

Ladies and gentlemen,

the second edition of the Festival of Joy is over. Together with you, we have watched a total of fifteen different performances. Five performances of the Radosti Theatre and ten competitive performances of theatres invited to Brno from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany and Poland. As a jury, we were invited to reflect on and determine the most interesting and outstanding performances in our opinion. The choice was not easy. The comparison of the competing productions is the result of deep and unselfconscious reflection on the part of the organisers.

What common criteria can be adopted for such different performances for such different audiences? After all, the creators of the competition performances addressed their theatre both to audiences who are just saying goodbye to the prenatal period and to those whose senses have already been through the hell of excessive stimuli more than once.

What riddle, what key lies behind the motto of the Festival of Joy - puppet-object-artifact?

For us theatre people, including puppet theatre, the puppet is the key to metaphor. In puppets we find freedom and the challenge to experiment. With the puppet, the impossible becomes possible.

But nothing is given once and for all. Our environment is constantly changing. The number of objects around us is constantly increasing, designed to penetrate our unconscious through our senses and awaken our needs.

If we assume that theatre communicates with us in the form of references to our experiences, which are subject to change, then theatre itself should also change, develop its field of action, redefine itself. Such was the case of the Joy Festival, where we participated for more than a week in developing the concept of "puppet theatre". We participated in the theatre of the puppet-object-artifact. A theatre that goes beyond animation, giving soul to objects, to puppets. We have participated in a theatre that wants to animate our souls through the puppet-object-artifact. The soul of the spectator.

But is it really a key only for the Festival of Joy? Perhaps this is how the idea of a new theatre is born. A theatre that not only cultivates the tradition of theatrical craft, but also uses the puppet-artifact to go on a journey through our perception, to search for what is undiscovered in the theatre, i.e. in us.

At the same time, we would like to draw special attention to one of the accompanying events of the Festival of Joy, namely the final of the dramaturgical competition announced by the theatre and the presentation of the award-winning texts. We are absolutely convinced that we have been involved in the birth of an extremely important initiative that will, over the years, bring new dramaturgy to children and young audiences, referring to the problems of today's young people. Special recognition goes to the actors of the Radost Theatre who have lent their versatility and talent to the newly outlined dramaturgy.