

Press release, 12.06.2024

"The Employees" and "Arcadia" – Polish Culture at the International Theatre Festival in Sibiu

Performances by Warsaw's STUDIO theatregallery and Kraków's KTO Theatre will be showcased at one of Europe's most important theatre festivals as part of the first-ever Poland-Romania Cultural Season 2024-2025.

The Poland-Romania Cultural Season 2024-2025's programme is being made possible through the collaboration of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute (AMI), the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, and the Polish Institute in Bucharest with the Romanian Ministry of Culture and the Romanian Cultural Institute.

THE EMPLOYEES

Veering on the border between drama and visual arts, this show directed by **Łukasz Twarkowski** is based on the Booker Prize-nominated novel by Danish author Olga Ravn. It will be performed on **21st and 22nd June 2024**. Set in the future, this intimate sci-fi drama explores the relationships between humanoid robots and humans. Premiered in 2023, the production has already won awards at major Polish theatre festivals. The literary adaptation and dramaturgy are by Joanna Bednarczyk. The production is by STUDIO theatregallery in Warsaw.

Łukasz Twarkowski, the director, is known for his theatre productions, performances, installations and films. He has created projects in international teams and co-productions, and has showcased his work at major festivals and venues across Europe, including the Holland Festival, Odéon – Théâtre de l'Europe, the Ruhrtriennale, Festival de Otoño de Madrid, the Wiener Festwochen, Piccolo Teatro de Milano, the Southbank Centre in London, and Onassis Stegi in Athens. His productions are renowned for pushing the boundaries of perceived reality through innovative use of multimedia. His recent works include multidimensional, sensory-immersive pieces such as "Lokis" (2017, Lithuanian National Drama Theatre in Vilnius), "Respublika" (2020, Münchner Kammerspiele and Lithuanian National Drama Theatre in Vilnius), and "Rotkho" (2022, the Dailes Theater in Riga and Kochanowski Theatre in Opole).

Performances: 21st June at 18:00 and 22nd June at 16:00 at Fabrica de Cultură – UniCredit - Lulu Hall, as part of the International Theatre Festival in Sibiu.

The Employees:

- Author: Olga Ravn
- Director: Łukasz Twarkowski
- Text adaptation & dramaturgy: Joanna Bednarczyk
- Set design: Fabien Lédé
- Cast: Małgorzata Hajewska-Krzysztofik (audio recording), Dominika Biernat, Daniel Dobosz, Maja Pankiewicz / Wiktoria Kruszczyńska, Sonia Roszczuk, Paweł Smagała, Miron Smagała (video recording), Rob Wasiewicz

ARCADIA

Another production presented at FITS (the Sibiu International Theatre Festival) is "Arcadia", an outdoor performance inspired by the poetry of Tadeusz Różewicz and directed by Jerzy Zoń. The plot centres around a lament for the death of a hero. The creators present an Arcadian landscape composed of the most beautiful and cruel aspects of earthly life. The production is by Krakow's KTO Theatre.

Jerzy Zoń is one of the leading figures in Polish alternative theatre, a director and actor, as well as the director and co-founder of Kraków's KTO Theatre. Since 1995, he has also served as director of the ULICA International Street Theatre Festival in Kraków. Under Zoń's leadership, KTO Theatre has conquered stages and streets worldwide, participating in major international festivals and creating international co-productions. During nearly 300 artistic journeys, the Kraków ensemble has presented its work in over 40 countries on five continents.

Performance: 25th June at 21:45 at Piața Mare, as part of the International Theatre Festival in Sibiu.

Arcadia:

- Music arrangement: Jerzy Zoń
- Choreography & movement: Eryk Makohon
- Set design: Marek Braun, Jerzy Zoń
- Cast: Magdalena Dymśa / Karolina Daniec-Franczyk, Paulina Lasyk, Grażyna Srebrny-Rosa, Marta Zoń, Sławomir Bendykowski, Bartek Cieniawa, Krzysztof Cybulski / Paweł Monsiel, Tomasz Łukawski, Franciszek Muła, Mieszko Syc

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL IN SIBIU

The FITS International Theatre Festival in Sibiu is one of the world's most important theatre and performing arts festivals and the third largest, after the Avignon Festival and the Edinburgh International Festival. It was founded in 1993 by Constantin Chiriac. The festival programme includes renowned names from the international scene and offers a wide range of performances with guests from over 70 countries and around 550 events.

POLAND-ROMANIA CULTURAL SEASON 2024-2025

The POLAND-ROMANIA Cultural Season 2024-2025 is an 18-month series of artistic events across both countries. It is the result of joint efforts by the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, AMI, and the Romanian Ministry of Culture and the Romanian Cultural Institute, supported by the Polish Institute in Bucharest. The season includes dozens of concerts, theatre performances, film screenings, exhibitions and literary events. The season's slogan is "We Share a Common Language", referring to the language of culture, a language that allows for deep understanding and communication through a diversity of forms, means of expression and traditions. Its logo, a collaboration between graphic design students from Poland and Romania, was inspired by the diacritical marks characteristic of these two challenging languages.

AMI – THE MAIN ORGANISER OF THE POLAND-ROMANIA CULTURAL SEASON 2024-2025

AMI is a national cultural institution in operation since 2000. AMI aims to **build lasting interest in Polish culture worldwide through international cultural exchange**. AMI has carried out projects in over 70 countries across 6 continents, including the United Kingdom, France, Israel, Germany, Turkey, the USA, Canada, Australia, Morocco, Ukraine, Lithuania and Latvia, as well as China, Japan and Korea, for which it has received awards and distinctions at international exhibitions and festivals. In 2023, the Polish Pavilion "Poetics of Necessity," organized by AMI, received a medal at the London Design Biennale.

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