



DRAK

THEATRE

SEASON

2023

/ 2024



DRAK THEATRE HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ CZECH REPUBLIC

About the company:

Drak Theatre from Hradec Králové, Czech Republic is based not only on the traditions of (East) Bohemian puppetry, but also on the principle of devised productions building on imagination and unique originality, aimed at children as well as adults. Throughout their history, Drak has been pioneering new methods and creative approaches, which has brought them a number of awards, both national and international.

Drak Theatre performs its plays for the whole family, so all generations of theatre-goers, from infants up to their grandparents, can meet in the auditorium.

Over 60 years, productions of Drak, a proud heir of the strolling puppetry legacy, have been seen by spectators in more than 650 towns and cities located in 38 countries over five continents (Europe, Asia, Australia, North and South America). These countries' population totals 1 571 275 000 inhabitants, which is 21% of the world's population, speaking 34 different official languages.

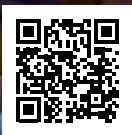
Booking:

Tereza Trnková
international@draktheatre.cz
www.draktheatre.cz



Veronika Poldauf Riedlbauchová

BEDTIME!





Veronika Poldauf Riedlbauchová

BEDTIME!

Physical theatre, clownery

Language: Nonverbal

Premiere: 26 September 2020

Audience: children (3+), families

Length: 45 minutes

Awards: Mateřinka International Theatre festival 2021, Best Direction and Choreography, Best Scenography and Light Design, Best Music

Credits:

Direction and Choreography: Veronika Poldauf Riedlbauchová

Stage Design: Marianna Stránská

Music: Jan Čtvrtník

Dramaturgy: Tomáš Jarkovský

Light Design: Michal Kříž

Cast: Petra Cicáková, Luděk Smadiš,
Dominik Linka

About the production:

A devised production bordering on poetic physical theatre and clownery. The production builds on the well-known moment when children should go to bed, but suddenly they discover an undreamt surge of energy and do not want to get to sleep at all, with their father naively thinking how smooth this will be.

Press:

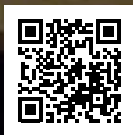
“The fact that all the movement seems simple, the music precisely comments on the events on the stage and the sorcery with the light manages, in an instant, to change the stage, which is dominated by a huge bed, all testify that there is careful work behind Bedtime!, which the creators do not need to exhibit vehemently, but have devotedly woven it into a coherent and entertaining form.” Veronika Švecová, Hadrián – Official bulletin of the Regions Theatre Festival, 21. 6. 2021

“All of their movements appear graceful and undemanding.” Alexandra Ratajová, Loutkářská Chrudim Festival Bulletin – 70th edition, 3. 7. 2021



Jiří Havelka, Marek Zákostelecký

GEORGES MÉLIÈS' LAST TRICK





Jiří Havelka, Marek Zákostelecký

GEORGES MÉLIÈS'

LAST TRICK

Visual theatre, theatre of illusions, slapstick, multimedial theatre

Language: Nonverbal

Premiere: 5 October 2013

Audience: children (9+), youth, families, adults

Length: 50 minutes

Awards: ERIK Award – Best Puppet Performance of the Season, Theatre Newspaper's Award - Best Actor of The Season, Best Puppet Theatre, Festival Spotkanie Toruń - Grand Prix in categories Best Actor, Director and Music

Credits:

Directed by: Jiří Havelka

Stage Design: Marek Zákostelecký

Dramaturgy: Dominika Špalková

Music: DVA

Cast: Petra Cicáková / Johana Vavřínová, Luděk Smadiš, Milan Hajn, Šimon Dohnálek, Jan Popela

About the production:

How to become immortal? There's one trick! A theatrical performance which is a tribute to the world of magic, film and imagination. Divadlo Drak's production is inspired by the remarkable life and work of the cinematic pioneer Georges Méliès. It takes us to the enticing setting of magicians, tricks and magic. The magic tricks that Méliès was the first to use in a film medium, in an unbelievably imaginative manner we might

add, still have their artistic poetry today. And, above all, there are many who have followed in his footsteps. Even death comes up short in Méliès' world full of boundless imagination, since celluloid, illusion and fantasy are weapons that seem to be able to defeat even the Grim Reaper himself... Or can they? We will find out when the story of the fascinating life of the greatest film magician of all time ends.

