

List of Presenters

Helena Albertová

Graduated from the Apartment Design High School in 1959, then she took a job as an arranger and theatre technician at the West-Bohemian Theatre in Klatovy, as an upholsterer at the Theatre on the Vineyards. Between 1965–1970, she studied sociology and philosophy at the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University. From 1975, she has been working at the Theatre Institute, Prague where she focuses on the set design and exhibition activities. She wrote 4 plays, 13 radio plays, script for the TV series Paradoxes of Czech Theatre. She is an author of three monographs about Czech set-designers: Karel Svoboda (1978), Otakar Schindler (1988), Josef Svoboda (2008 – in English; 2011 – in Czech); and the monograph about the Czech actor Pavel Landovský Landák (2009). Between 1990–1995, the director of Theatre Institute, Prague and the President of Czech Centre of International Theatre Institute. Currently she prepares exhibitions dedicated to life and work of Václav Havel and Josef Svoboda.

Veronika Ambros

Associate Professor at the University of Toronto at the Department of Slavic languages and literatures, since 2000 cross-appointed at the Centre for Comparative literature. Studied in Germany, graduated at Free University of Berlin (PhD). Her research interests include semiotics of cinema, theatre and drama, literary theory, and Czech literature. Published a book on the Czech playwright Pavel Kohout: PAVEL KOHOUT UND DIE METAMORPHOSEN DES SOZIALISTISCHEN REALISMUS New York, Berlin: Peter Lang, 1993. Latest publication: "Talking and Walking Past Each Other. Chekhovian "Echoes" in Czech Drama" in Adapting Chekhov: The Text and its Mutations, Yana Meerzon, Douglas Clayton Eds. New York: Routledge, 2013, p. 68–87.

Inna G. Bezrukova

Graduated at the Philological faculty of the Moscow State University, editor and translator from Czech, Slovakian and Polish. She co-operated with the publishing houses Chudožestvennaja literatura, Planeta, Slovo, Tekst, Eksmo, MIK, ROSSPEN, journals Inostrannaja literatura, Junost', Novaja junost', Kinoscenar, weekly newspaper Moskovskije novosti and Literaturnaja gazeta, and the film agency Mosfilm TV Media etc. Since 2000, she has been a member of the section of translators of the Moscow department of Russian Writers Union, and since 2006, she has been a member of creative association Masters of Literary Translation. She translated, among others, works of V. Havel, B. Hrabal, M. Urban, A. Goldflam, J. Škvorecky and I. M. Jirous.

Joachim Bruss

Studied Slavic studies, general linguistics, and philosophy at the Bonn University. Between 1970–1972, he studied at the Charles University where he received his doctorate in 1980. In the 1980s, he worked as a freelance translator and interpreter. Since 1990, interpreter of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Between 1994–2010, head of language service of the Embassy of Germany in Czech Republic. From 2011, director of German-Czech Fund of Future office.

Annalisa Cosentino

Since 1996 she teaches Czech language, Czech literature and literary translation, first at the University of Udine, then at the University of Rome "La Sapienza". In her research she focuses on modern and contemporary Czech literature and literary criticism; Central European studies; literary translation. She published many papers and four books and translated into Italian some Czech literary works (among them, works by J. A. Komenský, J. Neruda, J. Hašek, B. Hrabal, J. Skácel, V. Havel). Member of the editorial board of the journals Slovo a smysl (Charles University, Prague) and Semicerchio (Università di Siena). Editor of two collections, "Lezioni e letture" at Forum Editrice (Udine) and "Gli Anemoni" at Marsilio Editori (Venezia).

Mircea Dan Duta

Since 2012, he teaches at the Institute of International Studies of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the Charles University, Prague. He is interested in the Central European film and literature. His contributions on these themes were published in collections (Pražské jaro 1968. Literatura – Film – Média, Naratologické perspektivy a narativní techniky v České nové vlně 60. let) and journals (Film a doba, Paměť a dějiny, Porta Balkanica). He translated into Romanian Czech poets and novelists (V. Fischerová, A. Lustig, M. Viewegh) and contemporary Czech drama authors (V. Havel, P. Zelenka, A. Goldflam, P. Kolečko).

