

# Rehearsal for Truth

Theater Festival  
honoring  
Vaclav Havel

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## URN ON AN EMPTY STAGE

*Sunday, May 12, 2019, 3 p.m.*

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“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



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

Rehearsal for Truth Spring Weekend showcases stage readings from emerging Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, and Slovak playwrights translated into English. The program includes a full length Romanian production. The plays, featuring local New York performers and directors, reflect on current social and political issues.

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## The Company:

Playwright: Martin Cicvak

Translator: Katarina Vizina (a.k.a Briggler)

Director: Michael Piatkowski

Cast: Andrea Sooch  
Diana Sillaots  
Jeremy Carlisle Parker  
Katarina Vizina (a.k.a Briggler)

## The Play

In *Urn on an Empty Stage*, Martin Cicvak brilliantly explores the dynamics between authoritative figures and their “victims”, particularly women. Using the Greek myth of Europa, the play attacks the problem of gender equality and the status of women in today’s society. The story begins when three actresses and an opera diva meet on an empty stage. They have come to say their last farewell to a great director whose ashes they have brought with them in an urn.

With him, the women want to bury memories of career highlights along with recollections of the traumas the director caused them. But they are getting stuck in the preparation of the ceremony. They can’t come to an accord about its nature, or even agree about what has been and what is to come. At its heart, the play is a testimony to the complex relationships in the world of theater - the three actresses fight and detest each other, but also find themselves in tender harmony.

## Playwright

**Martin Cicvak** is a native of Kosice, Slovakia. His plays include *Frankie is OK*, *Peggy is Fine* and *the House is Cool*, *Agent Sonia*, *Kukura*, and *Urn on an Empty Stage*. His works have been produced across Europe including at Grace Theater London (under his own direction), Norwich Playhouse, State Theater Kosice (Slovakia), The North Theater in Satu Mare (Romania), and State Theater in Novi Sad (Serbia). Cicvak's awards include the Alfred Radok Award for Talent of the Year (2000) and the most prestigious Slovak theater award Dosky (2004) for Best Direction and Best Production of Schimmelpfennig's *Arabian Night* at the Slovak National Theater. From 1999 - 2004 he was the resident director of the National Theater in Brno. In 2000, he started to direct at the Prague theater The Drama Club. Cicvak has also directed productions in Prague, Bratislava, Budapest, Vienna, Ljubljana, and Norwich. He has a Master's degree in Directing from Janacek Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (JAMU) in Brno, Czech Republic and he studied directing at Dartington College of Arts in London on the Erasmus Scholarship.

## Director

**Michael Piatkowski** began his professional theatre career at age 12, in the Jan Hus Playhouse (just a block up from Bohemian National Hall) playing Pinocchio. Throughout his fifty-five years long career in New York theater, he has been a director, playwright, as well as a prolific costume designer for many Off-Broadway and Off-Off-Broadway shows. Most recently, he has directed at the Alchemical Theater, The Secret Theater, The Players Theater, and The Alpha Theater Company, among others. He is thrilled to be working on this new exciting play with these amazing actresses.

## Translator

**Katarina Vizina (a.k.a. Brigglor)** started acting in radio plays and shows in her homeland of Slovakia at the age of 9. She is equally comfortable playing Lady Macbeth, singing a solo in five different languages, dancing a flamenco routine, recording a voice over or facing the camera delivering a five minute monologue. She has taught acting to seniors in New York and to teenagers in Europe. Katarina is honored to have been asked to translate the "*Urn*" into English and absolutely thrilled to be able to perform in it with such an outstanding international cast.

katarinavizina.com, IG @katarinavizina)

## Performers

**Andrea Sooch** is an accomplished theater, movie, and TV actor, originally from Hungary. She passionately believes in the transformative power of story and performance in both of her fields; as an actor and as a therapist. She is always excited and grateful when she can explore new work, create new characters, and play with likeminded artists. She thinks that it's peculiar to write about herself in third person.

Check out her TV credits on IMDb or [andreasooch.net](http://andreasooch.net).

Follow on IG [@andreasooch](https://www.instagram.com/andreasooch)

**Diana Sillaots** was born in Estonia. She moved to New York City in 2011 and has worked as an actor and a co-writer on several indie short and feature film projects since then. To name a few, *Allure* by Vlado Nikolic, *Blue Sky* by Luis Fernandez and music video clip to Vance Joy's *Fire and Flood*. The most recent being *Capio* (in post-production) by Aleksandar Kostic. She has studied Lee Strassberg's Method with David Gideon and trained at The Atlantic Acting School.

IMDb.me/Diana Lotus, IG [@dianalotus](https://www.instagram.com/dianalotus)

**Jeremy Carlisle Parker** is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA and Actor's Equity Association. Her recent performance highlights include Jacqueline in *La Cage aux Folles*, Vi Moore in *Footloose*, Woman 1 in *First Date*, Soprano in Eve Ensler's one-act play *Extraordinary Measures* with New York City's Music Theatre Group, and Sophie de Palma in *Master Class*. She can be seen in the role of Dorothy in the Academy Award nominated film *Carol*.

[jercarpar.actor](https://www.instagram.com/jercarpar), IG [@jercarpar](https://www.instagram.com/jercarpar)