

Czech Republic @ the Fringe 2008

1 - 25 August 2008, Edinburgh

Three Czech shows *Polaris*, *Holdin' Fast* and *The Weepers* have been nominated and *Polaris* and *The Weepers* short-listed for the Total Theatre Award. The results will be announced in late August.

The first official national showcase of Czech theatre at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe introduces over 130 performances by 5 companies, an exhibition & other events. The Czech Centre in collaboration with a number of Czech and UK partners, presents six UK premieres of award winning shows by internationally acclaimed Czech dance and physical theatre companies highlighting the most recent in Czech theatre. The season also includes the launch of the **Czech Performance Collection** on the **15th August at the Assembly Hall** (a comprehensive DVD information pack with 37 carefully selected Czech theatre productions recommended for international touring – see

http://www.theatre.cz/stage_productions/default.asp) and **Prague Quadrennial**, a photo exhibition illustrating the excitement of the world's most important exhibition of stage design and architecture, which annually transforms Prague into a genuine living stage for world theatre. Czech related events will be also seen at the Edinburgh International Festival - e.g. **Bedrich Smetana's** opera **Two Widows**, concerts by pianist **Ivan Moravec** and by **Pavel Haas Quartet**, or at the Dean Gallery photographs by foremost **Czech photographers** as a part of Foto: Modernity in Central Europe 1917 – 1945.

Skutr: The Weepers UK Premiere

The Zoo, Preview Aug 2 17:20;

Aug 3-13, 15-25 17:20

The international award-winning company Skutr is one of the best of the new generation of Czech theatre companies. Their crossover work combines physical theatre, acrobatics, drama, music and puppetry. *The Weepers* is a playful show of raw emotion, live singing, sparkling energy and highly physical acting power, blessed with humour and metaphor. www.skutr.org

Dot 504: Holdin' Fast UK Premiere

Zoo Southside, Previews Aug 1-2 13:00;

Aug 3-10, 12-17, 19-25 13:00

DOT 504 is the first Czech professional contemporary dance group. It puts equal emphasis on technique, the expressive and physical aspects of contemporary dance and narrative. *Holdin' Fast* is a phenomenally choreographed, dreamy ballad of sexual dependency inspired by Milan Kundera's *Unbearable Lightness of Being*. www.dot504.cz

Teatr Novogo Fronta: Phantomysteria

UK Premiere

The Old College Quad Venue

Aug 5-9, 11-17, 19-25 22:00

www.tnf.cz

TNF (Fringe First 2004 winners) productions are constructed from images, which blur the boundaries between mysticism and abstraction, circus art, and modern dance, where the main forces are action, improvisation and tension amplified by the ridiculousness of human tragedy. *Phantomysteria* is an apocalyptic, allegorical, open-air performance: the world has been destroyed and everything has changed...

Adriatic: Polaris UK Premiere

The Zoo, Preview Aug 1-2 18:35;

Aug 3-5, 7-12, 14-19, 21-25 18:35

www.divadlo.cz/adriatikuvadi/

The company's trademark performance style is based on subtle, precise expression. *Polaris* tells the story of two men on an Antarctic pilgrimage. Meet heroes, fish, penguins, seals and snowstorms in a gripping tale of solitude, friendship, values and wait for help.

Neslysim: Pat & Mat! UK Premiere

The Guilded Ballon Teviot

Preview Jul 30- Aug 1 10:30

Aug 2 – 17 10:30

www.neslysim.cz

A popular children's animated TV programme transferred onto the stage by Theatre Neslysim (I Can't Hear Theatre) of deaf graduates from Janacek Academy of Music and Performing Arts specialising in children productions. *Pat & Mat!* feature hilarious ineptitude to solve a self-made problem and end with a surprising solution and hysterically entertaining results.

Neslysim: The Apple Tree Maiden

UK Premiere

The Guilded Ballon Teviot

Previews July 30,31, Aug 1,2 12:00

Aug 3 – 17 12:00

www.neslysim.cz

Theatre Neslysim brings with a gentle humor, and in a Gothic style an adaptation of a poem - a beautiful performance for the little and the big kids too. A fairytale which offers a fearless prince, an enchanted princess and an old witch, who would like to take her place.

The Czech Centre is a Czech government cultural institute based in London: www.czechcentre.org.uk

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Partners of the season: Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, The City of Prague, CzechToursim, The Arts Institute - Theatre Institute, Prague, Techo UK