Press:

"An hour of pure theatre, an hour of eruptive fantasy, perfect playfulness, an hour of contagious joy from creativity, that is the event of the season and it is every theatre lover's obligation to not miss it. An exceedingly excellent production using the perfectly adopted techniques of silent film escapades and Méliès' attempts at special effect tricks, and he has got a fine troupe of actors for it." Michal Zahálka, nativadlo.blogspot.cz

"An ingenious combination of a puppet Punch and Judy show and slapstick film, all purely through theatrical, seemingly simple means. It is a tribute to a cinematic magician, but also to playfulness, fantasy and artistic tenacity. Definitely an experience!" Nina Malíková, Theatre Newspaper

"The new production immediately draws you in, even adults will get lost in wonderment and enchantment for a while, not to speak of poetry with a touch of nostalgia." Petr Mareček, MF Dnes

Dominika Špalková and collective.

LOG LEG





Dominika Špalková and collective

LOG LEG

Physical theatre, visual theatre, dance

Language: Nonverbal

Premiere: 10 February 2019

Audience: children (4+), families

Length: 40 minutes

Credits:

Concept and Direction: Dominika Špalková and collective

Music: DVA

Costumes: Tereza Dvořáčková

Scenography: Jana Bačová Kroftová

Performer: Jazmína Piktorová

About the production:

A story of a little girl who loved to jump and dance. An original production about the unwavering desire to move and dance. Young Jazmína loves jumping and dancing above all else. One day, however, she has an accident and all of a sudden she cannot dance. She starts to observe everything around her that is moving and dancing.

An adventure of the imagination and the love of the game can begin, blending fantasy and reality! A tenderly fierce and true story about the joy of movement for children and the children in us.

Press:

"And ultimately the most beautiful, most innocent, most naive and most sensual in its beauty; hope. The inexhaustible, undeviating, unlimited, pure hope of a child. No fears, doubts or limitations. The hope that we adults used to have. When following the performance, we get the impression that there is no reason why we shouldn't trust the child in us again. One strong reminder that theatre and the imagination transcend any handicap." Stela Mišković FIAT International Festival of Alternative Theatre in Montenegro, August 2020

"The performance is a celebration of movement, dance, theatre and fantasy regardless of any limitation." Petr Mareček, MF DNES Newspaper, 25. 2. 2019



Veronika Poldauf Riedlbauchová

WHAT A CHALLENGE!





Veronika Poldauf Riedlbauchová

WHAT A CHALLENGE!

Physical theatre, new circus, clownery

Language: Nonverbal

Premiere: 29 April 2023

Audience: children (3+), families

Length: 45 minutes

Credits:

Concept, direction and choreography:

Veronika Poldauf Riedlbauchová

Stage design and costumes: Marianna Stránská

Music and sound design: Jan Čtvrtník

Dramaturgy: Barbora Pokorná, Tomáš Jarkovský

Cats: Petra Cicáková, Edita Dohnálková Valášek,
Šimon Dohnálek, Luděk Smadiš

About the production:

Poetic slapstick about an unusual visit

Imagine that one fine day an angel suddenly falls into your home. Right out of the blue. Just a moment ago he was flying somewhere above the clouds and suddenly he's here. He doesn't understand our world, he doesn't know its rules, and he would like to return to where he came from. But how can he? How can we help him? Perhaps mother could tell us, but she somehow thinks we made the whole story up.

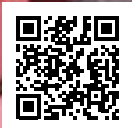
But the angel is here. Everyone can see him, everyone can hear him, no one can overlook him. Or can they?

