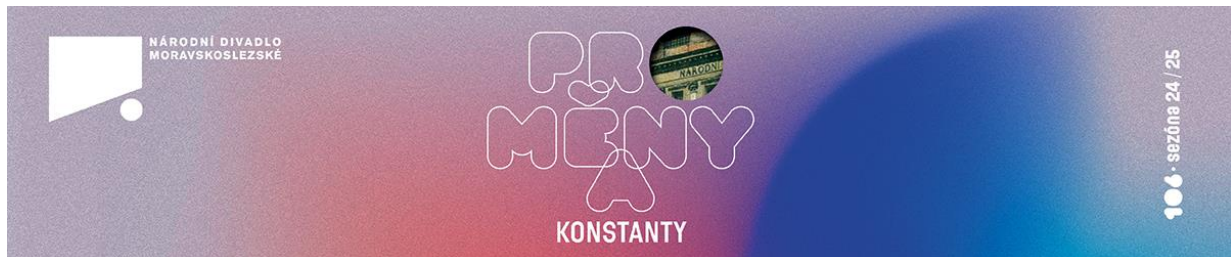




NÁRODNÍ DIVADLO MORAVSKOSLEZSKÉ NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIA THEATRE

PRESS RELEASE

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THE NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIA THEATRE EMBRACES *TRANSFORMATION AND CONSISTENCY* IN ITS 106TH SEASON

"Transformation, and the magic that comes with it, is at the heart of the performing arts! Yet, the medium known as THEATRE remains steadfast. Theatre has thrived for thousands of years, despite the emergence of numerous innovations over the past two centuries that sought to rival it. And still, theatre flourishes, to our shared delight—bringing people together in live encounters, here and now!" says Jiří Nekvasil, Intendant of the Ostrava theatre. The concepts of transformation and consistency resonate in the upcoming season, where all four of our ensembles will present an exciting mix of world classics, a significant Baroque opera after many years, as well as fresh, innovative interpretations of renowned global works.

"Our theatre buildings stand as constants in this ever-changing art form," Nekvasil continues. "This June marks 130 years since the opening of the former National House (1894), the oldest cultural institution in Moravian Ostrava. For 130 years, this building has housed theatrical performances, evolving through various transformations. For the past seven decades, it has been known as the Jiří Myron Theatre. Six years ago, the Jiří Myron Theatre underwent a major expansion with the addition of a new permanent feature—Chamber Theatre "12", which emerged from a significant transformation of former commercial spaces. This intimate venue offers audiences a unique, close-up experience, where they can engage with actors almost at arm's length."

As in previous years, we offer 16 subscription groups, allowing audiences to tailor their experience to their preferences, whether by genre, day, seating, or other criteria. Current subscribers have their seats reserved until the end of June and can seamlessly continue their subscription into the next season. In addition to enjoying reduced subscription prices, subscribers receive a 20% discount on tickets for any performance outside their chosen group throughout the season, along with other exclusive benefits.

In this 106th season, audiences can look forward to 38 productions, including 16 premieres. The season will kick off with two gala evenings in September, following the successful tradition of showcasing our ensembles in their 'home' theatres—the Antonín Dvořák Theatre and the Jiří Myron Theatre.



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National Moravian-Silesian Theatre Highlights of the 2024/2025 Season

OPERA

The NMST Opera will present five new productions, spanning from October to June.

THE CHARLATAN by Pavel Haas will be directed by Ondřej Havelka and will open on 10 October 2024. *The Charlatan* will conclude the Terežín Opera Cycle, a three-part series devoted to Czech composers who were deported to Terežín and fell victim to the Holocaust. This opera, alongside Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* (premiered in June 2024), will also be featured at the Janáček Brno Festival in October.

The Ostrava production of **TURANDOT** by Giacomo Puccini will be entrusted to Slovenian director Rocc, who will handle both the direction and set design. The opera will premiere on 19 December 2024, with musical direction by Marek Šedivý. "Turandot is an operatic fairytale, brutal and bloody, but pure love triumphs in the end. I first saw it in Ljubljana at 15, and it completely captivated me. It inspired me to become an opera director, and I look forward to bringing *Turandot* to Ostrava," says Rocc.

