Virtual, iconoclastic, sarcastic, neurotic, existential ..... Jan Mocek’s Showcase presents four original performances that have been created during the last five years at the Archa Theater and Alfred ve dvoře.

Prague 3.3.2022

The showcase starts March 9th and runs to March 12th and it is an unique opportunity to see four performances created by one director and his creative team. We invite spectators to immerse in the original author’s vision, finding hidden connections and links that lead through all the works.

"We feel that we are at a crossroads and that is why we want to invite the audience to a retrospective of our work from the last five years. A lot has changed in that short time, and before we take another step before we wake up to perhaps the post-covid time, we need to clarify where we stand, what is actually happening, and what the options are to continue. We believe that many people are going through a similar process today. "Director Jan Mocek says about the showcase.

The showcase starts with the gaming performance Virtual Ritual at the Archa Theater offering a live analysis of the phenomenon of the digital society, which is formed in virtual gaming worlds, in which millions of people sign up every day. In the following days, the Alfred ve dvoře Theater will present the performances Present: Perfect and I Am the Problem. The first is a performative installation that deals with the different ways in which we relate to our shared past. It has been inspired by the current wave of iconoclasm and tries to capture the moment when the past is weaponized to fight the present social battles. The guilt driven Western civilization is the theme of the multi-genre performance I Am the Problem, which so far took place only three times due to covid lockdowns. It invites three performers to the stage, who entrust themselves with the urgent need for an ethically correct life and the (im)possibility of achieving it here and now. The showcase then concludes with the oldest of the featured, theatrical poems about absence, Shadow Meadow, which radically shifts the possibilities of working with light, sound and theater space.

Jan Mocek is a theater maker and visual artist based in Prague. In his performances, he mixes elements of pop culture, politics and personal experience to speak about times we are living in. At the same time, he offers his audience an emotionally atmospheric and strongly sensual experience.

The Radiant Cities (2016), Shadow Meadow (2017), Fatherland (2018), Virtual Ritual (2019), I am the Problem (2020) are his latest performances, presented nationally and internationally at festivals such as Fast Forward Dresden, Use the City Košice, Submerge Digital Arts festival Bristol or 4+4 Days in Motion Prague to name but a few. Jan Mocek is a member of IN-SITU - European Platform for Artistic Creation in Public Space. SixHouses is a production platform lead by Tana Svehlova and provides complex production support for Jan Mocek’s projects.
**Jan Mocek Showcase**

March 9, 8pm, Virtual Ritual, Archa Theater

March 10, 8pm, I am the Problem, Alfred ve dvoře

March 11, 8pm, Present: Perfect, Alfred ve dvoře

March 12, 8pm, Shadow Meadow, Alfred ve dvoře

**Festival pass:** 600CZK / students 400CZK: https://goout.net/cs/listky/jan-mocek-showcase/gedm/


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9.3. 20:00 Virtual Ritual, Archa Theatre

An original gaming performance takes its viewers to the parallel world of online video games. It is an exploration of a digital society which is formed by millions of people around the world who log into the vast gaming worlds every day.

The virtual spaces offer its users endless possibilities to enjoy themselves without constraints of harsh reality. But every game has its rules. Urbanist Osamu Okamura, YouTuber Atlet, photographer and gamer Adéla Vosičková and virtual avatar: four performers will form an expert gaming panel to unpack hidden mechanisms, prototypes, rituals, that shape seemingly weightlessness world of online videogames. What norms, rules and codes are allowed to surpass in virtual space? And in reality? What role does the gaming principles play in our society? By means of original use of a live video, 3D animations and YouTube formats, the performance unveils hidden links between real and virtual living spaces set at the backdrop of fast growing gaming industry changing the ways how we understand reality.

10.3. 20:00, I am the Problem, Alfred in the Yard

There's nothing in this world which could not possibly make one feel guilty: procrastination on social networks, watching Netflix shows, eating meat, hanging up on parents, buying Huawei smartphone, expelling sudeten Germans and even feeling (or not) the guilt itself.

Seminal performance "I am the problem" emerged from previous inquiries into manifestations of guilt on social networks, stemming from the clash between what we want to be and what we are. Theatre artists Irina Adreeva, Wayne Jordan and Tinka Avramova invite spectators for a 60 minute performance, to take a selfie of the shared emotion of guilt and, finally, to make an attempt to become a part of the solution rather than staying the part of the problem.

11.3. 20:00, Present: Perfect, Alfred in the Yard

"Do not cast the statues of the gods" (Exodus 32 14)

From Byzantine soldiers tasked with removing a portrait of Christ from the Bronze Gate to the Imperial Palace, through the attacks of the Suffragettes on art in British galleries, to today's activists demolishing colonial sculptures west of us. In addition to dominant images, icons and narratives, there have always been those alternative rivals, ready to take a vacant place at the right time. And in addition to the fanatical iconoclasts that uncompromisingly destroyed all the hallmarks of hostile ideology, there was a crowd of no less passionate Iconodules who defended the existing symbols to the last breath.

Present: perfect is our latest exhibition dedicated to the phenomenon of contemporary iconoclasm. It aims to show how we are still negotiating what happened in the past, how our present lives are inseparably linked to our shared history. It presents a collection of presents from the past by linking our past to present thus making our present once again perfect.
12.3. 20:00, Shadow Meadow, Alfred in the Yard

Jan Mocek’s performance combines elements of visual art, object theater, and dark ambient. It explores situations in which the non-presence of objects or people creates an impression of their intense presence.

Performers Irina Andreeva and Jan Mocek appear in the empty space of the Alfred ve dvoře theater in order to discover hidden spaces, dark matter, or black holes, and to transform them in a manner that is ironic, poetic, and humorous, but also unpleasant, pop-cultural and avant-garde. In today’s audiovisually oversaturated world, they present a somewhat radical gesture: emptiness, silence, darkness, negation, nothingness, pause. When you look into the darkness, the darkness begins to look at you. Make it stand out.