

Press release Brno, 21 November 2016

International Festival of Theatre Schools SETKÁNÍ/ENCOUNTER 2017 Has Introduced its Unified Visual

The International Festival of Theatre Schools SETKÁNÍ/ENCOUNTER, organized by the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno, will be held for the 27th time. The Festival with a long tradition is to take place **from the 28th March to the 1st of April 2017** this time.

All the plays will be enacted on several stages in Brno, namely at the Centre for Experimental Theatre (HaTheatre, Husa na provázku Theatre, U stolu Theatre) which is also a co-organizer of the festival, and on the stages of JAMU in Brno (Theatre Studio Marta and Music and Dramatic Laboratory of the Na Orlí Theatre).

The first public event of the 27th edition took place on Wednesday, 9 November 2016. On the Theatre-Faculty grounds of JAMU, the regular and the new festival partners met the organisers. During the **Social evening** hosted by the third-year students of drama acting František Maňák and Natálie Golovchenko, the guests had the opportunity to find out more about the preparations and the course of the whole festival. Most importantly, the unified visual and the main topic were introduced. The topic will be mainly present in the off-programme activities and the scenographic and marketing outputs of the Festival.

The author of the winning graphic design is Denisa Ághová, a student of Digital Design at the Tomáš Baťa University in Zlín. The final unified visual was designed by Jáchym Michal, a student of Audiovisual Creation and Theatre at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno.

After the ceremonial unveiling of the festival's unified visual prof. Mgr. Petr Oslzlý, director of the Festival SETKÁNÍ/ENCOUNTER, took the floor together with the student coordinator Denisa Sedláčková. She clarified this year's topic **"HARD CHOICES?"** to the present guests. This topic can be understood as the everyday situations during which we are overloaded with news and information which we need to make sense of. However, the information overload in which we live gives us a choice as well.

The Festival SETKÁNÍ/ENCOUNTER is an event thanks to which **students of theatre schools from all over the world can meet**. Apart from the usual participants from the Visegrad–Four countries and other European states, the festival is visited by at least one theatre school from the far away every year. Some of the visitors have been for instance from Taiwan, South Africa or the USA. Our closest neighbours from Slovakia take part in the festival too. Slovakia is represented by the students of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. The Czech theatre will be represented by JAMU in Brno and DAMU in Prague. **Applications are currently being accepted**. The list of the accepted schools will be released at the turn of January and February 2017.

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