



Same Old Story – An Inuit legend comes to life in a "recycled" production

The BERG Orchestra and PONEC – the dance venue will open the new season on Tuesday, 5 September 2023 with the premiere of the music-dance production **Same Old Story**. Renowned choreographer Mirka Eliášová and top music composer Jana Vöröšová, who will also be one of the performers on stage, were inspired by an ancient Inuit story. The musicians move and the dancers make sounds in a performance whose theme is humanity and nature. The main approach here is to use "recycled materials". The creators plundered their warehouses for them, finding an abundance of materials, musical instruments and other objects awaiting their next life.

"What is the best thing in the world to be? Ordinary grass or a beautiful herb? A mouse or a bird? What about a person?" An old Inuit legend reflects on the will to live and survive even in difficult conditions. "The ancient story resonates especially in today's age full of fears and a constant sense of threat," says choreographer Mirka Eliášová. "But it also works with hope. Thanks to their creativity, a person can deal with unexpected and challenging situations."

The BERG Orchestra succeeded in bringing together two prominent Czech artists. Jana Vöröšová is a recognized composer with commissions from the Czech Philharmonic and Prague Spring, while Mirka Eliášová is one of the creative constants of the Czech dance scene. "We have been working with both of them for a long time, with Jana since her studies, and with Mirka we have created a number of exceptional site-specific evenings since 2007, among others in the Wastewater Treatment Plant or in the former Palace of Electric Companies," said Peter Vrábek, artistic director of the orchestra. "We are happy that we managed to bring them together and that they understood each other so well."

"Mirka, Jana and I set ourselves the goal of making the most of our storerooms, which hide a huge number of treasures – materials, musical instruments and other things," Eva Kesslová, director of the BERG Orchestra, revealed. "It is a creative challenge and a duty towards our planet."

"We are primarily interested in connecting movement and sound," Mirka Eliášová added. "The musicians have a movement action, the dancers make a sound, and we chose them accordingly. It is the next logical step in our collaboration."

On stage with the dancers and musicians will be composer Jana Vöröšová, who is familiar with the dance environment. "I'm not a dancer, but I used to go dancing and I've been teaching at the Duncan Centre conservatory for more than twenty years, so I watch dance every day," she said. "It's great that I get an emotional assignment from Mirka, and the implementation is then up to me. That's also why I chose an accordion for the performance, which is very moving."

The first rehearsals took place in March, the main rehearsals will take place during the summer holidays, and the premiere will open the PONEC Theatre season on Tuesday, September 5. The evening performance will be complemented by a morning performance for schools.

Eli & coll. & BERG Orchestra & PONEC – the dance venue
SAME OLD STORY | ... a music-dance performance

premiere: 5 September 2023 at 20:00, PONEC – the dance venue

next repeat performance: 6 September 2023 and 20 November 2023 (others in 2024)

Mirka Eliášová – choreography, Jana Vöröšová – music

Pavel Havrda – light design & video, Renata Weidlichová – costumes

Performers: Jana Kubánková, Jazmína Piktorová, Jana Vöröšová, Radek Doležal, Radim Klásek

MEDIA CONTACTS

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The **BERG Orchestra** focuses on contemporary music and supporting Czech composers, especially younger generations. It combines music with film, dance, theatre or visual arts, and often invites listeners to non-traditional spaces. It has already presented world premieres of more than 200 new works, so its work is essential for the development of the Czech music scene. Over the course of its existence, the BERG Orchestra has built a reputation as a top ensemble that boldly and creatively tackles the most challenging projects in the field of contemporary music. In 2021, it won the prestigious Prix Italia award, the first for the Czech Republic in half a century.

www.berg.cz

Eli and coll. is an organic group of artists collaborating with the creative duo Eliášová (choreography) – Jakl (sound). Its founder Mirka Eliášová is a Czech choreographer, dance teacher and performer. She studied choreography at the Dance Department of the Music and Dance Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (HAMU) (MgA., PhD.), where she currently works as a teacher. At the same time, she teaches children and non-professional dancers of all ages at the Klapkova Arts Elementary School in Prague and as part of educational and popularization workshops. She is dedicated to the creation of interactive and experimental performances for both adult and child audiences. For a long time, she has focused on using the principles of improvisation in contemporary dance and immediate composition. Since 2008, she has been collaborating with the Berg Orchestra on site-specific and interactive projects.

PONEC – the dance venue is a unique space for creativity, inspiration, meeting, dialogue and new impulses. On the border of lower Žižkov and Karlín, it has been involved in the creation and emergence of new progressive dance works for 22 years, especially as a co-producer. It also appeals to children and young audiences and pays great attention to the creation of interactive performances for schools and families. It gives space to domestic artists and at the same time expands the possibilities of international cooperation. The PONEC Theatre is the home stage of the TANEC PRAHA and Czech Dance Platform festivals. PONEC is operated by Tanec Praha z.ú. based on a lease agreement with the City of Prague 3.

www.divadloponec.cz

Support for the BERG Orchestra and Eli and coll. – 2023 season: Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, City of Prague, European Union through the National Recovery Plan, Prague 1, Prague 7, OSA Partnership, BENU – pharmacy network

Media support: KlasikaPlus, Taneční aktuality, Classic Praha, HISvoice

Support for the PONEC Theatre: City of Prague, Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, City of Prague 3, the European Union programs Creative Europe and NextGeneration EU, the National Recovery Plan, EDN – European Dancehouse Network, Dance Well, Krenovka and SUDOP Real a.s., which received a grant of CZK 6,625,000 for revitalization from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway within the EEA Funds 2014–2021.