



PRESS RELEASE

OPERA

Ostrava, Czech Republic

1 June 2024

***THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN* - ITZIK GALILI'S OPERA DEBUT IN OSTRAVA**

THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN—the 7th opera by Leoš Janáček, a native of Hukvaldy—will be opened 100 years after its world premiere and 30 years since its last performance in Ostrava. And as the opera, with its extensive symphonic music and a story crossing the worlds of animals and humans, requires a fantastical movement interpretation, the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre is proud to have invited choreographer and director **ITZIK GALILI** to take over as stage director. The opening nights are scheduled for **6 and 8 June 2024** (1st and 2nd cast) **at the Antonín Dvořák Theatre**.

Leoš Janáček turned the tale of a fox cub, which a gamekeeper discovers and takes home, into a poetic opera narrated from both animal and human perspectives. This became one of Janáček's most innovative operas, expressing his deep love of nature and contemplation of his own mortality. *The Cunning Little Vixen* is among the most performed Czech operas worldwide. The inspiration came to Janáček from a series of feuilletons about the cunning little vixen's adventures written by Rudolf Těsnohlídek, illustrated by academic painter and avid hunter Stanislav Lolek, and published in Lidové noviny in 1920.

Direction, choreography, and lighting design for the new Ostrava production have been crafted by **Itzik Galili**, a renowned choreographer and director. His interpretation of the opera is filled with beautiful movement and dance harmony. "The little I know about Czech music is about Leoš Janáček, whom I have heard on my traveling the world. Leos is complex and brings to me waves of feelings that move me. *The Cunning Little Vixen* is a new world for me. Its colours, its complexity, the layers and the music are a puzzle to crack. It is an extraordinary opera to walk with. I believe that the creative ability of the soloists and the dancers will give birth to a different interpretation than those promoted in the past, hopefully also innovative," shares Itzik.

The title role will be performed by top Czech sopranos **Doubavka Součková** and **Lada Bočková**. The Music Director is **Marek Šedivý**, who along with **Adam Sedlický** serves as a conductor. The vibrant impression is further enhanced by the costumes designed by **Simona Rybáková** and the set design by **Daniel Dvořák**. Audiences can look forward not only to the exquisite music but also to a captivating and diverse visual spectacle.

Staging the opera this year commemorates many significant anniversaries: a centenary of its world premiere in Brno, the 170th anniversary of Leoš Janáček's birth, 30 years since its last production in Ostrava as well as the 30th anniversary of the NMST children's Opera Studio. In 1994, stage director David Sulkin insisted on casting children in the children's roles, which was an impulse for Lenka Živocká, the répétiteur at the time and today's head of the studio, to establish the Ostrava opera studio.



NÁRODNÍ DIVADLO MORAVSKOSLEZSKÉ NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIA THEATRE

All the projects implemented within The Year of Czech Music are financially supported by The Statutory City of Ostrava, The Moravian-Silesian Region, and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.

	ROK	
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	2024	



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Show dates

1st premiere: 06.06.2024

2nd premiere: 08.06.2024

reruns in the season: 18.06.2024

reruns in the 2024/2025 season: 11., 18., and 26.09.; 29.10.; 10., 24., and 30.11.2024; 21. and 29.03.; 24.04.2025

Venue

Antonín Dvořák Theatre Smetanovo nám. 3104, 701 04 Moravská Ostrava a Přívoz, Czech Republic

