



**CZECH
& MATES!
2009
LIT MOON
WORLD
THEATER
FESTIVAL**

BACKGROUND

PRESS CONTACT: Julia McHugh
805 569-3303, juliapr@west.net

TICKETS: (805) 963-0408 or
www.centerstagetheater.org

ABOUT THE COMPANIES

CZECH & MATES:

LIT MOON WORLD THEATRE FESTIVAL 2009

LIT MOON THEATRE COMPANY is a Santa Barbara-bred and based collective of theatre artists. Founded in 1991, Lit Moon staged its first production (*Alice in Wonderland*) in 1992, and achieved federal non-profit status in 1996. The purpose of the organization is “to offer educational opportunities that broaden and deepen an understanding of world theatre and cultural traditions, and promote and inspire inter-cultural understanding through live theatre performance.” The company’s artistic work cultivates a physical, image-based performance vocabulary. “If you haven’t seen a Lit Moon production,” wrote Santa Barbara News-Press critic Philip Brandes in 1994, “the company’s approach to storytelling through a marriage of movement-based narrative with traditional techniques is inspiring in its sense of reawakened possibilities.” Ten years on, in January 2004, Matt Radz of the Montreal Gazette wrote of Lit Moon’s production of *Hamlet*, seen at the Centaur Theatre’s Wildside Festival, “The company’s style, melding the rigours of physical theatre with classic text, makes them pioneers, if not unique.”

Lit Moon creates new productions with international collaborators, presents them at home and abroad, and produces alternating bi-annual international theater festivals in Santa Barbara. To date, Lit Moon has produced t23 original productions, six artistic residencies with artists from six different European countries, and ten international theater festivals. Lit Moon’s festivals have featured 32 productions from 12 different countries, including Theatre Credo, Sofia (1998 and 2001), Do-Theatre St. Petersburg (2000, 2001, and 2004), the Market Theatre of

Johannesburg (2003), the Bulgarian National Theatre, Sofia (2006), and the Georgian State Theatre, Tbilisi (2008). Lit Moon's own touring has taken the company to Bulgaria, Scotland, Quebec, the Czech Republic, Poland (three occasions), Montenegro, and Macedonia. Recent invitations include festivals in China, Bulgaria, Albania, and the European Republic of Georgia.

ADRIATIC PRESENTS. – waiting for info.

Stevo Capko is the founding director of **CIRCUS SACRA**, a company devoted to the development and presentation of Street Theatre. Capko has written and directed all of the group's performances. *Draceana (Legenda o Sv. Jiří – The Legend of St. George)*, the dramatic circus performance *Mechanica* and the drama *Čamburína* (a visual comedy in the *commedia dell'arte* style) were all successively premiered at the 2002 Loutkářská Chrudim festival and at the DIVADLO 2003 and 2005 festivals in Plzeň. In August 2006 Circus Sacra became the cornerstone of the street theatre ritual *Vyhánění Nudy z Prahy (Driving the Boredom out of Prague)*, written and directed by Capko, which was performed at theatrical festival *Mimraj 2006* (a celebration of 50 years of Czech pantomime) and the Letní letná 2006 summer festival.

Circus Sacra has also represented Czech culture abroad, including performances *Draceana* as part of the Invasion of Europe Theatrical Institute in Madrid and with the street event *souboj Titánů (Combat of the Titans)* at the Tsarskoe Selo Carnival in St. Petersburg.

In 2008 Capko created two theatrical productions for Circus Sacra: *Lazy Varieté*, a performance using of the methods of the new circus, and the family humor clownery show *Brick Circk*. Both were premiered at the Celetná Theatre, which is operated by the Kašpar Association.

FLYING ACTOR STUDIO, founded by James Donlon and Leonard Pitt, is one of the few international centers in North America dedicated to the study of physical theatre with world-class master teachers. Located in downtown San Francisco, the studio celebrates the imagination and invites a journey into the heart of life. Students learn the great world theater traditions of physical expression, neo-classic clown and mime, mask, circus, new vaudeville, and *commedia dell'arte*. A wide selection of classes are offered including weekend intensives, continuing month long courses, and a 28 week professional conservatory program of daily rigorous training.

