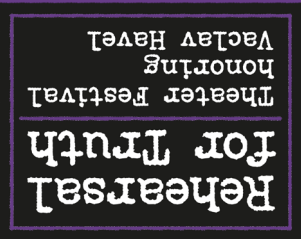




/ MANY PERFORMANCES ARE FOLLOWED BY TALKBACKS / THE FESTIVAL IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC / SUGGESTED DONATION \$15 FOR ALL EVENTS EXCEPT *BLOOD, SWEAT, AND QUEERS*, WHICH REQUIRES A \$20 TICKET FEE / ONLINE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED /

BOHEMIAN NATIONAL HALL, NEW YORK CITY
321 EAST 73RD STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10021
PSYCHE IS PRESENTED AT HUNGARIAN HOUSE OF
NEW YORK, 213 EAST 82ND STREET, NEW YORK, NY
10028
TICKETS TO ALL EVENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT
REHEARSALFORTRUTH.ORG
THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED, IN PART, BY PUBLIC
FUNDS FROM THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT
OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
CITY COUNCIL AND THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL
ON THE ARTS



PERSEVERANCE 2025

The salvation of this human world
lies nowhere else than in the human
heart, in the human power to reflect,
in human meekness and human
responsibility. / Václav Havel

Rehearsal for Truth International Theater Festival is an annual showcase of contemporary Central and Eastern European theater, established in 2017. The festival is a shared endeavor of the Vaclav Havel Center and the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association in partnership with numerous other cultural and performing arts organizations. The festival honors the artistic and political legacy of the Czech playwright/dissident/president Václav Havel. We support exchanges between American and European theater professionals and celebrate the power of the theater to transform our lives.



FESTIVAL TEAM
EDWARD EINHORN, artistic director | BERIT JOHNSON, production manager |
D HENRY HANSON, assistant production manager | MAREK SOLTIS, technical
manager & sound | JIRI MIROVSKY, technician | NUAVE ART, web master, marketing
| KATERINA KYSELICA, KADS New York, graphic design | STEVE PRUE, photography |
KATARINA MIROVSKY, accounting | EVERYMAN AGENCY, publicity | VICTORIA BLASS,
JULIA PURDY, SRAVYA SARAWATULA, productions interns

THEATER
CZECHIA/USA
A new Czech drama inspired by the life
of the successful athlete Zdenek Koubek
(1913-1986), celebrated in the sports world
of the time as a "wonder woman" and
holding several world records in track un-
til he transitioned to male. Together with
the main character's life story, Dianiška's
play also describes the increasing fascism
of the 1930s, permeated by homophobia,
transphobia and gender stereotypes. One
of the most successful plays in contempo-
rary Czech drama, told in absurdist style, it
uncovers a deliberately buried story from a
century ago with obvious implications for
the current day.
performances
by/Tomas Dianiška
translation/Edward Einhorn, Katarina
Vizina
director/Edward Einhorn
cast/Craig Anderson, Hershel Blatt,
Jean Marie Keivins, Alyssa Simon,
Katarina Vizina, and Hennessy Winkler*
costume design/Ramona Ponce
video design/Chris Carcione
sound design/Berit Johnson
art/Carolyn Raship
presented by/Untitled Theater
Company No. 61
*member of Actor's Equity Association

BLOOD, SWEAT, AND QUEERS



MAY 26-JUNE 15
NYC



2025 PERSEVERANCE

BLOOD, SWEAT, AND QUEERS
MARKETA FOUKALOVA
THE DECISION
KING STAKH'S WILD HUNT
CONNECTION
THE PIT
SHOW TRIAL
FURIOZO: MAN LOOKING FOR TROUBLE
ERBEN: VLASY
THE AMATEURS
PSYCHE
KAFKA'S APE

MAY 26-JUNE 15
REHEARSALFORTRUTH.ORG

NYC
BOHEMIAN NATIONAL HALL



TUE MAY 27 7 PM



MUSIC, POETRY
CZECHIA
poems/*Jan Zábřana*
music/*Martin Brunner*
sponsor/*Czech Center New York*

MARKETA FOUKALOVA

The world premiere of Jan Zábřana’s poems set to music by award-winning composer and pianist Martin Brunner. He will be accompanied by Markéta Foukalová, former singer of Hudba Praha and Jasná Páka (now Lanugo). Markéta and Martin will perform, in addition to Zábřana’s poetry, songs from the repertoire of Havel’s beloved Hudba Praha arranged for piano and voice to mark the anniversary of Václav Havel’s death. In the second half of the evening, the pair would present songs from their album Svou chvíli.

THU MAY 29 7 PM



INTERACTIVE
THEATER
BULGARIA/USA
by/*Alexander Manuiloff*
director/*Henry Akona*
with/*Consul General of the Republic of Bulgaria*

THE DECISION

Three actors receive a script they have never seen before, piece by piece. A situation and design for a theatre evening, that discusses the questions of democracy, the potential for solidarity and participation in increasingly isolated and disconnected societies. The audience moves back and forth from side to side of the room, depending on their opinions of the decisions the cast/actors make. Discussion with the author after.

SUN JUNE 1 2 PM



OPERA ON FILM
BELARUS
based on book by/*Uladzimir Karatkievich*
music/*Olga Podgaiskaya*
director, dramaturg,
original text adaptation/*Nicolai Khalezin*
director/*Natalia Kaliada*
presented by/*Belarus Free Theatre*

KING STAKH’S WILD HUNT

A thrilling gothic noir from one of the world’s bravest theater companies, based on the celebrated novel. Featuring acclaimed actors, opera singers and musicians from Belarus and Ukraine. Inspired by Eastern European folklore, it follows the ghostly hunt to free a young heiress from an evil curse.