A new production bordering on poetic physical theatre and clownish slapstick by the established creative trio of Riedlbauchová – Stránská – Čtvrtník, which has already prepared a successful and award-winning production *Bedtime!* for Drak Theatre. In their new production, apart from Petra Cicáková and Luděk Smadiš, who have already abundantly displayed their extraordinary art of movement and sense for gags in *Bedtime!*, you will get to see the two youngest members of the Drak ensemble, Edita Dohnálková Valášek and Šimon Dohnálek.



Tomáš Jarkovský, Jakub Vašíček

SLEEPING BEAUTY





Tomáš Jarkovský, Jakub Vašíček

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Glove puppet theatre

Language: Czech language with English subtitles

Premiere: 5 September 2020

Audience: children (6+), families

Length: 50 minutes

Awards:

19th International Festival of Children's Theatres- BANJA LUKA 2020 - Best Direction

Credits:

Script: Tomáš Jarkovský, Jakub Vašíček

Direction: Jakub Vašíček

Stage Design: Kamil Bělohávek

Costumes: Tereza Vašíčková

Puppets: Tereza Vašíčková

Music: Daniel Čámský

Dramaturgy: Tomáš Jarkovský

Cast: Pavla Lustyková, Jan Popela,

Milan Ždárský, Petr Seiner

About the production:

Puppet slapstick based on the classic fairy-tale.

An evil fairy is not invited to be a godmother to an infant princess. Yet, the fairy is not to be discouraged and keeps attempting to reach the baptism at any cost. Will the fairy succeed?

The readers familiar with the story know that she will. Our production tells the story as a puppet slapstick about the inevitability of faith, when you literally show it out of the door and it will return through the window. However, besides evil fairies, there are also good ones. The world abounds with princes seeking fortune and ready to set free cursed princesses.

Our production is based on classic fairy-tale themes, which are a traditional dramaturgical part of Drak Theatre's repertoire.

Press:

"Certainty, interplay and humour reigned over the entire professional art of puppetry, without a hint of pandering."

Petr Mareček, MF DNES Newspaper, 15. 10. 2020

"The precise workmanship of the evil stepmother Jan Popela dominated the flawless work with the puppets."
Alexandra Ratajová, Loutkářská Chrudim Festival Bulletin – 70th edition, 3. 7. 2021



Miřenka Čechová, Dominika Špalková

THE WALL

GROWING UP BEHIND
THE IRON CURTAIN





Miřenka Āechov, Dominika řpalkov

THE WALL — GROWING UP BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

Physical theatre, visual theatre

Language: Czech language with English subtitles

Premiere: 21 September 2019

Audience: children (9+), youth, adults

Length: 40 minutes

Awards:

Hradeck mza 2019, annual award given by the city of Hradec Krlov for a significant achievement in the cultural field.

Thalie Award 2020 nominee for actors Jazmna Piktorov and Milan Hajn.

Credits:

Concept, Script, Directed by:

Miřenka Āechov, Dominika řpalkov

Music: Martin Tvrd

Stage Design: Jindřich Max Pavlček

Animation: Linda Arbanov

Light Design: Jiř řmirk

Cast: Jazmna Piktorov, Milan Hajn

About the production:

The theatre production based on the book *The Wall* is musical and visual grotesque dealing with an utterly non-grotesque past, told from the perspective of a boy who loves colours, but not

grey shades, adores music but not fearful silence, believes in dreams and is full of hope. Using visual arts, music, animation, comics, puppetry and playful performing, the makers of the show try to mediate the experience of children's perception. They also want to provide the youngest generation with a closer understanding of the uneasy totalitarian times and to initiate further discussion with teachers and parents regarding issues of oppression and freedom. The autumn of 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution. Our production wants to contribute to its intergenerational understanding and to highlight such a seminal milestone of Czech history. The performance focuses on the interactivity between acting and animation, music and movement.