In 2019, the Ostrava opera, in collaboration with the University of Ostrava's Faculty of Fine Arts and Music, launched a joint project aimed at emerging young artists. **Opera Academy Ostrava** provides students with practical experience, including the opportunity to stage an opera in cooperation with professionals. The fifth project of OAO will bring to life the 1904 comic fairytale opera **CENDRILLON** by Pauline Viardot, directed by Gabriela Petráková. This chamber opera for families will premiere on 6 February 2025 at the Theatre "12".

Intendant Jiří Nekvasil will direct two operas in the coming season. The 1945 musical farce **THE FLORENTINE STRAW HAT** by Nino Rota will open on 13 March 2025, with Marek Šedivý as the production's music director. The season will culminate in an extraordinary experience—George Frideric Handel's grand Baroque opera **JULIUS CAESAR IN EGYPT**, which will be performed five times in Ostrava, premiering on 19 June 2025. A co-production with the Znojmo Music Festival and Czech Ensemble Baroque, this opera will be presented with a historically informed interpretation before moving to Znojmo in July 2025.

BALLET

The NMST Ballet Company (NDM Ballet) has two premieres planned for the season.

A composed evening titled **danceENJOY**, premiering on 17 October 2024, will feature five distinct choreographies, spanning from the 18th century to the present day, all reflecting the season's theme. "Audiences can look forward to works by renowned Czech choreographer Jiří Kylián (*Wings of Wax*), as well as Itzik Galili (*Sofa*), Marco Goecke (*Firebird Pas de Deux*), Justin Peck (*Heatscape*), and Lea Bessoudo Greck (*Šárka*). Each piece has been carefully selected to create a harmonious and uplifting experience for our viewers," says NMST Ballet Artistic Director Lenka Dřimalová.

Ostrava audiences can also look forward to a fresh interpretation of **PEER GYNT**, featuring the music of Edvard Hagerup Grieg and a libretto inspired by Henrik Ibsen's drama. The theatre has engaged Belgian choreographer Jeroen Verbruggen, who holds a deep admiration for the work



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and will create a new choreography for the NMST Ballet company. The premiere will take place on 22 May 2025. Although Verbruggen has been a prominent and sought-after choreographer in Europe since 2012, this will mark his debut with a Czech theatre. *Peer Gynt* will return to the Ostrava stage after 35 years and will be conducted by Dutch maestro Sander Teepen, who previously collaborated with NMST in 2017 (*Andrea Chénier* and *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*).

MUSICAL

The NMST Musical Company has exciting new productions lined up at the Jiří Myron Theatre. On 12 December 2024, **ELISABETH** by Michael Kunze and Sylvester Levay will open in Ostrava. Premiering in Vienna in 1992 (and in the Czech Republic in 2019), this Austrian musical marked the beginning of the modern German-language musical era. "This is the story of Empress Elisabeth of Austria-Hungary, wife of Franz Joseph I. Her life at the imperial court is portrayed with a unique and dramatic perspective by librettist Michael Kunze, complemented by the outstanding music of Sylvester Levay. Kunze and Levay's *Rebecca* is among the most successful productions in Ostrava's musical theatre history. The opulent set will be designed by Daniel Dvořák," explains translator and dramaturg Michael Prostějovský. The cast is currently being selected and will undergo approval by the license holder. The production will be directed by Jiří Nekvasil.

Gabriela Petránková, Artistic Director of the Musical Company, has chosen to direct **MAMMA MIA!**, featuring the iconic music of ABBA. "This title was a dream of our musical director Jakub Žídek. We are thrilled to have the two-time Thalia Award winner Hana Fialová cast as Donna, the owner of a hotel on a Greek island," says Gabriela Petránková. The musical premiered in London in 1999, reached New York two years later, and has since been seen by over 54 million people worldwide. The film version from 2008, directed by Phyllida Lloyd, stars Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, and Amanda Seyfried. The Ostrava premiere will take place on 3 April 2025 with lyrics translated by Adam Novák.

In a noteworthy achievement, Ostrava's musical theatre holds an official record recognized in London. NMST is the only repertory theatre in the world to have produced and staged six titles by the king of musical theatre, composer Andrew Lloyd Webber.

DRAMA

The NMST Drama has an exciting lineup for the upcoming season, featuring seven new premieres. "We have prepared three Czech premieres, four comedies (ranging from madcap and satirical to dark and voyeuristic), and classic world theatre. However, contemporary drama will be the main focus of next season's programming," says Vojtěch Štěpánek, head of the drama department.