Anna Freimanová

Originally a librarian, who, in the 1970s, worked as an assistant director at the Theatre on the Balustrade. She was involved in the samizdat editions, especially in the issue of the journal O divadle. Between 1990–2003, President Václav Havel's secretary for the literary and theatre agenda. In this period, she prepared most editions of V. Havel's works in Czech. Currently, she works at the Václav Havel Library as an editor (she prepared e.g. the collection Václav Havel o divadle). She also organizes the archive of the Václav Havel Library, as well as cultural and academic projects of the Library – she prepared the series dedicated to Havel's plays and their stage adaptations. She co-operated Miroslav Janka's on the movie about V. Havel's first wife Olga. Her husband Andrej Krob, theatre director and documentarist, has been engaged with V. Havel's plays throughout his theatre career.

Marketa Goetz-Stankiewicz

Professor Emerita in the Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. She is an author of *The Silenced Theatre: Playwrights Without a Stage* (1979), and editor of *The Vanek Plays: Four Authors, One Character* (1987), *Good-Bye Samizdat, Twenty Years of Czech and Slovak Underground Writing* (1992), and co-editor of *Critical Essays on World Literature: Vaclav Havel* (1999). She has written essays on German, Czech and Comparative Literature. In Spring 2009 she was Benjamin Meakins Visiting Professor at the University of Bristol.

Andrzej Sławomir Jagodziński

Journalist, editor and translator, director of Polish Institute in Bratislava and Counsellor for culture of the Embassy of Poland in Bratislava, involved in many activities within the Visegrad countries. In the 1970s, he participated in the Polish civic initiatives (Komitet samoobrony społecznej – Komitet obrony robotników) and mediated their co-operation with the Charter 77. He also collaborated with Polish and Czech samizdat and exile journals and publishing houses; editor of the independent literary journal *Wezwanie*. His translations into Polish include the works of V. Havel, J. Škvorecký, B. Hrabal, J. Gruša and P. Kohout. He is an author of the book of interviews with Czech exile writers *Vyhnanci*.

Lenka Jungmannová

Researcher of the Institute of Czech Literature, Czech Academy of Sciences. In her research, she focuses on the modern Czech drama (V. Havel, J. Topol, P. Landovský, P. Kohout, K. Sidon and others) and contemporary Czech playwriting after 1990 (D. Drábek, I. Klestilová, P. Kolečko, L. Lagronová, and P. Zelenka). Apart from that she specializes in the theory of drama and theatre, including gender studies. She worked as a theatre and literary reviewer. She is an editor of various anthologies (V. Havel, P. Landovský, J. Dienstbier, E. Bondy, or D. Drábek's collection of plays).

Vladimír Just

Professor of the Department of Theatre Studies. He studied Theatre and Film Studies at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. Co-founder and chief editor of the academic theatre journal *Theatre Review* (1989–2006). Since 1996, he teaches at the Prague Department of Theatre Studies (Czech theatre history, Faustian myth, and theatre and media criticism). Member of the international PEN-club, laureate of the F. X. Šalda Award for art criticism. Between 1969–2014, he published over 3,000 articles, essays and reviews on theatre, media, and film (scholarly papers published in the peer-reviewed journals in Spanish or Italian / *Paso de gato*; *Literatura: historia, teoria, crítica*; *Biblioteca Teatrale* etc./). Author of 20 books (*Transformations of Little Theatres*, 1984; *Subject Matter: Vlasta Burian*, 1991, 2001; *Mystery of Laughter*, 1994, 2002; *Big Dictionary of Clichés*, 2009; *Theatre in Totalitarian System*, 2010; *Man of the World, or Lord's Gentleman?*, 2013; *Faust as a State of Debt*, 2014).

Pirkko Koski

Professor emerita who was responsible for the Department of Theatre Research in the Institute of Art Research at the University of Helsinki, and the director of the Institute of Art Research until the end of 2007. Her research concentrates on performance analysis, historiography, and Finnish theatre and its history. Except scholarly articles in Finnish, Swedish and in English, she has published several books in these fields, the most recent of them Näyttelijänä Suomessa ("Acting and Actors in Finland"). She has also edited several anthologies about Finnish theatre, and volumes of scholarly articles translated into Finnish.