Press:

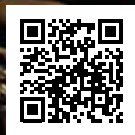
"Perhaps it was the intention of the authors Miřenka Āechov and Dominika řpalkov, that there was less imagination and theatrical magic, so that the production tailored to the Drak Studio would clearly tell children from 9 years and up where words are not enough. Thus, paradoxically, a theatrical illustration was created of what are already distinctive comics."

Petr MareĀek, MF DNES, 2. 10. 2019



Jack London, Tomáš Jarkovský, Jakub Vašíček

WHITE FANG





Jack London, Tomáš Jarkovský,
Jakub Vašíček

WHITE FANG

Live-cinema, visual theatre

Language: Czech language with English subtitles

Premiere: 3 March 2018

Audience: children (9+), youth, adult

Length: 60 minutes

Awards: Thalie Award (Alternative and Puppet Theatre category) – Best Actor, ERIK Award - Best Puppet Performance of the Season, Skupa's Pilsner festival Awards - Concept of the performance

Credits:

Written by: Jack London

Adaptation of performance by: Tomáš Jarkovský,
Jakub Vašíček

Directed by: Jakub Vašíček

Stage Design: Antonín Šilar, Tereza Vašíčková

Music: Daniel Čámský

Dramaturgy: Tomáš Jarkovský

Cast: Milan Hajn, Dominik Linka, Jan Popela,
Luděk Smadiš, Milan Žďárský, Jiří Vyšohlíd

About the production:

A production based on the famous adventure novel by Jack London - White Fang - a story of a wolf-dog. The far north is a hostile place during the rough times of the gold rush, where White Fang, a cross-breed of dog and wolf puppy, is growing. Characterised by wildness and effervescence, White Fang cannot easily fit

in with a pack of wolves or even among people; he is neither accepted, nor does he accept easily. As he grows up, he encounters violence and hatred as well as kindness and even love. What will eventually be imprinted in his soul?

Press:

"In the role of White Fang, Milan Hajn gives an absolutely exceptional and complex performance, which combines stage work with modern recording techniques (the use of live cinema) as well as very personal acting in a first-person narrative. (...) Hajn is absolutely dominant and unmistakable in this production." 2019 Thálie Awards, commentary of the expert committee on the nominations

"The most clever use of camera on stage I have ever seen. (...) The protagonist of the main character is unbelievable." Mojca Redjko, Slovene National Theatre Maribor, 2019

"The strong story is rendered originally, enabling the audiences to experience being in the wolf's skin." Antonie Holubová, 5. 4. 2018, divabaze.cz

The effect is perfect. The camera's magic aspires to the realm of poetry." P.J. Kříž, 6. 3. 2018, Právo Newspaper

"A powerful experience for audiences young and old." Nikola Škvarová, 19.4.2018, Divědové na blogu



Daniel Čámský, Karel Kratochvíl, Jakub Vašíček

PLAY IT





Daniel Čámský, Karel Kratochvíl,
Jakub Vašíček

PLAY IT

Visual music theatre

Language: Czech language, mostly reproduced
- can be recorded in any language

Premiere: 6 November 2021

Audience: children (3+), families

Length: 45 minutes

Credits:

Concept: Karel Kratochvíl, Jakub Vašíček

Director: Jakub Vašíček

Libretto: Karel Kratochvíl

Music: Daniel Čámský

Stage Design: Tereza Vašíčková

Dramaturgy: Tomáš Jarkovský, Barbora Pokorná

Cast: Petra Cicáková, Barbara Jarkovská Humel,
Pavla Lustyková, Edita Valášková

About the production:

A concert of sound and motion for four actresses

Which sound goes with which to make candy
for the ears? Who to tell what and when? How
great is the reward for those who listen carefully?
Which of the keys opens the mysterious cube?
And what (or who) is inside it?

