

UNITY IN THE HETEROGENEITY

(NON-VERBAL THEATRE WORKSHOP)

WITH **JURAJ BENČÍK**, THE FORMER WHITE CLOWN
IN THE CIRQUE DE SOLEIL

THE LOCATION: **HRONOV (CZECH REPUBLIC)** AS A
PART OF THE BIGGEST AMATEUR THEATRE FESTIVAL
IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC 'JIRASKŮV HRONOV'

31ST JULY – 8TH AUGUST 2020

We invite all those interested in non-verbal forms of theatre to the workshop as a part of the biggest Czech amateur theatre festival 'Jiráskův Hronov'.

Go through the workshop with internationally respected Slovak teacher, actor and director, watch a pile of (not only) Czech amateur theatre performances, meet plenty of new friends and find lots of unforgettable experiences.



We have a lot of topics that are troubling us. That separate us – the Europeans. We can be divided into tribes – Anglo-Saxons, Romanics and Slavs, where the source of our culture is the fourth tribe – Hellenic... We have Christianity (inspired by Judaism) but even that divides us to Catholics and Protestants, to Roman and Greek Catholics, to Calvinists, Augsburg Lutherans, Anglican Church, Orthodox Church...! We have even the non-Christian religions – Islamism, Hinduism, Taoism, Buddhism, Shinto... etc. We have the regional culture-historical, social and political units – Scandinavia, Benelux, Baltics, V4, the Balkan, the Mediterranean. We have political states! New, young – Slovakia, Slovenia, North Macedonia

– and also ancient states, former world imperia – Spain, Portugal, France, Britain. We have the languages as well. Twenty-eight various language cultures with their own grammar, vocabulary and mutual attempts of equivalent translations. Three sets of writing and two of numbers. What should unite us, actually? The dissention of our historical experience to the fascists and anti-fascists in the first half of the 20th century – or the dissention of the experience to the communists and anti-communists in the time of the Cold War after the 2nd World War in the second half of that century? Or we can look at the last ten years of the 20th century of the luxuriant development of the mutual relationships in the field of economy, social and cultural life, which we today often understand as mutual bothering, abuse, threatening and violation? What can unite us as the joint topic at the one table? Is it the territory? Continent? Is it business – the common processes at the production? The mutual lines in the traffic and communication? Is it the universality of humanity? Is it the fear from different cultures, religions or continents? Is it the effort to understand mutually, to get to know each other, to create the common life, home, beauty, prosperity – or more likely the effort to be stronger against the threats from behind the boarders of the common space? What is the main source of our efforts to be together? And what is the main source of our efforts to split to... tribes, religions, historical, cultural, political and economic groups and wholes? How can we effectively and progressively understand the term UNITY IN THE HETEROGENEITY? Where starts the co-operation culminating in mutual enrichment and where the co-operation ends with its transformation to the conflict dividing us? Where is the starting point of the mutual bothering, abuse, threatening and violation?

Let's search that fragile boarder-lines of the vulnerability and let's display them through the theatre activity.

JURAJ BENČÍK

Juraj Benčík – actor, pantomimer, director and teacher. He was a co-worker of Milan Sládek, Slovak mime and director. Worked in many professional theatres in Slovakia (Martin, Zvolen, Banská Bystrica, Bratislava, Prešov) and abroad (Budapest) as an actor and director. Works for TV Markíza, STV and TVA, almost two years in the famous Cirque du Soleil.

Teacher of workshop at 15. Mondial du Theatre in Monaco 2013; teacher in various art schools (state and private) in the Slovak and Czech Republics, many workshops for amateur theatre makers at Czech festivals.

www.jurajbencik.sk

Terms and conditions:

Hronov, 31st July – 8th August 2020

Workshop 4-5 hours a day, than (in the afternoon/evening) performances of the festival.

Working language: English

Arrivals:

1. Friday 31st July until 3 p.m. (airport) or 4 p.m. (main train station) – in these times the coach transport to Hronov (about 160 km north-east from Prague at the Polish border) is organized.
2. For adventurers or neighbours (by car, train or bus): Individual transport direct to Hronov or Náchod (bigger city 8 km from Hronov where the accommodation will be organized). Individual transport is on your own costs.

The workshop will finish by a presentation (together with other workshops) for the audience on Saturday 8th August in the morning.

The Festival will end by last performance and fireworks or video-mapping on 8th August in the evening.

Departures: Coach transport back to the Prague will be organized on Sunday 9th August early morning (arrival to Prague at about 10.30 a.m. (main station) or 11.30 a.m. (airport)).

The participation fee: EUR 500,00 covers the workshop, accommodation (student home in Náchod, rooms in two or three persons), collective transport Prague-Náchod-Prague, daily local transport between Náchod and Hronov, meals, admittance to the main program Festival performances.

Payment after your application and the confirmation letter by bank transfer or (in exceptional cases) in cash on site.

What is necessary to take with you: such kind of wear, you can do exercises in (even on the floor – for the nonverbal theatre is it often used something black, it's universal), good humour.

Don't forget to take out the travel insurance (and find the information about the conditions of health care for your travel). If your country has visa requirement for the Czech Republic, arrange for it.