Zdeněk Lukeš

Czech architect, historian of architecture, journalist and university educator. He works at the New York University v Praze. He focuses on the 20th century architecture. He organizes irregular educational „Dog’s Walks“, aimed at architecture.

Petr Oslzlý

Dramaturge, scriptwriter, actor, theatre educator; graduated from the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University, Brno. He teaches dramaturgy and stage directing at the Theatre Faculty of Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts; director of the Centre of Experimental Theatre, Brno. He is one of the foremost personalities of studio and alternative theatre (since 1973 he is a member of the Theatre Goose on the String). Between 1990–1992, he was a cultural advisor of the President V. Havel. He is an author and co-author of many theatre scripts. He reflected his theatre work in various essays and monographs (e.g. Theatre Goose in the String, 168/7/-1998, Theatre on the String’s Commedia dell’arte).

Vijay Padaki

has been active in the theatre and in management. He works as actor, director, trainer, writer, designer, theatre educator and administrator at Bangalore Little Theatre, which he restructured into Bangalore Little Theatre Foundation. The Foundation requested him to provide the leadership to a newly created Academy of Theatre Arts in its formative years. The Academy has adopted the mission of Theatre Education to address the challenges unique to the Indian social context. He is a founder-director of The P&P Group, a management resource centre that has programmes of research, consultancy and training in the areas of Organization and Institutional Development. Vijay Padaki has written 40 original plays in English (Credit Titles). He has adapted or translated several other play scripts. Seagull Books has published a volume of two Gujarati plays translated by him. In 1993 Vijay won the award for the best contemporary play.

Martina Petranović

Research assistant at the Division for the History of the Croatian Theatre, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Zagreb. Co-author of 100 Years of Croatian Set Design and Costume Design (1909.-2009.) (2011.) with Ivana Bakal and Ana Lederer, and co-author of Repertoire of Croatian Theatres, book 5 – Descriptive Analysis of Performances in Croatian or by Croatian Performers in Foreign Languages till 1840. (2012.) with Lucija Ljubić. Author of On Stage and around it (2013.). Research interests: theatre set and costume design, contemporary Croatian drama and theatre, theatre historiography.

Martin Porubjak

Dramaturge, stage director, playwright, scriptwriter and translator. He works at the Academy of Performing Arts, Bratislava, Slovakia and is a President of Slovakian Centre of the International Theatre Institute (UNESCO organization). He is one of the foremost Slovak theatre practitioners, co-founder of important studio theatre Divadlo na korze, dramaturge of Slovakian National Theatre (he was a dramaturge of the production of V. Havel's Garden Party). He directed his productions in many Slovakian theatres. He wrote several plays (Goldoniad) and scripts (Escape from Budín). He strives to foster Czech-Slovak cultural dialogue. He shortly co-operated as a dramaturge with Prague and Brno theatres. As a translator, he focuses on German-speaking playwrights (G. Büchner, A. Schnitzler, F. Wedekind, B. Brecht, T. Bernhard, F. Turrini). He is also active as a theatre reviewer.

Carol Rocamora

Author, critic, playwright, translator, and educator. She serves on the faculty of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and is a member of the Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle. She has written a biography entitled Acts of Courage: Vaclav Havel's Life in the Theatre, and has translated a number of Havel's plays together with Tomáš Rychetský. Her complete collected translations of Anton Chekhov's plays have been published in three volumes. She has also written a biography entitled Anton Chekhov: A Life in the Theatre, and a play called "I take your hand in mine...." about Chekhov and Olga Knipper, which has been performed at the Vinohrady Theatre in Prague (as well as throughout Europe, South America, China and the US).

Tomáš Rychetský

Born in Prague in the middle of the golden '60s in the family of lawyers, he completed high school in 1984 and until 1989 was busy taking odd jobs and doing nothing. In the spring 1989, he emigrated to France. After his return, he won Alfréd Radok Award for his play Nevinní jsou nevinní, shortly co-operated as an assistant director with Jan Kačer at the National Theatre. Later on, editor of streetpaper Nový Prostor. Currently he works on his first novel.

