

A new season at the PONEC Theatre: dance in many forms on stage and in open lessons for the public

PONEC – the dance venue will begin its jubilee year in September. The current 25th anniversary of its founding will be celebrated with a program featuring several world and Czech premieres, one full of events for all contemporary dance lovers. The start of the new season from September 5 to 16 reflects the richness of the PONEC Theatre's program of activities for everyone from children to seniors.

The new season in the PONEC Theatre will be opened on September 5 at 8 p.m. and on September 6 at 6 p.m. by the **BERG Orchestra and Eli et al.** with the premiere of the music-dance production **Same Old Story**. The authors, choreographer Mirka Eliášová and music composer Jana Vöröšová, were inspired by an ancient Inuit legend. The main theme is humanity and nature, which is why the main approach here is to use "recycled materials". The second domestic premiere in September will be the triptych **Together Alone** by Ukrainian artist Yana Reutova on September 30, which was already successfully presented at the Kilowatt Festival in Cortona, Italy.

"Come and dance!" says the welcoming invitation from PONEC. On September 11, regular dance workshops for teenagers will start under the guidance of experienced instructors – **Contemporary Dance for Teens**. And in the following days there will be space for other open lessons for the public: **Dance Well** – the healing power of dance for everyone, regardless of age and movement limitations (the lessons are suitable for people who have Parkinson's disease and others too); **Movement-voice workshops for the elderly**; **Contemporary dance** for everyone who is not afraid to try something new; **Workshops for children led by artists from Ukraine** and **Dance for Schools**.

The opening of the season also includes **Neényi**, which is a sensory performance for toddlers, parents, grandparents and non-parents presented by the Ostružina association – an activity in the repertoire accessible to even the youngest. PONEC is regularly part of larger community events. Therefore, the opening program also includes dance events in Krenovka as part of the popular neighbourhood festival **Experience the City Differently – Stories** by Věra Ondrašíková and **PRIMA session** by Viktor Černický.

The rest of the September program is also filled with intriguing performances, including the audio-visual production by Věra Ondrašíková & Coll. entitled **GUIDE**, which has won numerous awards. There is also the performance-dialogue **Zero etc.**, which is suitable for children from eight years of age, this time supplemented by Cécile Da Costa's playroom, or two performances of **F*cking Beautiful Spring**. The performance by the Spitfire Company collective is inspired by endless listening to the El Niño oratorio by American composer John Adams, the rap verses of Kae Tempest and the musical ritual of the Shortparis group from the St. Petersburg underground.

About the PONEC Theatre

PONEC – the dance venue at the junction of lower Žižkov and Karlín is a unique space for creativity, inspiration, meetings, dialogue and new impulses. The dance community acquired it in September 1998, when Tanec Praha z.ú. and the Municipal District of Prague 3 signed a 25-year lease agreement. This agreement expired just this year, but Tanec Praha z.ú. in time negotiated an extension for another 10 years. This year, the 25-year-old PONEC Theatre will continue to welcome artists and spectators.

A unique stage for contemporary dance with all the overlaps of this genre into other artistic areas – the first of its kind in the Czech Republic – started its opening season in 2001, after three years of intensive reconstruction work. Thus, for the 23rd year, the PONEC Theatre has participated in the formation of new progressive dance works, especially as a co-producer. It also appeals to children and young audiences and pays great attention to the creation of interactive performances for schools and families. It gives space to domestic artists and at the same time expands the possibilities of international cooperation, while also integrating Ukrainian artists. The PONEC Theatre is the home stage of the TANEC PRAHA and Czech Dance Platform festivals.

PONEC is operated by Tanec Praha z.ú. based on a lease agreement with the Municipal District of Prague 3, with the financial support of the City of Prague, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, the Municipal District of Prague 3 and others. It is a member of the European Dancehouse Network.

Tanec Praha z.ú. is a partner of the Krenovka project. SUDOP Real received a grant of CZK 6,625,000 from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway for revitalization within the EEA Funds 2014-21.

More information and online ticket sales at www.divadloponec.cz

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