

Culture Get-Together 2023

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS:

Baxa Martin – Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic

Pilsen-native, Baxa was elected a City of Pilsen representative in 2002. From 2004 to 2008, he served as a Pilsen Region council member for culture and historic landmarks preservation. He was elected the youngest mayor in the history of the City of Pilsen in the 2010 municipal elections. After the 2014 elections he held the post of the 1st deputy mayor of the City of Pilsen for culture, tourism and historic landmarks preservation, and the project Pilsen – European Capital of Culture 2015. He has served as a member of parliament of the Czech Republic since 2017, and from 2018 to the beginning of 2022 he served again as a mayor of the City of Pilsen. He has also been the vice-chair of the ODS party since 2018. In 2021 Baxa was appointed the Minister of Culture. His interests include history, architecture, literature, and fine arts.

Bárta Jiří – fundraising consultant and former long-term director of Via Foundation

Jiří Bárta is one of the founders of the Via Foundation, an organisation "opening paths to the art of living together and the art of giving" in the Czech Republic since 1997. He studied systems engineering at the CTU Faculty of Civil Engineering, and management of non-profit organisations at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. His stay in the US clearly showed him the power of philanthropy as a driving force in society. During his tenure at the Via Foundation he focused on development of philanthropy, and today he shares his expertise as a member of the board of directors of the Via Clarita Endowment Fund. He is a fundraising consultant focusing on major donor fundraising.

Černík Roman – founder and artistic director of the cultural centre Moving Station in Pilsen

Educator, theatre artist and cultural activist. He teaches at the University of West Bohemia and the Theatre Faculty, Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. In 1998 he co-founded the civic association JOHAN in Pilsen, which represents a successful transformation of a Pilsen train station building into a modern cultural space, the Moving Station. In 2007 he received the Next Wave Festival Award; in 2014, he was awarded the Czech Theatre DNA prize at Malá inventura Festival for supporting independent theatre in the regions. Roman Černík is also involved in cultural policy: he worked as a head of culture department of the municipality of Pilsen; he is a co-author of the City of Pilsen's successful candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015; he also assisted with the candidacies of Slovak cities Hlohovec and Žilina. He is a co-author of cultural policy of the cities of Pilsen, Mělník, Písek, and Planá.

Hrab Ondřej – founder and director of Archa Theatre

He was born in Olomouc. During communism he organised in Prague underground performances by The Living Theatre, Mina Tanaka, and other artists, thus setting the direction of his activities for the following three decades. In 1991 he founded the Archa Theatre, one of the first venues for contemporary performing arts in the Czech Republic. Under his leadership, Archa became known for exceptional dramaturgy and innovative projects, introducing for the first time in the country renowned international artists, such as Robert Wilson, Philip Glass, Ultima Vez, DV8, Dogtroep, Lola Arias, and others. Together with his wife Jana Svobodová, he has been promoting for a long time documentary projects focused on specific social issues. In December 2023 the Archa Theatre will end its activities at Na Poříčí premises. Nevertheless, Ondřej and Jana will continue in their efforts to connect education and theatrical creation in documentary theatre.

Kašiarová Lucia – co-founder of Studio ALTA in Prague and director of Studio Dance Theatre in Banská Bystrica

Founder and artistic director of the cultural centre Studio ALTA, an organisation supporting independent artists working in dance, new theatre, and social educational projects. She is also a director of Studio Dance Theatre (since 2022), the only professional theatre in Slovakia focused on contemporary dance. In the past, she led a festival of Slovak contemporary dance, HYBAJ HO, and a festival of movement theatre and pantomime, Kašparův kolínský Mimoriál. Currently she leads the Dance Days international festival. She participates in various cultural and grant commissions in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. She is a member of the board of Vize tance, an independent dance industry organisation. She is the 2017 and 2021 winner of the Czech dance platform award for interpretation, and the 2018 winner of the Jiří Opěla award for manager of the year. She was nominated for the 2022 Thálie theatre award in alternative theatre for her interpretation in the performance Mnohodiec. She likes the challenge that differences in management and production of artistic programmes in state-founded and independent cultural institutions have to offer. Her creative work is wide-ranging, she chooses artists who are open to inquiry and see art as a journey to understand and build a healthy society.

