

**PRESS RELEASE** 

OPERA I BALLET I MUSICAL I DRAMA

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THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING HAPPENING! THE NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIAN THEATRE IN THE 2025/2026 SEASON: 12 PREMIERES, INCLUDING TWO SPECIAL PROJECTS, AND ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK THEATRE ON A "TECH BREAK" FOR SEVERAL MONTHS

The National Moravian-Silesian Theatre (NDM) is entering its 107th season with a lineup of 12 premieres: four in opera, five in drama, two in ballet, and one musical. One of the opera productions will be staged in a church in October, and a special oratorio is already scheduled for September as part of the St. Wenceslas Music Festival. The total of 12 premieres is fewer than the usual 18–20 in previous seasons for a clear reason: the Antonín Dvořák Theatre – home to the opera and ballet company – will undergo a major modernization of its upper stage machinery, including the complete digitalization of the fly system. This reconstruction will take more than four months and starts at the end of June.

The four-ensemble theatre began selling subscriptions for all 16 groups of the 2025/2026 season on 12 May, with individual tickets for September performances available from 14 May. Subscriptions can offer savings of 30–80% compared to standard ticket prices, and current subscribers can keep their seats until the end of June while they choose from the new offerings. A flexible MOJE ABO (My Subscription) is also available for selected performances in the currently active sales period. Season brochures and subscription details are available at the theatres and online at <a href="https://www.ndm.cz">www.ndm.cz</a>, along with compact leaflets featuring QR codes.

"For our 107th season, we chose the motto 'There's Always Something Happening' (Pořád se něco děje). Because it's true! Even though the modernization of stage technology in the Antonín Dvořák Theatre means we'll present a smaller number of premieres – twelve – we'll compensate by increasing the number of revivals, especially musicals, at the Jiří Myron Theatre. These will be performed in blocks of two to four shows in a row, allowing the technical team to deliver peak performance every night," says Jiří Nekvasil, stage director and intendant of the Ostrava theatre. This season, the musical company will break away from staging international titles to present a brand-new original work, tailor-made for the ensemble. At the beginning of the season, the opera ensemble will present two extraordinary projects in



alternative venues, followed by two more premieres after the theatre's technical overhaul is completed. The ballet ensemble will present a mixed bill built around two works by Jiří Kylián and music by Mozart. The drama ensemble is preparing five emotionally intense productions and has invited several acclaimed stage directors from past seasons to collaborate, including Jakub Šmíd, Josef Doležal, and Aminata Keita.

### **OPERA**

The **Opera NDM** will perform outside its home venue until October, but it begins the season with two special projects. "In co-production with the St. Wenceslas Music Festival, we will present Franz Liszt's monumental oratorio Christus in the Cathedral of the Divine Saviour one night only, on 18 September. Liszt's most ambitious sacred composition portrays key moments in Christ's life—from birth to resurrection—in three interconnected parts. This rarely performed work is exceptionally demanding," explains Jiří Nekvasil. In October, the company will present Philip Glass's opera The Trial, based on Kafka's novel, in the intimate setting of St. Wenceslas Church in the Ostrava city centre – for just 12 performances over 15 days. The production was originally scheduled for 2020 but postponed due to the pandemic. After the technical renovation of opera company's home scene, the Antonín Dvořák Theatre, the company will premiere Rossini's Moses and Pharaoh (Moïse et Pharaon, ou Le passage de la mer Rouge) in February, a grand biblical opera from 1827, conducted by David Švec and directed by the promising young talent Vladimír John. The opera season will close with a thrilling title: Sergei Prokofiev's first opera The Gambler (Igrok), based on Dostoevsky's novel. "The music is full of adrenaline, and the story grippingly portrays the psychological world of a pathological gambler," says Music Director of Opera Marek Šedivý. This will be only the second Czech staging of this rarely performed work that is next to widen company's dramaturgical series of Operatic hits of the 20th century.

### **BALLET**

The **Ballet NDM** will present a mixed bill titled *More Than Mozart!* in March 2026, commemorating the 270th anniversary of Mozart's birth. Central to the program are two contrasting yet thematically linked works by **Jiří Kylián**: **Sechs Tänze** and **Petite Mort**. The evening also features a new creation inspired by Mozart's music by **Lea Bessoudo Greck**, known to audiences as her **Šárka** appears in the *dancENJOY* production. The evening will also include humorous works, such as **Eric Gauthier's Ballet 102**, which parodies iconic choreographic styles through a narrated count of 102 ballet positions in a pas de deux. In June 2026, the NDM Ballet will present the premiere of **Babylon Ballet**, a new chamber production staged at Theatre "12" choreographed by members of the company Natalia Adamska, Rei Masatomi, and others. "In our **Babylon**, the confusion of languages becomes a pathway to discovery and connection. Four dancers – four stories, four cultures – searching for mutual understanding through dance," says Artistic Director of Ballet Lenka Dřímalová. The production is directed by renowned opera and stage director Rocc.

