

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.**

HUNGARY: SUNFLOWER

SATURDAY MAY 11 at 4PM

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 Hungarian stage reading offering is entitled *Sunflower* by Andrea Pass, directed by Adrian Alexa and translated by Patrick Mullaney.

The playwright Andrea Pass will be present for the stage reading and talkback after the event. Her visit is supported, in part, by CITD - Center for International Theatre Development.

In *Sunflower*, a young couple with a dysfunctional marriage and illness taking over their lives, faces losing their home. Familiar situations, and scenes from contemporary life, become a series of revealing snapshots through the eyes of adults as well as children.

The play is set in a small town and involves ordinary characters: the young idealist teacher, the friendly caretaker, three young teens, the handsome doctor, the hopeful shop assistant, the troubled woman in the psychiatric ward. They all bear witness to the story of this three-person family. The father and the 10-year-old, Janka, are trying to cope with the increasingly erratic behavior of the mother. *Sunflower* is a vibrant tableau of everyday life, vulnerable and burdened with financial problems, broken families, and taboos and shame surrounding mental illness.

The Playwright:

Andrea Pass is a playwright and director. She graduated as a theater historian from the University of Veszprém, Hungary and spent time in Nancy and London on scholarships during her studies. She worked as an assistant to Béla Pintér and Viktor Bodó while she studied script-writing and earned a degree in theater pedagogy. She was awarded the prestigious István Örkény Playwrights Grant for young playwrights on two occasions. Three of her works have been published in print, one of them recently in the Polish

Dialog theatrical magazine. Her work deals with social issues while also exploring the human condition, strongly believing in the transformative power of theater.

FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-weekend-sunflower-hungary-tickets-59965963812>

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/>