Koubová Karolína – former mayor of the City of Jihlava

After studying theatre management at the Janáček Academy of Performing Arts in Brno, she returned to her native Jihlava in 2010 with a production plan for a space of the newly emerging hall DIOD – Theatre of Open Doors; she then managed its business and artistic programming for five years. Since 2014 she has been engaged in local politics as an independent candidate – she was already in opposition, coalition, in the council; in the previous term she served as a mayor. All that time, her main topic has been a development of culture and through it also of a city; she is interested in communities – how they operate, their members' relationships – and, above all, how communities influence development of a city, i.e. whether a municipality is even able and willing to take these relationships into a consideration when developing a city. The topic was central to her successful application for doctoral studies at the Theatre Faculty, Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, where starting this year a research headed by Alice Koubová will be conducted. At the moment, she focuses once again on production and dramaturgy.

Kubaš Mario – journalist, arts manager and moderator of the CGT 2023 conference

Czech television journalist, university pedagogue, yachtsman, actor, and cultural manager. He studied drama and acting at the Theatre Faculty, Academy of Performing Arts in Prague; art studies, aesthetics and religious studies at the Masaryk University in Brno; journalism at Charles University, and cultural management at Sciences-Po in Paris; he received his doctorate degree from Charles University. He works as an editor of Events in Culture. He regularly lectures at the Department of Arts Management at the University of Economics and Business in Prague, where he organises the International Week of Arts Management each year, hosting leading European experts in cultural management. He is also a director of the theatre festival Modrý kocour.

Kultová Petra – programme coordinator of the EHMK Broumov 2028 project

Petra graduated from the Department of Translation Studies at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, majoring in German language. She spent one year as a research resident in Berlin. After her studies, her career path led to the Czech Radio, specifically to the Vltava station, where she worked as a presenter and dramaturge of a programme focused on news in culture. She hosted the programme Akcent, nominated for the Journalism Award by the Open Society Fund Prague. She was also part of a team preparing the music programme Koncert pro zvěř (Concert for Animals), which won in 2021 one of the most prestigious international awards, Prix Europe. In her spare time, Petra likes to go on bike trips to the mountains. Along

the way, she peeks into 'knihobudky' (public bookcases) and looks for abandoned poetry collections. In Broumov area, Petra has been fascinated by the story of a forgotten Czech Olympian of German nationality Emerich Rath, the silenced beauty of baroque churches, and the bold plans of people she meets.

Kunze Jan – director of the Contemporary Art Centre EPO1

Director of the Contemporary Art Centre EPO1, curator at UFFO gallery, member of the Academy of Popular Music which presents the Anděl Awards. He is an editor and one of the founders of the independent publishing house Perplex, publishing primarily contemporary Czech poetry. For several years he was a member of the programme board of the Silesian Regional Museum; he also worked as a secretary of the industry organisation Vize tance; and for 10 years as a dramaturge of the Opava Cultural Organisation, a member of the Czech Cultural Network Nová síť (until 2020). Jan Kunze is a frontman of the music bands KOFE-IN and Munroe, author of three published collections of poetry, he wrote and published a dozen of books on visual arts, and is behind a number of other, multi-genre projects.

Kreuzmannová Yvona – founder and director of Tanec Praha

She has been a director of Tanec Praha since its foundation in 1991. The non-profit was established in order to organise the International DANCE PRAGUE Festival, but the scope of its activities was expanded to include the Czech Dance Platform and PONEC – Theatre for Dance. From 2006 to 2008 she worked as an external adviser to the Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic. She co-founded a number of EU projects, such as Trans Danse Europe, the Aerowaves platform, and actively participates in European networks (EDN – European Dancehouse Network, Big Pulse Dance Alliance – a network of European dance festivals) and numerous international collaborative projects. She lobbies for performing arts also as a co-founder of Vize tance, ČAF (Czech Association of Festivals), and the president of the Czech ITI; she also conceived a plan for the House of Dance. In 2004 the French president awarded her the Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite for her outstanding contribution to the development of European cultural cooperation.

Ladjánszki Márta – dancer, choreographer, former director of L1 Dance Fest in Budapest

Márta Ladjánszki is a creative energy and motor (sometimes also engine) of new ideas. She is based in Hungary but would be happy to travel around the world (again) to share her way of thinking about body and movement. She is a choreographer, dancer/performer and modern dance pedagogue. Under her artistic leadership she was responsible for curating, managing and hosting L1 Dance Fest – a Movement-based International Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts' in the past 20 years (as an annual event of L1 Association). She is the body and mind behind 'Series of dance performances with/for naked spectators' event, a brand new way of thinking about unity, acceptance and understanding.