SUN JUNE 1 5 PM



LIVESTREAM
THEATER
BELARUS/AUSTRIA
by/*Maryna Yakubovich*
sponsor/*Austrian Cultural Forum*
with/*Mozarteum University Salzburg*

CONNECTION

A solo performance performed live in Salzburg and broadcast to the theater. Based on the true stories and letters of Belarusian female political prisoners, in particular Maria Kalesnikava. This play is about freedom and imprisonment, decisions and consequences, guilt and responsibility, strength and weakness. It is a piece about the lack of connection with political prisoners. About author’s connection to her country and connection between European democracy and Belarusian dictatorship. Live discussion and reception after.

WED JUNE 4 7 PM



THEATER
ROMANIA
by/*Matei Visneic*
director/*Ana Margineau*
cast/*Owen Campbell, Vas Eli, Perri Yaniv*
sponsor/*Romanian Cultural Institute*

THE PIT

Two men are trapped in a pit, facing guilt, fear, and the threat of snakes. A third man offers them a chance at freedom. Will they take it or stay where they are? An exploration of the dangers of fascism, groupthink, and the dehumanizing forces at play in today’s world.

FRI JUNE 6 7 PM

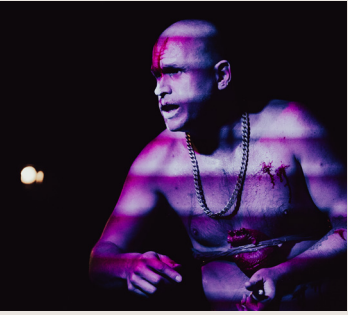


THEATER
SLOVAKIA
by/*Laura Zlatos*
director/*Tom Costello*

SHOW TRIAL

Charged with high treason, Czech resistance leader Milada Horáková stands trial against the communist regime in one of the largest sham trials in Eastern Europe. An absurdist interpretation of the era’s ruthless propaganda machine, *Show Trial* satirizes Stalinist sham trials using real court transcripts translated into English for the first time. *Show Trial* exposes the farcical nature of authoritarian justice, proving that whoever controls history, creates it.

SAT JUNE 7 7 PM



CLOWN THEATER
POLAND
by/*Piotr Sikora*
with/*Polish Cultural Institute New York*

FURIOZO: MAN LOOKING FOR TROUBLE

Police chases, petty theft, drugs and longing for the greatest thrill of all: true love. A disturbing yet absurdly funny portrait of toxic masculinity. You will love him. You will hate him. You will experience the presence of the beast. As Furiozo would say: Live fast; Die.

SUN JUNE 8 5&7 PM



PUPPET THEATER
CZECHIA
director, set, puppets,
music/*Hza Bažant*
dramaturgy/*Leona Bažant Telínová*
cast/*Hza Bažant and Leona Bažant Telínová*
presented by/*Hura Collective*

ERBEN: VLASY

A visual puppet theatre production from a series of dark adaptations of K. J. Erben’s fairytales Hair – Eyes – Death. A king who really liked to chase game. After a series of evil deeds, he longed to chase the game forever. Shadows, live sounds on quills and chimes in the tradition of family puppet theaters.

WED JUNE 11 7 PM



THEATER
SLOVAKIA
by/*Lenka Garajová*
director/*Šimon Ferstl*
presented by/*Divadlo DPM*

THE AMATEURS

After the strange era of climate crisis, social inequalities, and daily burnout, a time of constant bliss arrives. No more crises, no responsibilities, no inequality, and money is available on demand. Your only task is to survive this endless vacation. Everything else is taken care of by AI. Welcome to 2164. Welcome to the Novacene.

THU JUNE 12 7&9 PM



THEATER
HUNGARY
from the poems by/*Sándor Weöres*
translation/*David Cseh*
director/*Mark Tarnoki*
performance/*Stella Abel*
production/*Steve Green*
and *Andrew Nance*
presented by/*The Broadcast Studios*

PSYCHE

Psyche, a Romani countess and poet, wanders across Europe during the Napoleonic era in a chauvinistic society that challenges her independence. The first English translation of a one-woman show performed by Stella Abel and adapted from the Hungarian book *Psyche: Writings of an Erstwhile Poetess* by Sándor Weöres.

PSYCHE IS PRESENTED AT HUNGARIAN HOUSE OF NEW YORK, WITH A PERFORMANCE IN HUNGARIAN ON FRIDAY, JUNE 13.

FRI JUNE 13 7 PM



THEATER
SOUTH AFRICA, CZECHIA, AUSTRIA
adapted from the story
by *Franz Kafka* by/*Phala Ookeditse*
performance/*Tony Miyambo*

KAFKA’S APE

A compelling adaptation of Kafka’s “Report to an Academy,” subtly transforming the original text into a universally relatable yet unsettling exploration of what it means to adapt as an ‘other’ in society. This adaptation puts ‘Red Peter the Ape’ in a South African context, compelling him to irradiate his survival in post-apartheid existence. Red Peter’s journey presents us with an opportunity to explore, through the animal gaze, the tension between self and other.

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Rehearsal
for Truth

Theater Festival
honoring
Vaclav Havel

THE FESTIVAL IS FREE
SUGGESTED
DONATION \$15
(EXCEPT FOR BLOOD,
SWEAT, AND QEERS)