Tomáš Svoboda, director, screenwriter, and playwright, will return to Ostrava to direct two new works in the upcoming season, both categorized under the theme of **TRANSFORMATIONS**. For the intimate Theatre "12", he will stage **DISCOTECA PARAISO** (premiering on 26 October 2024). "Roland Schimmelpfennig weaves stories of visitors to a mystical yet familiar space over the course of a single night. The seemingly disjointed dialogues of the characters build in atmosphere and tension. Every audience member will find themselves in one (or several) of the characters," explains dramaturg Norbert Závodský. Molière's **TARTUFFE** (premiering on 12 April 2025 under Svoboda's title *Guru Tartuffe*) will receive a fresh and innovative interpretation from Svoboda, who is also responsible for the Ostrava adaptation of Goldoni's *The Servant of Two Masters*, which has been sold out since its premiere in September 2021.



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Among the world classics, **LE DINDON** by Georges Feydeau, which has entertained audiences for over 100 years, will be directed by Vojtěch Štěpánek and premiere on 2 November 2024. Another drama Štěpánek will direct is the intimate play **NIGHTSCAPE** by Marius von Mayenburg (premiering on 17 April 2025 at Theatre "12"). The play explores the unexpected inheritance of a painting by Hitler, which the sibling heirs struggle to handle. "This black comedy is filled with clever dialogue, twists, and pressing questions. How much can one's conscience be bought, and how do we deal with the legacy of societal guilt?" hints dramaturg Pavel Gejguš.

Talented graduate Aminata Keita, from the Department of Theatre and Film Studies at Palacký University in Olomouc and the Directing and Dramaturgy program at DAMU in Prague, will stage the Czech premiere of **BIRDS OF A KIND** by acclaimed Lebanese-Canadian playwright Wajdi Mouawad at the Antonín Dvořák Theatre on 1 February 2025.

Publicist Pavel Klusák's documentary drama **ABBA / Scenes from a Marriage** delves into the lives of the popular group ABBA. "However, unlike the musical, we will explore how Soviet oil played a role in the story of two smiling couples," says Vojtěch Štěpánek about this title for the intimate Theatre "12". Directed by Josef Doležal, the drama will premiere on 6 June 2025. The season will close with one of the great constants of world drama: **BLOOD WEDDING** by Federico García Lorca, directed by Martin Františák, which will premiere on 14 June 2025.

The National Moravian-Silesian Theatre will also host several exhibitions throughout the season. At the Antonín Dvořák Theatre, visitors can view works by prominent visual artists, continuing a well-established tradition. The Opera Gallery at the Jiří Myron Theatre will feature exhibitions, primarily in collaboration with the Institute of Creative Photography at Silesian University.

In the summer of 2025, NMST will co-organize and host several concerts as part of the Ostrava Days biennale of 20th and 21st-century music. Additionally, throughout the season, the theatre will host chamber concerts by the Presto agency, which will be held in the ceremonial hall at the Jiří Myron Theatre, named after scenographer, painter, and illustrator Vladimír Kristin (1894–1970).

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 NMST Opera

The NMST Opera, one of the oldest in the Czech Republic, is renowned for its high-quality programming and exceptional performances. Under the leadership of Music Director Marek Šedivý and Intendant Jiří Nekvasil, the company upholds Ostrava's rich tradition of opera cycles, including the acclaimed Smetana Opera Cycle and the Tereziín Opera Cycle. The dedication of both their predecessors and the current team to excellence has solidified the company's reputation as a distinguished cultural institution over the past decade.



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The NMST Ballet

The NMST Ballet aka NDM Ballet, like the Opera, is one of the oldest ballet ensembles in the Czech Republic. Artistic Director Lenka Dřimalová 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 NMST Musical

The NMST Musical Company is a leading ensemble, directed by Artistic Director Gabriela Petránková, 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 NMST 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 National Moravian-Silesian Theatre (Národní divadlo moravskoslezské) is the oldest and largest professional theatre in Ostrava and the Moravian-Silesian Region, Czech Republic. It comprises four companies—opera, drama, ballet, and musical—that perform on three stages: Antonín Dvořák Theatre, Jiří Myron Theatre, and Theatre “12”. Each season, NMST opens around 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. Renowned for its excellence, NMST is a top Czech theatre institution, recognized with numerous awards and attracting both domestic and international directors, choreographers, soloists, and audiences.



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