Play it is a production that is meant for the smallest children who are hot on the trail of the great mystery known as music. What exactly is music? And how is it made? Why do we perceive some sounds as just noise or interference, while at other times they start to become music? Join us on an adventurous journey from the first breath to the first concert. A journey where there is nothing more than confusion at the beginning, while a shared composition, live concert, a theatrical depiction of music awaits at the end.

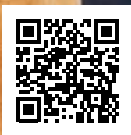
Press:

„Four performers explore a yellow cube equipped with audio technology and gently draw the audience into the game. Children can guess the sounds. (...) In fascination, I watch the geysers of children's imagination stuffed into the script. The four performers rearrange the cube into all conceivable shapes, while drumming on it, lids clickety clacking. Boredom is forbidden. Even your own body can serve as a musical instrument when it comes down to it.”
Veronika Boušová, divadelni-noviny.cz, 27 June 2022



Bea Uusma, Filip Homola

THE EXPEDITION: MY LOVE!





Bea Uusma, Filip Homola

THE EXPEDITION: MY LOVE!

**Documentary theater, Object theater,
Puppet theater, Masks**

Language: Czech language with English subtitles

Premiere: 26 February 2022

Audience: children (9+), youth, adults

Length: 50 minutes

Credits:

Concept: Bea Uusma

Script and Direction: Filip Homola

Stage Design: Robert Smolík

Music: Kora et le Mechanix

Dramaturgy: Barbora Pokorná, Tomáš Jarkovský

Translation from Original: Helena Stiessová

Cast: Barbara Jarkovská Humel, Luděk Smadiš,
Šimon Ženišek, Milan Žďárský

About the production:

White Island is glowing. Lost in the middle of the Arctic Ocean, it gives off light, because nobody can see it. Right now, when I am sitting in Stockholm writing these lines, White Island is enveloped in a glow.

Nobody can see it. But the island glows on.

The production is based on the book *The Expedition: A Love Story* by the Swedish author Bea

Uusma. It follows the trail of the three-member pioneering expedition of the engineer André from the year 1897, which unsuccessfully tried to conquer the North Pole with the use of a hot air balloon. This adventure story has been told many times over, including in the film *The Flight of the Eagle*, which was nominated for an Oscar. It is appearing for the first time, however, on a Czech stage. It contains the romantic spirit of exploration and discovery, the tragedy of a human fate that came to a premature end somewhere in the polar wilderness, unfulfilled true love and several humorous, slapstick moments related to the very plan of the expedition. Who would have thought to reach the North Pole in a balloon?

Press:

“The most imaginative and conceptually accurate, witty and, in its artistic ideas, uncommonly entertaining production of *Expedition: My Love* from guest director Filip Homola and stage designer Robert Smolík is complemented by the ubiquitous atmospheric music of Kora et le Mechanix and is characterised by very balanced performances by the actors.”
Veronika Bednářová, *reflex.cz*, 16 March 2022



T. Jarkovský a J. Vašíček based on Sophocles:

ANTIGONE





T. Jarkovský a J. Vašíček based on Sophocles: ANTIGONE

Contemporary drama, Youth, Object theatre

Language: Czech language with English subtitles

Premiere: 13 May 2022

Audience: youth, adults

Length: 80 minutes

Credits:

Script: Tomáš Jarkovský and Jakub Vašíček

Director: Jakub Vašíček

Stage Design: Kamil Bělohávek

Costumes: Tereza Vašíčková

Music: Daniel Čámský

Choreography: Dora Sulženko Hošťová

Dramaturgy: Tomáš Jarkovský, Barbora Pokorná

Cast: Jazmína Piktorová, Edita Valášková, Milan

Hajn, Šimon Dohnálek, Luděk Smadiš, Petr Reif,

Barbara Jarkovská Humel, Jiří Vyšohlid,

Jan Popela, Dominik Linka, Pavla Lustyková, Petra

Cicáková, Pavel Černík, Jan Čipčala, Šimon Ženišek

Co-producer: Městská divadla pražská

About the production:

