

Rehearsal for Truth

Theater Festival
honoring
Vaclav Havel

EVE OF RETIREMENT / PRED ODCHODOM NA ODPOCINOK

Friday, September 28, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

“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

DIVADLO ASTORKA
KORZO '90



Bratislavský
samosprávny
kraj



CONSULATE GENERAL
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The Vaclav Havel Library Foundation (VHLF), together with the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association (BBLA), have partnered 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 festival is supported by The Bohemian Benevolent & Literary Association, NYC Cultural Affairs and New York City Council Member Ben Kallos.

SPECIAL THANKS to Theatre for the New City's Director, Crystal Fields, and the staff at TFNC for providing the theatrical properties for these visiting productions.

The Company:

Presented by:	ASTORKA Korzo'90 Theatre
Playwright:	Thomas Bernhard
Director:	Juraj Nvota
Cast:	Peter Šimun Zuzana Kronerová Marta Sládečková

Supported using public funding by Slovak Arts Council, Bratislava Self-Governing Region and the Slovak Consulate General in New York

Eve of Retirement represents not only an artistic masterpiece but also a political and social catharsis for the Slovak nation, whose government collaborated with the Nazi regime during the so-called Slovak state (1939–1945). The production may be characterized as metaphorical realism showing this “evil” and its historical recurrence. Playwright Thomas Bernhard is one of the most important German-language authors of the postwar era, he pushes his contempt for Austria as a nest of unregenerate Nazis and anti-Semites to an outrageous extreme in the play.

The production was awarded Grand Prix as Best Production at the New Drama Festival of Contemporary Slovak and World Drama 2006 organized by The Theatre Institute in Bratislava.

ASTORKA Korzo '90 Theatre

The ASTORKA Korzo '90 Theater from Bratislava is a company committed to pioneering dramaturgical and directorial works related to modern world classics. They have been one of the leading theatres in Slovakia following the legendary Divadlo na korze Theatre, that was closed for political reasons in the early 1970s.

ASTORKA Korzo '90 Theatre aims to follow in the footsteps of the Bratislava's Divadlo na korze Theatre, closed as a result of the hard-line crackdown following the 1968 Soviet invasion. Divadlo na korze Theatre was known for its groundbreaking choice of plays and artistic approach to world classics. (In addition to modern classics ASTORKA recognizes contemporary playwriting. Outstanding productions emerged from the collaboration with the Slovak writer Rudolf Sloboda.

The present theatre has a repertoire designed to appeal to a variety of audiences, based on a personal style of acting by the company's remarkable artists. The company has performed successfully at Slovak, Czech and foreign international festivals (New York, Sydney, Los Angeles, ITF Divadelná Nitra Slovak republic; ITF Divadlo Pilsen, Czech Republic; TF Setkáni/Stretnutie, Zlín, Czech Republic; ITF Na hranici, Český Těšín/Cziesyn, Czech Republic/Poland; ITF Mittelfest, Cividale del Friuli, Italy; ITF Fringe 2000 in Edinburgh, Scotland; Celebrate Slovakia: Art From the Heart of Europe, 2001, U.S.A.; The Days of the Slovak Culture, Moscow, Russia, IFF Belaja Vezha Brest Bielorusko)

Theatre ASTORKA Korzo '90 was sometimes awarded the prestigious prize for the best production of the season. The Mayor of the Capital of the Slovak Republic Bratislava awarded the theatre with the Prize of the Mayor of the Capital of the Slovak Republic Bratislava - Knight Roland. The President of Bratislava Self - Governing Region Ľubo Roman awarded the theatre with the Samuel Zoch Prize. ASTORKA was awarded with the Grand Prix for the best Slovak theatre production at theatre festival Nová drama/New Drama (Thomas Bernhard: Eve of Retirement) and the Main Prize "Don Quijote" at International Theatre Festival in Beograd (Ivan S. Turgenev: A Month in the Country).

Director: Juraj Nvota

He graduated from the Academy of Performing Arts in 1976. After graduation, he worked in Slovak professional theaters in Trnava; Martin; Bratislava in SND, L + S, ASTORKA Korzo '90 Theatre, Radošinske naivné divadlo; in Prague in Semafor, Studio Y and Theatre on the balustrade; in Brno in Goose on the String Theatre and Brno City Theatre. He has produced many theater productions at home and abroad. Among the most important are Romeo and Juliet, Othello, Much Ado about Nothing, Play it again, Sam, Armageddon on Grb Hill, Kasimir and Karoline, Mother, Heroes Square, Audiencia, Cocktail party, Day of joy, Vygumuj a napiš, Gazdova krv. In addition to theatrical productions, he has created several feature-length feature films – Kruté radosti, Muzika, Confident, Rukojemník, Johankino tajomstvo. As an actor, the main character of Jakub postmen in the Dušan Hanák film Rose tinted dreams, in Šulík film Everything I Like the character of Tomáš and others.

He has worked with prominent Slovak writers such as Dušan Dušek, Rudolf Sloboda, Petr Pišťánek, Pavel Vilikovský, Stanislav Štepko, Milan Lasica, Milan Uhde. He received the following prizes: The Igric Film Award for the Best Director of Kruté radosti 2002, and Muzika 2005; The Sun in a Net (Slnko v sieti) for the Best Director - Muzika 2005, Zlaté slnko for Best Actor in the Rose tinted dreams movie, many creative prizes and Litfond main awards for theatrical production.