## **MUSICAL**

The NDM Musical will premiere one original new production written specifically for them: So This Happened..., with music by Zdeněk Král and libretto by Tomáš Vůjtek, premiering in January 2026. "Set in our region in the past and recent decades, it's a story about female friendship and survival in hard times," says Gabriela Petráková, Artistic Director of Musical. The theatre regularly stages international hits, often running 60 to 100 sold-out performances per title. To make room for new productions, even popular long-running shows like Rebecca sometimes must step aside.



### DRAMA

The **NDM Drama** promises a season of strong emotions and three Czech premieres. The repertoire explores themes of human dignity – stolen, hidden, unattainable, or hollow.

"As if the characters were missing these kinds of dignity. They are not exceptional or living incredible lives – they're from our world. A world where people are hated for love, the weak are beaten, and lies are told for reputation," says Artistic Director of Drama Vojtěch Štěpánek, who will premiere *Cardinal Error* by Alistair Beaton and Dietmar Jacobs in October – a sharp political satire with characters reminiscent of *The Young Pope*. After New Year, the drama ensemble will return to the newly renovated Antonín Dvořák Theatre with three major titles. Jakub Šmíd will direct *The Idiot* (Dostoevsky), premiering in January. In February, Štěpánek will stage *God* by Ferdinand von Schirach – a courtroom drama about the right to assisted suicide, where the audience decides the verdict—same as in von Schirach's *Terror* that the NDM staged back in 2018. In April, the Czech premiere of *The Whale* by Samuel D. Hunter, known from the Oscar-winning film starring Brendan Fraser, will be opened and directed by Aminata Keita. The first premiere of the season comes also from drama: Neil LaBute's *The Shape of Things* – a psychological study of power and betrayal in intimate relationships, directed by Josef Doležal, opens in September in the intimate Theatre "12".

#### **EXTRA EVENTS**

NDM regularly hosts exhibitions in both main venues, as well as concerts in the ceremonial hall of the Jiří Myron Theatre. The Theatre Education Atelier leads international projects, and works with children, teens, seniors, and creates performances for the public.

This season, the Young Audience Club (<a href="www.mladydivak.cz">www.mladydivak.cz</a>) has grown into a dynamic platform offering NDM productions and events from across Ostrava's cultural scene, including artist and creatives meetups, and selling concert tickets. The club also runs successful internship and training programs for students.

## THE ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK THEATRE RECONSTRUCTION IN A NUTSHELL

The upper-stage machinery of the Antonín Dvořák Theatre will undergo a complete modernization from **late June to October 2025**. November will see a trial operation phase with 15 scheduled performances.

The renovation focuses on replacing all 48 manual and motorized fly bars with new, **digitally controlled**, **motorized units**. The project includes reinforcing the theatre's steel structure to support the new technology. "It's a major project, requiring the theatre to be entirely emptied. Once the last June performance ends, we'll strip the stage, protect the auditorium, and hand the building over to the contractors," explains Technical Director Otakar Mlčoch.

The upgrade will bring **safer and more efficient operation** and reduce the physical burden on stagehands – a long-awaited improvement since the last major overhaul 25 years ago.

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All of the activities of the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre are financially supported by The Statutory City of Ostrava, The Moravian-Silesian Region, and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.









### **Venues of the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre**

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

**Jiří Myron Theatre** Čs. legií 148/14, 701 04 Moravská Ostrava a Přívoz, Czech Republic **Theatre "12"** Čs. legií 148/12, 701 04 Moravská Ostrava a Přívoz, Czech Republic

## **The NDM Opera Company**

The NDM 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 Terezín 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.

### The NDM Ballet

The NDM Ballet is one of the oldest ballet ensembles in the Czech Republic. Artistic Director Lenka Dřímalová emphasizes collaboration with renowned Czech and international choreographers to ensure a dynamic and diverse repertoire. The ensemble is celebrated for its high artistic standards and versatility, performing a broad spectrum of works from classical ballets to contemporary pieces.

#### The NDM Musical

The NDM Musical Company is a leading ensemble, directed by Artistic Director Gabriela Petráková, known for its vibrant and diverse productions. The company focuses on presenting a wide range of musical hits from recent decades, with its success and acclaim evident both domestically and internationally. The Ostrava Musical holds a unique distinction, officially recognized in London as the only repertory theatre worldwide to have staged and studied six titles by the king of musical theatre, composer Andrew Lloyd Webber.

### The NDM Drama

The Drama Company, led by Artistic Director Vojtěch Štěpánek, is distinguished for its exceptional and varied productions of both Czech and international drama. Since 1997, the company has proudly hosted the OST-RA-VAR drama festival, a prestigious event aimed at students and professionals across the field.

### **About the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre**

The NDM (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.

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