Press release

30. 4. 2019

**PQ 2019 presents short films showing outstanding performance spaces from around the world**

**As part of its Performance Space Exhibition, the 2019 Prague Quadrennial – the largest theatre event of the year, which runs from 6 to 16 June at the Prague Exhibition Grounds – presents 41 projects reflecting a broad range of possible approaches to theater architecture. Inside the central hall of the Industrial Palace, visitors will find several trucks that have been transformed into screening rooms showing short films from around the world. Each film presents a particular project, and their range is truly broad: modern multifunctional halls, water theater, national opera houses, outdoor installations, and buildings with outstanding acoustics or of particular importance for the local community. At 7pm on Monday 10 June, the international jury will present the four winning spaces: Britain’s *Levitating Theatre*, which combines the art of the scenographer with that of a chef; the mobile acoustic shell *Soundforms*; the *DOX+* multifunctional hall at Prague’s DOX Centre for Contemporary Art; and the Hong Kong festival project *Theatre in the Wild*. For the latest information, see** [**www.pq.cz**](http://www.pq.cz)**.**

**Films presenting a dialogue between architecture and live art**

The Performance Space Exhibition presents a wide range of approaches to theater architecture, including found and reshaped spaces, large national projects, and temporary outdoor structures. Projects from this last group are often located in remote or difficult-to-reach places where the performance space is not necessarily created by the architect. “The exhibition is envisioned as a symbolic fleet of trucks that have come together with their audiovisual cargo from literally all over the world. Stylized into small screening rooms, the various trucks give audiences a chance to peer into the lively world of theater, theater architecture, and scenography, which is – or should be – constantly in motion,” explains PQ’s artistic director Markéta Fantová. Each short film presents one project through a dialogue between artists and creators. For a closer look, visitors will have the chance to view selected videos online from the comfort of their home. The exhibition design is by Matěj Činčera and Jan Kloss from the OKOLO studio.

**The four winning projects will be awarded during PQ 2019**

The four winning performance spaces chosen by a jury of experts – Andrew Filmer, Dorita Hannah, and Monica Raya – will be presented at 7pm on Monday 10 June in Křižík Pavilion E.

**Theatre in the Wild (design: Hour25 Production)** is a project for a sustainable festival that does not disturb the character of the surrounding landscape and that makes sensitive use of the genius loci. It was first realized on an abandoned field in the Hong Kong village of Ping Che. The decline of farming and the impending relocation of the villagers because of development plans were reflected in the festival’s rural setting, which contrasted with the skyscrapers of Hong Kong in the background. The project’s central question is the impact that the location has on the artistic event and vice versa.

**DOX+ multifunctional hall (design: Petr Hájek architekti)** was created during the most recent expansion of the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art in Prague. The hall’s acoustic and spatial variability opens up new possibilities for multi-genre dramaturgy, with an emphasis on the development of new performance forms. Both buildings are linked in terms of programming and operations, thus creating a complex without equal in the Czech Republic. In 2018, DOX+ was nominated for the European architecture prize, the Mies van der Rohe Award.

**Levitating Theatre (design: UNISM Studio)** explores artistic expression not only visually but also through the taste buds. The project’s architect has succeeded in combining the art of the scenographer with that of a chef by seating the audience around a dining table that simultaneously acts as a stage. From this vantage point, the viewers watch how everything comes together in a unique performance.

**Soundforms** **(design: Flanagan Lawrence)** is a mobile acoustic building in the shape of a sea shell, built with the aim of bringing the qualities of a concert hall to an outdoor stage. The shell has been installed at, among other places, the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, and today it is permanently located at Bayfront Performance Park in San Diego, California, where it is used by the San Diego Symphony.

**About PQ:**

The fourteenth edition of the largest international festival of theatre and scenography will take place from 6 to 16 June 2019 at the Prague Exhibition Grounds. Over the course of 11 days, the Prague Quadrennial will offer exposition from 79 countries, more than 800 artist from around the world, and over 600 performances, workshop, and lectures. Stars who will appear at PQ include illustrator **Olivia Lomenech Gill**, Italian opera director and scenographer **Stefano Poda**, and audiovisual artist **Romain Tardy**. This year’s PQ program covers three thematic areas: **Imagination, Transformation, and Memory**.

The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space was established in 1967 with the aim of bringing the best theatre design, scenography, and theatre architecture to the forefront of cultural events and thus to introduce not only professional and emerging artists but also the general public to contemporary scenography. Held once every four years, PQ’s various exhibitions, festivals, and educational programs promote experimental art, networking, innovation, and future collaboration among a diverse range of artists. Its aim is to celebrate, strengthen, and promote the work of scenographers, artists, and architects while also inspiring and educating audiences, who are the most important element of any live performance.

**Organized by:** Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic

**Realized by:** Arts and Theatre Institute

**With support from:** City of Prague, co-financed from the European Union’s Creative Europe program

**Under the auspices of:** The Mayor of the City of Prague, Prague 7 Municipal District, Czech UNESCO Office

**General partner:** ROBE

**General media partner:** Czech Television

**Main media partner:** Czech Radio

**Media partners:** Radio 1, Respekt, Ego!, A2, Artikl, Flash Art, ArtMap, Theater der Zeit, Nachtkritik, kød, Taneční Zóna, Fullmoon Magazine, Svět a divadlo, Loutkář, Divadelní noviny, protisedi.cz, scena.cz, divadlo.cz

**Partners:** GoPay, ETC, Vectorworks, ShowTex, d&b audiotechnik, stage | set | scenery, Mamashelter, Estec, Lunchmeat, Mamacoffee, BookTherapy, Prague Superguide, Goout, Aeroškola

**Venues:** Prague Exhibition grounds, DAMU, National Museum, Studio Alta

**Official merchandise:** Papelote, KeepCup, Sodastream, Botas 66, Bohempia, SELF – Human Soap

**---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**PR and media:**

Lucia Horňáková, e: lucia.hornakova@pq.cz, t: +420 731 306 631