

# The summary



The September issue of **k o d** brings you reviews of the latest productions and first nights of the 2006/2007 season as well as coverage from summer theatre festivals in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. September is the month of the international theatre festival Divadelná Nitra. The interview by Zora Jaurová in which she talks to the festival director Darina Kárová, revives the atmosphere of the festival's preparation phase and it also touches on important issues of cultural policies. The main feature *Divadelná Nitra 2007- Explorations of Identity* is dedicated to the festival productions and the main themes running through this year's programme.

In the last month of the 2006/7 season the Slovak National Theatre staged two plays by Slovak contemporary playwrights. Vladimír Štefko reviews an ambivalent production *With Mother* directed by Roman Polák. The production *PartyBreakers* by the directorial duo Patrik Lančarič and Peter Pavlac, did not come off as the most convincing production either. On the other hand, Daria Fehérová praises the Slovak first night of Shakespeare's *Cymbelin*, produced by the Jan Palarik Theatre in Trnava and created by Viktor Kollár and Michal Gazdik. She acknowledged the resolution with which they tackled the text as well as the resulting production with its unique interpretation.

In the last year's season the Slovak Chamber Theatre in Martin put on a production of German contemporary playwright Roland Schimmelpfennig *Before/After*. The production was directed by Eduard Kudláč, who is most often mentioned as an important figure in the context of Slovak avant-garde and fringe theatre. His unusually tra-

ditional treatment of this classical play came as a nice surprise to Geza Hizsnyan, who has been observing and reviewing Kudláč's theatre work for a few years now.

Opera critic Michaela Mojžišová is looking at the directorial and musical treatment given to the controversial production of *Trubadur* directed by M. Bendik at the Slovak National Theatre. Sadly, she finds the production slightly superficial and unconvincing.

The State Theatre Košice put on three ballet productions in the 2006/2007 season. All of them had one and the same director, choreographer and librettist in one person – Ondrej Šoth. Dagmar Hubová writes about his continuous and little acknowledged work and reviews the three latest and very successful productions. Among the other festivals and theatre events throughout the summer that deserve are New Drama Festival in May, *Dotyky a Spojenia* (Touches and Connections) in June, Cibulák, The Košice Theatre season showcase and Encounters – a theatre event taking place in Nitra with participation of the V4 countries.

This year's festival New Drama Festival offered a wide range of genre and themes reflecting the current trends in Slovak contemporary drama and theatre. Two foreign festival guests, the Czech theatre critic Martina Černá and the dramaturge Marta Ljubková offer their interesting views on the festival programme. Martin Timko analyzes the 2006/2007 season in the Košice State Theatre. His feature with an apt title *Heaven, Purgatory and Hell* revives the achievements and flops of the Slovak Drama, Ballet and Opera. The 19th annu-

al Cibulák festival in Pezinok was as delightful as ever. Lenka Džadíková captures its lively atmosphere here with foreign participation and writes about its many interesting events running alongside the main program.

The *Dotyky a Spojenia* Festival in Martin counted 24 ensembles and 30 productions reflecting the current work of professional theatres in Slovakia. The theatre critic Elena Knopová reviews the main programme and two journalism graduates Veronika Folentová and Filip Struhárik review the off-programme and events.

The 9th annual puppet theatre festival of the V4 countries, *Stretnuti-Setkani-Spotkanie-Talalkozas* took place in Nitra at the end of May. Ivica Ozábalová presents a survey carried out through interviews with the festival participants. The review by Vladimír Predmerský focuses on the program itself. Ivica Ozábalová also offers a brief summary of two other puppet theatre festivals, *Modrý Kameň* and the Czech festival of professional puppet theatres showing productions for pre-school audiences *Maťeňka 07*.

In the column *Theory/History/Criticism*, theatre criticism student Anna Sedláčková captures the atmosphere of the seminars for young critics organized by AICT. In her article she writes about different approaches and methods when analyzing contemporary theatre criticism and about different approaches of lecturers from France and Hungary. The theoretical study by Czech theatre theoretician Marketa Jůzová offers an overview of the history of intercultural approach in drama and criticism, featuring the most important figures of

this trend. The second part of the study will be published in the October issue. The new additions on the theatre literature market are reviewed and listed in the Books column. The aesthetician Miroslav Ballay contributes with a positive review of the comprehensive monograph of Jacques Coupeau by M. Mistrík and Andrej Navara offers a detailed review of *The Magician of Stage and Words*, a critically acclaimed book on the work of the actor/director Ján Jamnický. The Theatre Institute (TI) column brings information about the important award Golden Medal which has been awarded to Boris Kudlíčka for his exposition in the National section of the Prague Quadrennial 2007. In the STI column you can also learn more about the participation of Slovak playwrights at the Autorentage Festival and Theatre Schauspilehaus in Hamburg and about a concurrent book presentation of the *Slowakische Gegenwartstucke*.

It was with great sadness that we learnt the news that Adela Gáborová, an outstanding actress and important member of the theatre community passed away this summer. In the obituary, her close friend and colleague, Darina Kárová pays tribute to her.