Ljubková Marta – chief dramaturge of the cultural centre Vzlet and former chief dramaturge at the National Theatre in Prague

She is a dramaturge and pedagogue. She studied Bohemian Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy, Charles University, and dramaturgy at KALD DAMU, where she now teaches. As a dramaturge, she has collaborated with a number of Czech state-founded theatres (such as Činohra ND, Západočeské divadlo Cheb, Divadlo Petra Bezruče) as well as independent theatres and associations (including Ponec, uffenživot). She works on a regular basis with Věra Ondrašíková, Petra Tejnorová, Daniela Špinar, Jiří Havelka, and Jan Mikulášek. She writes on literature and dramaturgy for the magazine *Souvislosti* and works as a chief dramaturge of the cultural centre Vzlet (started with 2022/2023 season).

Návrátová Jana – chair of the board of Dance Career Foundation and artistic director of Dance Films Festival

Since 1989, she has been working at the Institute of Arts – Theatre Institute, currently as a specialist in dance, also focusing on a second career and status of an artist. She is also a publicist, editor, cultural manager, curator specializing in dance and movement theatre. She is a researcher on projects analysing dance sector; writer and editor of a research series *Czech Dance in Data*. From 1992 to 2005 she worked as a pedagogue at the Duncan Centre Conservatory. From 2005 to 2010 she was editor-in-chief of the contemporary dance revue *Taneční zóna*. In 2009 she founded the biennial Dance Films Festival, which she manages as an artistic director. Since 2015 she has been the chair of the board of the Dance Career Foundation. She writes for professional cultural magazines and media. She is a certified yoga instructor.

Novák Rostislav – principal of Cirk La Putyka

Visionary, author, director, choreographer, dramaturge, and stage, TV and film actor. Founder and artistic director of a new circus multi-genre ensemble, Cirk La Putyka, and the multifunctional space Jatka78. Rostislav Novák was born into the eighth generation of the Kopecký family, famous travelling puppeteers. The determined graduate of the Department of Puppet and Alternative Theatre at the Theatre Faculty, Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, is a recipient of the Theatre Newspaper Award in dance and movement theatre (2016), an award in the Sazka Awards and Divadelní noviny Awards in the alternative theatre (2009), and was nominated for the Alfréd Radok Award in the Talent of the Year category (2006). He fulfilled his dream 14 years ago when he founded Cirk La Putyka where he has featured several productions as a director or author so far. As the Cirk La Putyka's artistic director, he likes to challenge himself as all as working with him, test boundaries of different genres, and share stories and topics that are important to him and the group. Cirk La Putyka is the recipient of the 2020 Theatre of the Year award. Together with Viktor Tauš, they won the Czech Lion for the FILMNAŽIVO project. Rostislav Novák received the Personality of the Year Regardless of Profession award for his activities in the 2020/2021 season during the Covid pandemic. In 2022 the Cirk La Putyka troupe provided asylum to 34 students from the Kyiv Circus Academy. Together they created the performance BOOM.

Pánek Jurková Jitka – former director of the Czech Centre in Brussels

Jitka Pánek Jurková, an expert in cultural diplomacy and a journalist, examines the role of culture and arts in international relations, especially cultural diplomacy, both on theoretical level and in practice. She lectures on cultural diplomacy (incl. FSV UK, UTB Zlín) and writes expert articles (such as the *International Journal of Cultural Policy*, *Urban People*), and also strives to popularise the topic in Czech context (articles published in *Respekt*, *Hospodářské noviny*, and other outlets). Together with Eliška Tomalová, she co-authored a podcast *Jazzman versus špioni: Umění jako tajná zbraň mezinárodní politiky* (*Jazzman versus Spies: Art as a Secret Weapon of International Politics*), and a book *Enfant terrible: Současná česká kulturní diplomacie a její dilemata* (*Enfant Terrible: Contemporary Czech Cultural Diplomacy and its Dilemmas*) (Dokořán 2023). From 2017 to 2023 she was a director of the Czech Centre in Brussels, designing and implementing the official cultural programme of the 2022 Presidency of the Czech Republic in the Council of the EU, among other things.

Pola Petr – programme director of Nová síť and artistic director of Malá inventura Festival

Dramaturge, theatre curator, and specialist in non-profit sector. He completed his master's and doctoral studies at the Department of Aesthetics at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, and his master's degree in dramaturgy at KALD DAMU. He is a co-founder and dramaturge of an independent theatre featuring only original plays, *Anička a letadýlko*, which celebrates 20 years of its existence in 2023. He has been working at Nová síť since 2014, participating in the development and direction of cultural programmes, conferences, and festivals (e.g. ART-IN-RES, Culture-Get-Together, Malá

inventura). He and Adriana Světlíková received the 2021 Divadelní noviny award for the realisation of the 19th online and offline edition of Malá Inventura Festival.

