

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE REHEARSAL FOR TRUTH THEATER FESTIVAL TO PRESENT SPRING WEEKEND:
A SELECTION OF EUROPEAN STAGE READINGS IN NYC, BOHEMIAN NATIONAL HALL, MAY 10-12, 2019.**

**POLAND: PUPPENHAUS.TREATMENT
SUNDAY, MAY 12 at 7PM**

In spring 2019, the REHEARSAL FOR TRUTH theater festival, honoring Vaclav Havel, will add a weekend of contemporary European stage readings to their yearly program. The Vaclav Havel Library Foundation (VHLF) partners with the Bohemian Benevolent & Literary Association to create a showcase of young European playwrights. The selection process includes choosing Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian and Slovak plays that have been translated into English and reflect on current social and political issues of the region.

The Polish stage reading offering entitled *Puppenhaus.Treatment* by Magda Fertacz is translated by Artur Zapalowski and directed by Zishan Ugurlu

"Traitors to the country," "collaborators," and "renegades," are World War II figures that have re-entered the national and political discourse of today. Playwright, Magda Fertacz, examines the issues of treason and collaborationism from the perspective of alternative codes of memory: those typically dismissed as uncomfortable, incompatible with one-dimensional heroism and black-and-white view of patriotism. By constructing a theatrical fantasy about wartime, the artists are asking questions about the stigmatization, punishment and judgment of individuals who, for a variety of reasons, renounce heroism and refuse to fight and make sacrifices for their country. How is historical memory and moral evaluation of past choices and actions constructed? What are the limits of interpreting and fantasizing about history charged with trauma and heroism? How can collective memory be healed?

Magda Fertacz was born in 1975. She is a playwright, screenwriter, interior designer, and winner of the Gdynia Drama Award and the competition at the Polish Contemporary Art Exhibition. Magda Fertacz is a graduate of the College of Communication and Social Media and the Department of Journalism of the University of Warsaw. She made her debut as a playwright with the play, *Dust*, staged at the National Theater in Warsaw by Anna Trojanowska, which earned a distinction in the Radom Odważny contest in 2005.

Zishan Ugurlu is a resident actress and director at La MaMa Theater and has worked extensively both in New York and abroad. She is the founding artistic director of Actors without Borders-ITONY. She graduated from Columbia University with a MFA degree and holds a Ph.D. She is currently teaching at The

New School University as an Associate Professor. She is the recipient of the prestigious Fox Foundation Fellowship granted by Theater Communications Group.

FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-weekend-puppenhaustreatment-poland-tickets-59967167412>

ABOUT SPRING WEEKEND

The Rehearsal for Truth theater festival, honoring Vaclav Havel presents Spring Weekend. It is a showcase of emerging Czech, Hungarian, Polish, and Slovak playwrights whose work reflects on current social and political issues. The plays have been translated into English and feature local New York performers and directors who will have the opportunity to try out these works onstage as part of the European Month of Culture. The program will include a full Romanian production as well.

The cultural institutions of these five countries collaborate with VHLF to select the plays as well as arrange trips for some of the chosen playwrights to NYC to participate in the rehearsals, stage reading performances, and discussions with the audience after the shows.

The program is organized by the Vaclav Havel Library Foundation and the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association, in collaboration with the Consulate General of the Czech Republic, Consulate General of Slovakia, the Polish Cultural Institute, the Romanian Cultural Institute, and Untitled Theater Company #61.

The program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

All productions for this Spring Weekend are held at the Bohemian National Hall, 321 E. 73rd St., New York, NY, 10021, and have been translated into English. The stage readings and full-length production are free events, and reservations can be made on Eventbrite. After every stage reading and production, there will be talk backs with the artists followed by a small reception hosted by the featured country's cultural institution.

For more information visit: <https://www.vhlf.org/>