Mari Taneichi

Studied at Kobe University in Japan, faculty of cross-cultural studies and majored in Czech cultural studies. In 2008–2009, she studied in Charles University, Prague, where she focused on Czech theatre, particularly Václav Havel's plays. She submitted her bachelor's thesis V. Havel's Plays and graduated from Kobe University in 2010. She went on to graduate school of Kobe University and continued her research. In 2012, she submitted her master's thesis on Havel's Vanek Plays "Don't be silent and raise your voice" and graduated. Now she is a staff member of Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan.

György Varga

Studied Hungarian and Czech at the Faculty of Arts, ELTE, Budapest. During the 1980s, he was a freelance translator. He published many translations and academic papers on Czech literature. Between 1988–1990, he served as a Budapest reporter of the Czechoslovakian Radio Free Europe. Between 1990–1995, ambassador of Hungary to Czech Republic. In 1997, V. Havel awarded him with the badge of honour. In 2005–2010, director of Hungarian Cultural Centre in Prague. Between 2010–2014 he serves at the Department of Culture of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From January 2014, vice-director of the International Visegrad Fund.

Libor Vodička

Assistant Professor at the Department of Theatre Studies, Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, Masaryk University, Brno. In his research he specializes in the post-war drama theatre and drama, relations of state and art, art and society, genre and style transformations of dramatic poem over the course of the 20th century; sociological context of theatre, aspects and forms of theatricality etc. He regularly reflects theatre and drama in academic journals. He published a number of articles and essays in Czech Republic or abroad.

Sam Walters

took a degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford University. Then studied acting at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). After acting for 3 or 4 years, he got the opportunity to turn to directing. He worked in various regional theatres in the UK and in 1971, he founded the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond in London. The theatre has staged 10 of Havel's plays, some of them more than once and in 2008 presented the first production outside Prague of his final play Leaving, which was attended by its author. Sam Walters leaves the Orange Tree this summer after 42 years. In 1989 he was awarded a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship, the main part of which was to be spent in Prague visiting the dissident playwright Vaclav Havel! But when he came in November, he found himself caught up in the events of the velvet revolution.

Paul Wilson

Musician, translator and writer. He has lived in Czechoslovakia during the 70s, when he joined the underground group The Plastic People of the Universe. As a result of this he was deported from Czechoslovakia. Paul Wilson lives in Canada and translates into English Czech literature (J. Skvorecký, I. Klima, B. Hrabal). He has translated many works by Václav Havel, including his seminal essay, The Power of the Powerless, his prison correspondence, Letters to Olga; two autobiographical books, Disturbing the Peace and To the Castle and Back, and many of his presidential speeches and occasional essays. He has also translated Havel's plays (The Beggar's Opera, The Memo, Guardian Angel, Leaving). In Czech he published Bohemian Rhapsodies, a collection of Czech translations of Wilson's essays and articles on Czech culture and politics. Currently Paul Wilson collaborates with Marketa Goetz-Stankiewicz on a volume of Havel's writing on theatre.

Monika Zgustová

Writer and translator. She studied comparative literature in the USA where she emigrated. She lives in Spain. Many of her translations of Czech authors into Spanish and Catalan (V. Havel, J. Seifert, B. Hrabal, J. Hašek) significantly contributed to the knowledge of Czech literature in the Spanish-speaking countries. She published Hrabal's biography V rajské zahradě trpkých plodů, a book of short stories and five novels (Tichá žena). Two of her plays were staged in the Barcelona theatres. Her work has been translated into ten languages.

Elżbieta Zimna

Polish theatre scholar and translator from Czech. She studied theatre studies at the Warsaw Theatre Academy. She works at the Warsaw Theatre Institute and Institute of Arts of the Polish Academy of Sciences where she is a member of the editorial team, working on the Biographic Dictionary of Polish Theatre. She writes her doctoral thesis on V. Havel's works in the context of Czech history and culture.