Sedláček Tomáš – economist, philosopher, and university pedagogue

Economist, author of the international bestseller *The Economy of Good and Evil* (2011). He is among the 100 most influential global thinkers (Top 100 Thought Leaders, GDI). In 2006 the *Yale Economic Review* included him in the top five young promising economists (Young Guns: 5 Hot Minds in Economics). At the age of 24, he became an economic adviser to President Václav Havel. He is a member of several important international and Czech organisations, such as the World Economic Forum and the programme board of the Forum 2000 Foundation. He works as a chief macroeconomic strategist of ČSOB. He is a sought-after media commentator and speaker at the best global universities and conferences.

Světlíková Adriana – director of Nová síť and Malá inventura Festival

Consultant, lecturer, and mediator in performing arts. She co-initiated the Czech Theatre DNA awards, Culture Get-Together conference, a programme supporting artist residencies within the V4 countries – VARP-PA, Czech Dance Showcase Edinburgh, and many other projects. She is a member of cultural grant commissions and a member of the presidium of the Czech ITI Centre. A graduate of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University (Department of Cultural Theory), she was a director of the NABLÍZKO theatre where she facilitated the interpreting of performances into sign language. She participated in several European projects. She is passionate about networking in Czech regions and using culture to drive change in social culture.

Šimek Jiří – co-author of this year's CGT 2023 conference campaign and moderator of Open Mic

Actor, director, and producer, co-founder of ufftenživot. A graduate of KALD DAMU, actor studio led by Petra Tejnorová. As an actor/performer, he works as a guest artist at independent theatre venues, mainly in Prague. He has appeared on screen and TV. In his work, he explores a balance between physical theatre, dance, improvisation, slam poetry, and new media, linked by a project's theme. Since 2020 he has been producing and moderating a podcast Život on Air (Life on Air), a platform of the ufftenživot group for everything that does not make it into a theatre.

Špok Dalibor – psychologist and psychotherapist

As a counselling psychologist, he focuses on personal change, psychological problems, finding one's own profession, productivity, job satisfaction, and self-realisation. He organises lectures and courses exploring psychological topics. He is a founder of a career counselling website, EtLabora.cz. He also provides counselling to gifted adults. He provides commentary on social and political events, participates in debates and interviews. In this area, he is primarily interested in the connection between psychology and changes in job and employment market, culture, media, technology and society – with implications such changes bring to our daily lives and our post-factual time. He is also interested in science, technology, cultural history, philosophy, and education.

Třeštíková Hana – deputy mayor of Prague 7 District, former council member of the City of Prague for culture, exhibitions and tourism

She inherited her love of culture from her parents. With her mother, a documentary filmmaker Helena, and her father, an architect and writer Michael, she has been part of social life since her childhood; culture is in her blood. After her graduation from the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts FAMU in Prague, she became an independent film producer. Her production company, Produkce Třeštíková, created a number of films, incl. Šmejdi (Crooks), a documentary which revealed unscrupulous practices of sellers targeting elderly people; it changed lives of many seniors. She also

directed a new instalment of her time-lapse series Manželské etudy: Nová generace (Marriage Etudes: The New Generation). In 2014 she entered municipal politics and became a councillor for culture in Prague 7 for the Praha 7 Sobě party. Her projects include, for example, Art District 7 – a district of culture and art. In 2018 she became a councillor for culture and tourism in Prague. She focused on creating strategies for further development of culture and tourism, and completed a renovation of the Clam-Gallas Desfour palaces. In collaboration with the Gallery of the Capital City of Prague she launched a programme for art in public space, Umění pro město (Art for the City). In addition, she introduced free admission for seniors to rehearsals of performances, and family admission to city organisations, so that culture could be truly for everyone. During the Covid pandemic, she supported artists, launching, for example, the Brejlando project which brings a theatrical experience to people's homes.

Varga Zsolt – composer, musician and chairman of the L1 Association

Varga Zsolt is supporting all creative ideas of Márta Ladjánszki either if they create new dance works or they are organizing different events with and for the L1 Association's members. He is a composer, musician, likes to create music with exciting partners but works for dance pieces as well quiet often. He is officially the chairman of L1 Association since 2011 and had a closer look on L1 Dance Fest's programs and international guests.

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