

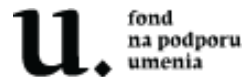
Banská Štiavnica will be the city of cabaret and street art experience at the beginning of the Indian summer

Legends of Czech cabaret, Jiří Suchý a Jitka Molavcová will visit Banská Štiavnica for the first time ever

Banská Štiavnica, August 21st, 2020 – On the original date in the last weekend of September, the anniversarial 5th edition of the **AMPLIFIER Festival - New Cabaret & Street Art®** will take place. The local non-profit organisation, Ensemble of Irregular Theatre (AND) – Ján Fakla, Jana Mikitková, Dušan Krnáč, Milan Lichý and Tomáš Eniac Cíger are organising it in cooperation with the city and other partners.

The leitmotif of this professional international festival is the search for new forms of crowdwork, exploring physical and mental interaction between people during pandemic times according to the topic of *closeness vs. distance*. “The slogan of this year’s festival expresses the meaning we have been creating for the festival all year: Art creates understanding,” says Ján Fakla, one of the two festival dramaturgists. The invited art productions will be performed along three program lines. “This year’s cabarets will be featured in both traditional and modern formats. We are very happy that the 5th birthday of Amplifier will feature a guest appearance of the famous Czech Theatre SEMAFOR with Jiří Suchý, Jitka Molavcová and a programme of their legendary songs called WHO DIGS SOMEONE ELSE’S HOLE, YOU SING THEIR SONG,” explains Ján Fakla, announcing the festival headliner. “For the first time, we were able to get the biggest names of Czech cabaret to Banská Štiavnica, including the expert and cabaret song interpreter, Přemysl Rut. Alongside Markéta Potužáková, they will introduce one of their literary cabarets, AROUND 100LALA: The resonance of French songs. New forms of cabaret will be presented by young Slovak artists: the laureate of the Oskár Čepan Award for 2019, Erik Sikora as Džumelec in his performative programme EXPLAINER, and the Theatre ensemble Lano of the ZUŠ J. Kresánka with the premiere of their original cabaret with elements of new circus based on themes from the book of Aglaja Veteranyi WHY THE CHILD BOILS IN PORRIDGE. To support new forms of cabaret production, the second annual edition of the Czecho-Slovak competition of cabaret performances of different genres SKETCH UP will take place, and we had many young and talented individuals, cabaret duos and groups sign up. This year’s programme is supervised by the health clowns Pavel Mihaľák and Roman Večerek, and the cherry on top will be found in the form of the clown band from the civic organisation Red Nose Clowndoctors.”

The top street art programme will come in the form of the Italian-French group of aerial acrobats **Mattatoio Sospeso** with their “love story” of vertical dance OUT! at the balconies of the Old Castle. The street improvisation of the Argentinian from Germany, El Goma, in THE ATARI SHOW will be just as entertaining and suitable for adults and children, and full of film and visual tricks. In the city streets, you will be captivated by the dynamic physical show about understanding with elements of pantomime, breakdance, and circus, BITTER-SWEET by the French-Spanish duo Umami Dancetheatre. Everyone who wants to leave their bubble can try to do so by applauding during participation in the online video mapping PC game INCALL by the Slovak animator group Nightcall. The legendary unhinged concerts will be provided by great Czech bands Circus Problem from the Czecho-Slovakia has talent competition, and Ty Syčáci with their original style. A pleasant atmosphere not only at the Trotuar will be created by



selected buskers: the unusual guitarist Mariusz Goli from Poland, the Balkan music quartet from Prague, Ponorka (Submarine) and the young talented musician David Bílek.

“Although street productions are suitable for the entire family, we also invited special programmes for children: Ústav úžasu (Institute of Wonder), a.k.a. the respected theatre comedian Jakub Folvarčný from Prague will introduce a charming show for bold children and shy parents CIRCUS PRDÍTKO. Erik Sikora from Košice, as Džumelec, will sing his original songs during his whimsical CONCERT AGAINST ADULTHOOD,” mentions Jana Mikitková, festival art director.

“The added value of every annual edition is the social-educative and engaged line, which will be very strong and attractive this year,” emphasises Ján Fakla. “Serious and important topics are best accepted via humour and satire. Those are included in the productions of the famous Theatre Husa na Provázku from Brno, which will introduce a unique story about the power of childhood dreams in the play OSKAR AND THE PINK LADY, as well as in the works of Theatre Commedia from Poprad, performing a wonderful tragicomedy about what power can do to a foolish person – WRITINGS OF A RED ARMY OFFICER. “This year, we are commemorating the 190th anniversary of the first amateur theatre performance in Slovakia. With this play, we would like to express our respect towards the work of Slovak amateur actors,” adds Ján Fakla, also the producer of the festival. A truly masterful lecture about critical thinking as a lifestyle, featuring an interactive quiz, will be introduced by the chess grandmaster, Ján Markoš. “The spoken word performances by five young personalities from all around Slovakia will also be a true experience, as they immersively perform texts from Slovak and foreign prose and poetry as the art group D’dištanc dženerejšn alongside the Czech band Ponorka in the programme NO TOUCH, NO FUN,” pinpoints festival director Jana Mikitková.

The AMPLIFIER festival will take place between **September 25th and 27th, 2020** at 12 venues and stages in the centre of Banská Štiavnica. It will introduce 85 artists from 7 safe countries of Europe, performing 25 programmes, which includes 4 Slovak premieres of foreign artists. Three times, two remarkable headliners will shine, energetic bands and 3 buskers will be creating the atmosphere in the streets, and 5 laureates will take away the prize Amplion Argentum. Another new addition during the entire course of the festival program will have the CLOWN HEALTH PATROL from the civic organisation **Red Nose Clowndoctors** supervise the health and safety of both artists and viewers. The festival will culminate in the 2nd annual edition of SKETCH UP, the Czecho-Slovak competition aimed at supporting the formation of new cabaret productions.

Ticket presale at www.tootoot.sk will start on September 1st. All information can be found at the festival website www.amplion.eu. AMPLIFIER Festival – that is the best start to the Indian summer in Banská Štiavnica for visitors from all around Slovakia.

Festival AMPLIFIER - New cabaret & Street art® is an international, multi-genre festival full of theatre, music, literature, physical and visual art. At the end of September, it pours energy back to the streets of the charming Banská Štiavnica, filling it with selected pieces of Slovak and international art. The festival is supported from public funding by the Fund for Supporting Arts, which is also the main festival partner. The main media partners are Denník N and Radio Expres.

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