This is not the subject of a Latin American soap opera or an endless series from a city periphery, but the fate of the young heroine of an ancient tragedy: her father murdered his own father, her grandfather, and slept with his mother. Hence with her own her mother. And therefore also with her grandmother. Her brothers kill each other, and one of the brothers is not allowed to be buried by her future father-in-law. And then her mother's brother. Or her grandmother's. Whichever. And it is not exactly easy with her sister, either. Or is her sister having problem with the heroine? It's hard to say... Oedipus complex,

Psyche, Eros. Only the Xanax is not a Greek word, but it might as well be. Either way, walking up to the very threshold of adulthood with such a load on your back seems more like a Pyrrhic victory. What did she do to deserve it? Why could not she have been born into a normal family? Is there even a normal family?

The heroine would like to finally take her destiny into her own hands. But she is confronted with an absurd ban that brings back all the shadows of her family's past. But why should she be the one to bear the weight of wrongs and misdeeds committed by someone else? It seems that in order to live a normal life at all, she has no choice but to fundamentally reassess her relationship to authority, to her parents, to those close to her, to the world and, ultimately, to herself. Following the theatrical road-movie *The Journey*, devised reworking of the ancient myth based on the motives of Sophocles' tragedy is the second of the new cycle of productions by the Drak Theatre aimed at teenage audiences.

Press:

"In the 'theatre in a theatre', Drak once again proves its greatest strength: a high standard of collective acting and musical versatility, the ability of instant animation, a feeling for timing and a sense of humour. The instructive production of suppressed gestures, high emotions, real fire and steam from the sauna of responsibility for yourself and the family in which one finds oneself, without being asked, has a great chance to reach its audience and ignite interest in both antiquity and in theatrical imagination. I hope so for the audience and for Drak."

Antigone has a chance to wow sensitive audiences, Petr Mareček, MF DNES, 21 May 2022 | rating 75%

REGIONY
MEZINÁRODNÍ
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HRADEC KRÁLOVĚ



REGIONY MEZINÁRODNÍ DIVADELNÍ FESTIVAL HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ

The REGIONS International Theatre Festival Hradec Králové 23.-30. 6. 2023

For several decades, the end of June in Hradec Králové has been synonymous with a multi-day celebration of theatre, the body and all its senses or, in other words, the theatre festival. The REGIONS International Theatre Festival Hradec Králové (formerly the Theatre of European Regions Festival and Open Air Program) is one of the most important cultural events in the city of Hradec Králové and represents the largest theatrical showcases in the Czech Republic. Thanks to many years of tradition, the rich history and the renown of the organisers, which are Klicpera Theatre, Drak Theatre and kontrapunkt, it can undoubtedly be described as being of key importance in the entire Czech theatre festival tradition. The genius loci of the historical centre of the city of Hradec Králové contributes to the incomparable atmosphere of the festival, the character of which is closest to the theatre festival in Avignon.

The Regions Festival represents an absolutely unique, pulsating event reflecting a rich cross section of the current local and international cultural scene. The entire city is suddenly transformed from a constant and picturesque surface into a living mechanism, into one great big interconnected performance permeating the city's parks, streets, walls and last, but not least, people. It offers an exceptional cultural experience and for many troupes is a traditional event to end the theatre season.

The festival's dramaturgy offers a cross section of the contemporary Czech theatre scene, from amateur troupes and student presentations to independent professional ensembles and productions from renowned Czech stages. Additionally, each year it brings original productions to Hradec Králové, which resonate on the current international scene and are being presented in the Czech Republic for the very first time.

"The important thing is that an event has been created in Hradec that is probably comparable with its atmosphere and breadth to the Karlovy Vary film festival or large music festivals." Vladimír Mikulka, critic, Editor of Svět a divadlo magazine.

festivalregiony.cz