



Lodz. Chorea in The Project „Theater Poland”

Theater Association Chorea, as the one and only theater from Lodz, had taken part in a nationwide project „Theater Poland”, founded by The Department of Culture. Thanks to that project the residents of dozens of small cities will be given a chance to see an interesting theater performances. The first show will be displayed on Wednesday.

The program is organized by The Theater Institute in Warsaw. The inspiration comes from a famous theatre-tours, lead by Juliusz Osterwa and his company „Reduta” - the first theatre-monastery in Poland. Jerzy Grotowski had also established to the tradition of Osterwa's theatre. During the two decades of the interwar era „Reduta” Theater was traveling to the audience, who did not have a regular contact with theater performances, and was making a presentations of classical drama and polish repertoire.

The Lucky Sixteen

As the continuation of the legendary Osterwa's project, The Teater Institute had prepared this year the first edition of the program „Theatre Poland”. The Department of Culture will pay for its replenmentation. Quite a few – eight hundred and sixty thousand PLN. Seventy seven theater groups, associations, and cultural institutions from the whole country, had applied to the competition. The Institute Commission assessed the artistic level of the performances, and also the extent in which they are fulfilling the aims of the program.

In the end the Commission had chosen sixteen performances of the professional and avant-garde theatre groups, and only one from Lodz: “Play(ing) Mr. Cogito” based on the poetry of Zbigniew Herbert, prepared by Chorea Theater. [...] Chorea will give its performance in Sieradz, Skierniewice, Lochow, Radomsk, Tomaszow, and Grojec. The first show will be displayed in Lodz.

Playing Noughts and Crosses with Herbert

“Play(ing) Mr. Cogito”, directed by Tomasz Rodowicz, was ready a year ago, on the tenth anniversary of the polish poet's death. Even though a poetry does not seem to be the best material for the theater, and it is usually ending like a school academy performance, Chorea Theater had found a way how to avoid pious recitation. Herbert's poetry is used to create fun. Literally.

The category of the game is used as a connection to join and combine various poems, which are coming from different poetry volumes, and had been created in different periods of the author's life. Playing a game with the recipient, and with the convention – these are the most representative identification marks of Herbert's poetry. The idea of deconstructing his texts as an objects for the diferent games in the performance, is inspired by Herbert's poetics. Theater as an 'mimicry' is a one of the four basic types of the games. By evoking thesis of an Austrian philosopher, Ludwig Wittgenstein, the authors of the performance are activating the Game Theory as a important context for the whole meanings of all stage actions.

The actors are inventing seventeen games. The main rule is to speak only by the words, which are coming from Herbert's poems. [...] Using that kind of creative method, according to its artistic credo, Chorea is combining and joining words, choreography and music. The poetry sounds in a very unusual, alive and dynamic way.

“Herbert for Everyone”

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