Creative team

music director **Marek Šedivý**

conductor **Mark Šedivý / Adam Sedlický**

stage director **Itzik Galili**

set designer **Daniel Dvořák**

costume designer **Simona Rybáková**

choreographer **Itzik Galili**

assistant stage director and choreographer **Elisabeth Gibiat**

assistant choreographer **Duilio Ingraffia**

chorus master **Jurij Galatenko**

head of NMST Opera Studio **Lenka Živocká**

dramaturg **Juraj Bajús**

Cast

Gamekeeper **Martin Gurbaľ / František Zahradníček**

Gamekeeper's wife / Owl **Eva Dřízgová-Jirušová / Jana Horáková Levicová**

Schoolmaster / Mosquito **Martin Javorský / Václav Morys**

Parson / Badger **Josef Kovačič / Jan Štáva**

Harašta, a poultry dealer **Daniel Kfelír / Boris Prýgl**

Pásek, an innkeeper **Aleš Burda / Erik Ondruš**

Mrs. Pásková, his wife **Miroslava Časarová / Klára Hlúšková**

Pepík, the Gamekeeper's grandson **Ondřej Borák / David Kaleta**

Frantík, his friend **Lukáš Bátor / Filip Škandera**

Young Vixen Bystrouška **Sára Bernatíková / Charlotte Gurbaľová**

Vixen Bystrouška **Lada Bočková / Doubravka Součková**

Fox **Anna Nitrová / Dominika Škrabalová**

Cricket **Ivona Dominiková / Anna Rozálie Šimičková**

Grasshopper **Felicie Schmidtová / Žofie Trojáčková**



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Young Frog **Roman Patrik Baroš / Ondřej Borák / David Kaleta**

Lapák, a dog / Woodpecker **Barbora Garzinová / Šárka Hrbáčková**

Cock / Jay **Miroslava Časarová / Klára Hlúšková**

Chocholka, a hen **Karolína Levková / Magdaléna Rovenská**

Including NMST Ballet Company

Apparation of Vixen **Dorottya Fanni Lengyel / Yu Matsumoto / Diana Ribeiro Brandão**

Ladybug **Lucía Alfaro Córcoles / Teodora Martinez / Gvendolin Nagy**

Lady Stork **Giulia Del Grande / Dorottya Fanni Lengyel / Bianca Loschi**

Stork **Maxwell Davies / Hugo Fraresso**

Squirrel **Yu Matsumoto / Elisa Perini / Diana Ribeiro Brandão / Fanny Westring**

Owls **Viola Izzo / Hannah Lukey / Maria Carla Ognisanto / Nahia Soto Barcéna**

Blue Dragonflies **Leonardo Baghin / Francesco Fasano / Sachiya Takata / Patryk Zamojski**

Old Butterfly **Michal Bublík / Bernardo Costa**

Hare **Simone Giroletti / Edgar Mateo Navarro**

Hedgehog **Mark Griffiths / Sachiya Takata**

The NMST Opera Company

The NMST Opera Company, one of the oldest in the Czech Republic, is recognized for its high-quality programming and exceptional interpretation. Led by Music Director Marek Šedivý and Intendant Jiří Nekvasil, the company honours Ostrava's long-standing tradition of opera cycles, including the notable Smetana Opera Cycle and the Terežín Opera Cycle. Their predecessor's as well as their own dedication to excellence has affirmed the company's role as a distinguished cultural institution over the past decade.

About the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre

The NMST (Národní divadlo moravskoslezské, founded in 1919) is the largest and oldest professional theatre in Ostrava and the Moravian-Silesian Region, established by the Statutory City of Ostrava. The theatre is home to four artistic companies—opera, drama, ballet, and musical—that perform regularly on three permanent stages: the Antonín Dvořák Theatre, Jiří Myron Theatre, and the chamber Theatre 12. Each season, the theatre opens approximately 20 productions and stages nearly 500 performances. Beyond its regular productions, the NMST co-produces the drama festival OST-RA-VAR and the biennial opera festivals New Opera Days Ostrava (NODO) and Ostrava Days.

Mgr. Soňa Zapletalová

Foreign Relations Manager NDM
sona.zapletalova@ndm.cz
+420 725 716 375
+596 276 214

NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIA THEATRE
established and funded by the Statutory City of Ostrava
Čs. legií 148/14, 701 04 Ostrava – Moravská Ostrava
www.ndm.cz/en

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