His works have taken part in foreign festivals in Lyon and Arhous - Charlie, Edinburgh – The Elephants Graveyard, Cividale and New York - Armageddon on Grb Hill.

PERFORMERS:

Marta Sládečková

She graduated from the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava in 1981. After her graduation, she worked in professional theaters in Martin and Nitra, where she performed many interesting theater characters (eg The Forest by A. N. Ostrovsky, W. Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, Mourning Becomes Electra by E. O'Neill and many others).

Since 1993 she has been a member of the ASTORKA Korzo '90 Theater. She has a brilliant sense of situational comedy and an unusual

gift of intelligent verbal humor in productions like *Medusa's Head* by Boris Vian and *Midsummer Night's Dream* by W. Shakespeare).

She performed dramatic characters in classical theater productions and contemporary authors: *Uncle Vany* by A. P. Chekhov, *The Philistines* and *Summerfolk* by M. Gorky, *Month in the Country* by I. S. Turgenev, *Cabaret! Cabaret!* by J. Masteroff, J. Kander, F. Ebb, *Tales from the Vienna Woods* by Ö. von Horváth, *Stella* by J. W. Goethe, *Comet* by J. del Corte. Recent work includes: *Love in the Crimea* by Slawomir Mrozek and Ranevska in *The Cherry Orchard* by A. P. Chekhov

Zuzana Kronerová

She graduated from the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava in 1974. After completing her studies, she worked in many Slovak professional theaters. Theater for Children and Youth in Trnava (Divadlo pre deti a mládež v Trnave), Divadlo Nová scéna in Bratislava, Slovak National Theater (Slovenské národné divadlo), ASTORKA Korzo '90 Theater (Divadlo ASTORKA Korzo '90), Slovak Chamber Theater in Martin (Slovenské komorné divadlo v Martine), The National Theater in Prague; Czech Republic (Národní divadlo v Prahe) where she has created many dramatic and comic characters under the guidance of renowned Slovak and Czech theater directors. The most significant include: W. Shakespeare: the *Tempest* (Miranda), A. P. Chekhov: *The Cherry Orchard* (Varja), P. Shaffer: *Amadeus* (Konstancia Mozart), William Shakespeare: *Romeo and Juliet* (The Nurse), E. O'Neill: *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (Mary Tyrone), T. Letts: *August - Osage County* (Violet) and others.

In addition to theatrical productions, she performs in artistic full-length movies, television series and radio, for example: *Wild Bees*, *Something Like Happiness*, *Ice Mother* - dir. Bohdan Sláma and others. TV Series: *Ordinácia v Ružovej záhrade*, *Doctors*, *Dr. Ema*. Radio: *Opice vo vyťahanych tričkách* and others. She received awards for her artistic production: DOSky (theatrical award of the season for the Mother's figure in *Mother's* production by author J. A. Pitínský (dir. Juraj Nvota, 1996).

Czech Lion Awards (Český lev) for the character of Lišajová in the movie *Wild Bees*, dir. B. Sláma (2001), *Krišťáľové krídlo* for the figure of Violet in the theatrical production of T. Letts: *August - Osage County* (2011), Czech Lion Awards (Český lev) for the Character of Hana in *Ice Mother*, dir. B. Sláma (2017) and *The Sun in a Net* (*Slnko v sieti*) for the character of Hana in the film *Ice Mother*, dir. B. Sláma (2017) .

Peter Šimun

Peter Šimun graduated from the Academy of Performing Arts in 1979. Shortly after graduating, he worked in the Slovakian professional Theater Divadlo Jána Palárika and for several years at the ASTORKA Korzo '90 Theater (since 1992), where he created more than 100 dramatic and comic characters under the direction of renowned Slovak and Czech theater directors.

The most prominent are, for example, the figure of Anukkin in Gogol's Marriage, Balina in the Hobbit drama, or ballad about the famous Bilbo Baggins, Simon Chachau in the Brecht Caucasus Chalk Circle, and Polly Baker in Man equals Man of the same dramatist Don Quixote in adapting the famous novel Sanchez Sanctuary, Peter in the ZOO story by Edward Albee, Guy Jones in the production of Johnson's case by Alan Ayckbourn, Sam's character in Play it again, Sam by Woody Allen, figure of Arthur in the cult Slovak production Armageddon on Grb Hill by Rudolf Sloboda, /was performed in La Mama in New York too/ and the character of Angel in Macocha by the same author, Ververt in Rostand's Cyrano, Emcee and Her Schultz in Cabaret! Cabaret!, Gratian in William Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice, he created important figures in theater productions Uncle Vanya, The Forest, The Philistines, Crime and Punishment, Summerfolk, Month in the Country and many other productions of the ASTORKA Korzo '90 Theater.

In addition to theatrical production, he performs in artistic full-length movies, television series and series, radio, for example under the direction of directors Miloslav Luther, Juraj Jakubisko, Dušan Trančík, Juraj Nvota and Karol Kachyňa.