaclav Havel Library Foundation (VHLF), together with the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association (BBLA), will partner with Czech, Hungarian, Polish, and Slovak performing arts and cultural institutions to host the second year of a unique festival presenting the best in contemporary Central European theater.

The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia have worked together consistently in the performing arts for almost thirty years. The result of their collaboration has been an outpouring of outstanding dramatic works that pose important questions about immigration, European identity, reconciliation with

fascist and communist pasts, and a host of other essential issues. The region's unusual creative energy deserves to be promoted and acknowledged internationally, especially as it has resulted in—to borrow Havel's words—theatrical productions that are at once urgent, intellectually penetrating, complex, challenging, and powerful.

The 2018 **REHEARSAL FOR TRUTH** festival will present four performances in the original languages with English supertitles, followed by talk-backs with the artists and after parties hosted by the countries cultural institutes and consulates general in NYC. There will also be two staged readings, one panel discussion and a Gala event in honor of **The Honorable Madeleine Albright**. These events will take place at The Bohemian National Hall (321 East 73<sup>rd</sup> Street). All **REHEARSAL FOR TRUTH** productions are **free to the public except the Gala Event**. The festival is supported by The Bohemian Benevolent & Literary Association, NYC Cultural Affairs and New York City Council Member Ben Kallos.

### **SCALE 1:5**

**Saturday, September 29, 2018**

**12 p.m. & 3 p.m.**

Presented by: HOPPart, Budapest, Hungary

Director: Tamas Herczeg

Cast: Tamas Herczeg, Magdolna Kiss Diana, Kata Szilagyi, Zoltan Friendenthal, Tama Kereszteny

Supported by Placcc Festival and in-situ

The Hungarian company HoPPart will bring the alternative musical show **SCALE 1:5** to the streets of New York by using a portable sound system and headphones to take the audience for a walk around Yorkville and the Bohemian National Hall neighborhood. The players will follow the traces of the Czech, German, and Hungarian communities that formerly inhabited this part of the

Upper East Side. *Scale 1:5* has been adapted and performed in Budapest, Prague, Kosice, Marseille, Graz, and Brussels.

*The members of HOPPart represent an alternative musical style. Each member of the company is professional actor, singer and multi-instrumentalist musician. While creating a theatre piece, they do everything themselves: collective writing and directing, working on the musical arrangement, singing and accompanying themselves on musical instruments.*

Book free tickets on Eventbrite:

12 p.m. show: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rehearsal-for-truth-scale-15-12pm-show-tickets-48942695921>

3 p.m. show: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rehearsal-for-truth-scale-15-free-tickets-47699921750>

Link to publicity photos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/todq8z2jvzu597s/AACFlqzTvJ68wiWhBkbHLUEa?dl=0>

Photo Credit: Adam Dorogdi

### **About Vaclav Havel Library Foundation**

The Vaclav Havel Library Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in the United States to honor, preserve, and build upon the legacy of playwright, dissident, and former President of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic, Vaclav Havel.

### **The Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association (BBLA)**

The mission of the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association (BBLA), established in 1891, is to preserve the Czech and Slovak culture in New York City as well as to build a cultural and social dialogue between the Czech and Slovak communities and the American public.

**Vaclav Havel** (1936-2011) was a playwright, essayist, political dissident, and, after 1990, president of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic. In the 1960s Havel's plays *The Garden Party* and *The Memorandum* were widely performed around the world. But in the climate of political orthodoxy that followed the 1968 uprising in Czechoslovakia, Communist authorities forbade the publication and performance of Havel's works. Havel refused to be silenced and continued to write on behalf of the unjustly oppressed. He became an outspoken human rights advocate and in the 1970s was an author of Charter 77, the manifesto of the Czechoslovak dissident movement, which called on the government to honor its human rights commitments under the Helsinki Accords. During the next two decades Havel was arrested many times for alleged anti-state activities and was sentenced to more than four years in prison. Havel's seminal essay, "The Power of the Powerless," written in 1978, had a profound impact on dissident and human rights movements in Eastern Europe and around the world.

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