

## The drive-in theater, keeping drama alive during the lockdown

The Czech Republic enforced tighter restrictions than most European countries to combat the coronavirus pandemic. But the country also loosened the lockdown earlier than most — and that has made it a laboratory for how arts and culture can adapt to a context in which some restrictions on social life have been lifted, while others remain in place.

The drive-in theater at Prague's vegetable market was an ambitious example. To **circumvent** restrictions on public gatherings, audience members watched plays, concerts and comedy from behind their steering wheels — in a monthlong program that ended with a variety act by the National Theater on the evening of May 24.

circumvent 智取; 绕行

steering wheel 方向盘

Across Europe, **drive-ins** have become a familiar means of circumventing pandemic restrictions. But that will probably have ramifications for both the environment and the quality of cultural events. At times, the drive-in theater felt more like a traffic jam than a work of drama. When the audience members wanted to applaud, they honked their **horns**. When it started to **drizzle**, they flicked on their **windshield wipers**.

drive-in 免下车的

horn 喇叭; 号角

drizzle 毛毛雨; 细雨

windshield wiper 雨刷

For the actors, the experience was a strange mix of **exhilaration** at performing again after a long pause — and **eeriness**. Peter Vancura, one of the performers that night, at first felt nervous stepping onstage, confronted not by faces and frowns, but the hoods of 30 cars. But then he noticed he could make out some people's expressions through the windshield, and even see their smiles.

exhilaration 兴奋; 欢欣

eeriness 胆怯; 怪诞

"It's not so bad!" he said backstage. "Not so unconnected."