Press release

26. 2. 2018

**This year’s Bazaar Festival opens with exceptional Polish performance “One Gesture”**

**This year’s Bazaar theatre and dance festival starts up at 8pm on 16 March 2018 at the Ponec Theatre with the acclaimed performance of *One Gesture* by Poland’s Nowy Teatr. The three-day festival will then move to the Alfred ve dvoře and Studio Alta theatres. *One Gesture* is right in line with the theme of this year’s Bazaar Festival: Finding a Common Voice. This internationally award-winning performance on interpersonal communication directed by leading theatre innovator Wojtek Ziemilski will be making its Prague premiere. For more information and a complete festival program, please visit** [**www.alfredvedvore.cz/cs/bazaar**](http://www.alfredvedvore.cz/cs/bazaar)**. Tickets for *One Gesture* are available via GoOut and on the websites of the Ponec and Alfred ve dvoře theaters.**

*One Gesture* is a joint project by acclaimed director and innovator Wojtek Ziemilski and artist Wojciech Pustoła, who worked with hearing-impaired actors to create a unique form of performance in which the actors “speak without speaking and dance without dancing”. Humorously but also unsparingly, the performance’s four actors confront the audience with the difficulties hearing-impaired people face when communicating with one another. In so doing, they offer an exciting look at overcoming barriers in everyday interpersonal communication. For these Polish artists, being deaf is not a handicap but an opportunity for a new way of communicating with the world.

Like other performances at the festival, *One Gesture* explores the theme of this year’s festival, Finding a Common Voice. “*Before we can have any change in society, its individual parts have to formulate what they truly want. They must try to find a common language, a way of better communicating their issues*,” explains Bazaar’s programming director Ewan McLaren.   
  
Wojtek Ziemilski says of *One Gesture*: “*The language that I use seems to be absolutely incapable of capturing sign language and the world of deaf people in general.*” But, he adds, “*We started out by looking at Wittgenstein’s statement that ‘the limits of my language means the limits of my world.’ And so we asked ourselves: If our spoken language is the only reality to which we have access, couldn’t deaf people teach us something entirely new? There is something universal to their form of communication, but also something absolutely exceptional.*”

Tickets for *One Gesture* are available for CZK 300/200. This year, you can purchase a festival pass for CZK 800/500. Festival passes and tickets for individual performances can be purchased online at GoOut, on the websites of the participating theaters, and at the Alfred ve dvoře ticket office. Complete information on the 4th annual Bazaar Festival, which takes place 16–18 March 2018, is available at [www.alfredvedvore.cz/cs/bazaar](http://www.alfredvedvore.cz/cs/bazaar).

**Directed by:** Wojtek Ziemilski  
**Scenography, assistant director:**Wojciech Pustoła  
**Lighting design:**Artur Sienicki  
**Music:**Aleksander Żurowski  
**Costumes:** Krystian Jarnuszkiewicz  
**With:**Marta Abramczyk, Jolanta Sadłowska, Paweł Sosiński, Adam Stoyanov  
**Acknowledgments:** Adam Mickiewicz Institute

**Wojtek Ziemilski** is a Polish theatre director and artist. He creates multidisciplinary works for stage using approaches taken from both the visual and performing arts. Ziemilski is a graduate of a course of theatre directing at the Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon. In 2008, he was called a leading figure on Warsaw’s theatre scene. Past works include *Small Narration* (2010, performed in 20 countries around the world) and *Prologue* (the first Polish performance ever to be performed at the Ruhrtriennale). He also used to write a blog on contemporary art at “new-art.blogspot.com”. At Warsaw University, he teaches contemporary theatre with a special focus on the techniques of devised theater. He is a supporter of the new dance form known as “non-danse” because of its influence on the theatricality of theatre. Since 2015, he has headed the XS art center, which focuses on performative practices such as theatre, dance, performing arts, and other forms of art that can be applied in a stage performance. He was one of the people behind the 2014 performance event Golgota Picnic Polska, held at various places throughout Poland as a protest against the cancellation of Rodrigo Garcia’s performance *Golgota Picnic*.

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