The neo-classic art of the clown/mime is a special emphasis of study. Actors expand the command of their bodies and imaginations. Directors discover new ideas about dramatic structure, space, timing and energy. The faculty includes Donlon, Pitt, Tony Award winner Bill Irwin, Geoff Hoyle, veteran Cirque du Soleil clown John Gilkey, and Robert Shields of the CBS *Shields & Yarnell* show. For more information go to www.flyingactorstudio.com.

HoME theater company is a collaborative organization dedicated to the development, performance and dissemination of contemporary theater genres. Each HoME performance or project features an international group of artists, including, so far, Czech, American, British, Swiss, Austrian, Slovak, Israeli, Canadian, Serb, Mexican, Argentinean, and Belgian artists. HoME o.s. is, along with L&S Company, one of the organizers of the residency space Studio

Kokovice 4, which is located in Kokovice, 40 km outside of Prague (some *Flush* rehearsals took place there).

Howard Lotker, the founding director of HoME theater, is an American artist living, working and studying in the Czech Republic for 10 years, and a former student of James Donlon (Santa Barbara). Lotker cooperated with many of Turba's students in Prague, making him a natural bridge between the two cultures. He has taken advantage of this connection, such as in 2006, when he brought bring professors Ivan Vyskocil and Jan Hancil of Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (DAMU) to New York City showcasing Vyskocil's psychophysical improvisation discipline, "Acting with the Inner Partner (Dialogicky jednani)" to American theater artists at Columbia University and the Czech Center, NY.

THEATER ALFRED VE DVORE was founded in 1997 by mime, choreographer, and director Ctibor Turba. During the following two years, eleven performances were created, many of which, some of which were directed by Turba himself, went on to be presented at international festivals. Foreign companies were also invited to perform at Alfred individually, and as participants in festivals. In 2001, Turba handed over the artistic and organizational management of Alfred ve dvore to the Motus production company, who has been running it ever since, with Sarka Havlickova at the helm since 2002.

Motus o.s. creates a framework for creative development by supporting alternative and unusual theatrical and artistic activities, by actively improving beginning artists' work conditions, and by bringing new directions in art to Czech audiences. Motus is also founder of Nova Síť - the New Web project – a network for the circulation of independent theatre projects throughout the Czech Republic. New Web provides administrative, production, organizational and financial support for these projects with the goal of the professionalization of this type of creative activity in the Czech Republic and neighboring countries. In October 2004 Motus received the Příští vlna/Next Wave alternative theater award for "Production Activity Of The Year," for its outstanding work at Alfred ve dvore. The theater routinely hosts high-caliber international guest performers, who teach workshops at the theater as well.

PRESENTER

interACT is an international consortium of theatre companies and festivals, developed to support and present new, progressive theatre through inter-cultural residencies, artistic barter, and festival participation. interACT connects progressive theatres, institutions, and festivals in Europe, North America, and Asia, and provides sources of inspiration, artistic possibility, travel, and networking opportunities.

The main purpose of interACT is to create, develop, and sustain artistic co-productions between member theatres, and use theatre as an active agent in cultural transformation and renewal. The Lit Moon Theatre Company, Santa Barbara, and HoME Theatre, Prague are founding members of the network. Lit Moon artistic director John Blondell is founding president of interACT.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Inventive theatre takes center stage at Center Stage Theater with “Czech & Mates, the 2009 Lit Moon World Theater Festival” featuring productions from the Czech Republic and U.S, from October 13 through 18, 2009

Santa Barbara’s Lit Moon Theatre Company is joined by four companies from the Czech Republic and another from San Francisco – with a Czech connection. All performances, which include two world premieres, are in English. There are six plays and two world premieres.

Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$15 for students. Subscription packages are available: all six shows for \$100 (\$75 for students); 5 to 7 shows at \$18 per ticket (\$13.50 for students). On sale now at the Center Stage Theatre Box Office, (805) 963-0408 or www.centerstagetheater.org. Visit www.litmoon.com.



The 2009 Lit Moon World Theater Festival is presented by Lit Moon Theatre Company, Flying Actor Studio (San Francisco), HoME Theatre Company (Prague) and interACT.

It is sponsored in part by the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission, Westmont College, the Prague City Council, the Nadace Zivot Umelce Foundation, Santa Barbara Independent, and Santa Barbara News-Press.