

WHO IS WHO

At the Archa Theatre International Summer School : Theatre in Social Context



Ondřej Hrab is the director of Archa Theatre. He graduated from the University of Economics in Prague, in the following years he then worked as a sociologist. Under the communist regime he was active in non-conformist cultural activities. He initiated and organised clandestine performances by foreign artists, including, for example The Living Theatre and the Japanese dancer Min Tanaka. In 1991, he became Director of the E. F. Burian Theatre in Prague, transforming this traditional repertory theatre into a contemporary cultural centre under the name Archa Theatre.

Since Archa Theatre's opening in 1994 he has continued to introduce contemporary performing arts to the Czech Republic, bringing renowned international artists to the country, and also developing Archa's own cross-genre artistic projects. He has also been an active member of various national and European councils and working groups on the topic of cultural exchange and networks.

Jana Svobodová is the artistic director of the Archa.Lab centre for theatre research, and the artistic director of the Akcent – International festival of documentary theatre; together with Ondřej Hrab she co-creates the dramaturgical strategy for the Archa theatre. In her work as a director she is constantly engaged in projects focused on cooperation between professional artists and members of specific social groups – i.e. citizens of South African townships, hip hop community, foreigners who are looking for a new home in the Czech Republic, recent immigrants to the United States and others. Her projects have been presented at festivals in the Czech Republic as well as in US, Japan, South Africa, Germany, Austria, Poland, Slovenia and other countries.



Jaroslav Hrdlička is a videoart specialist. He graduated from Academy of Fine Arts in Prague in the atelier New Media with Markus Huemer. In his work he is constantly experimenting with interconnection of fine arts with the theatrical language and video. He engages in poetry, literature, music and multimedial projects, his work was exhibited in the galleries such as Langhans, Avoid, Skleněná louka and others. He is a member of the project Kyklos Galaktikos. One of the developers of the videogame Dark Train.

Philipp Schenker is a performer, musician and artist based in Prague, originally from Switzerland. He graduated in graphic design from the Academy of Fine Arts in Zurich, later he got involved in object and physical theatre. As a performer and co-author he worked with Dogtroep, Grif-theater, SILO-theater and other famous theatre companies. In Prague, he co-founded the theatre unit Stage Code and cooperated on productions with HOME theatre, festival 4 Days in Movement, Vosto5, Meetfactory and several projects of Archa Theatre.



Jan Burian is a musician, theatre director, performer and composer of music of all genres – from electronic to classical. He is a founding member of the group Kyklos Galaktikos who label themselves as rap / hip-hop / electroacoustic / experimental / noise. In the theatre work he stresses simplicity and interconnection of different styles and spheres. As a sound designer, he cooperated on projects with Min Tanaka, Jana Svobodová, Farma v jeskyni and others.

Pavel Kotlík is a light designer and light technician. He worked in the Theatre Řeznická, the Prague Chamber Ballet or the Ponoc Theatre, cooperated on projects of Jaro Viňarský, Farma v jeskyni, Teatr Novogo Fronta. Since 2011 he has collaborated with the Archa Theatre on several projects directed by VerTeDance and by Jana Svobodová. In 2012 he won the Award for Light Design for VerTeDance performance “Lost and Found”. He was dedicated to lighting from his youth, he passed smoothly from school to the theater, first as a theater technician: therefore he also refers of himself as a theatre maker rather than a lighting designer. In the professional community, he is known as a tireless creator of visual compositions on the stage – only few can paint surfaces and accentuate details as he does.



Heiner Goebbels is German composer and director; music theatre works, staged concerts, radio pieces, compositions for ensemble and for big orchestra, installative works. Professor at the Institute for Applied Theatre Studies of the Justus Liebig University in Giessen and President of Theatre Academy Hessen; numerous international awards, the International Ibsen Award 2012, honorary doctorate Birmingham City University. 2012-2014 artistic director of the „Ruhrtriennale - International Festival of the Arts“. CDs, anthology „Aesthetics of Absence“ (2015). see: www.heinergoebbels.com

Pieter De Buysser is a Dutch-speaking writer, he lives and works in Brussels. His novel "The stonecutters" will be published in Czech by Argo in June 2016, he has written over 25 texts for theater and performance. His work has been described as "A tribute to critical thought, humor, and the art of narration" (Cobra, Belgium). Besides writing for performance, theater and film he directs internationally acclaimed theater productions like Book Burning, Landscape with Skiproads, Afzal and most recently Immerwahr. His short films have been awarded on numerous film festivals. While being highly alert of current social, political and human issues, he constantly reflects and questions our day-to-day presence. A coproduction project with Archa Theatre The After Party explores the legacy of Vaclav Havel on the backdrop of today's Europe. He has received the Emile Zola Prize, the "DwarseDenker" Trophy and the "Kleine Marie Hartman-pen". His shows are regularly invited to the most influential festivals throughout Europe.



Henk Keizer is a Dutch performer, director, activist and expert. As an actor and leader he was involved with several theatre companies - he was a director of famous Dutch group Trajekt Theatre Company, festival Oerol, and the Dogtroep group with whom produced various projects all around the world. During his period, the Dogtroep focused on working in "living locations"- not abandoned factories but places holding stories of people who live and work there, where current social, economic and moral issues come to the surface. Such projects were performed for example in prison in Bruges or the inland

border crossing in the Passengers Terminal Amsterdam.

Mattijs Maussen is a curator of creative policy and plan making processes for large scale European cultural interventions and innovations. In the last years mostly for European Capitals of Culture, he initiated partnerships of Enterprises, Ministries and large Cities and engaged public interest groups. All over Europe Mattijs conducted studies for the European Commission, made Country strategies for spending of EU funds, delivered impact research and large scale communication actions for EU presidencies, wrote Regional Subsidy Project Selection programmes, drew Transnational development plans and designed Public Procurement processes. Part of this work included research on undocumented persons that led to travel to 65 countries.



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