

# theatre.slovak

## Drama Overcoming Realism (the 1940s – 1980s)

From the time of its emergence the Slovak drama experienced a not very long, but very rich journey. It was inspired by the European artistic directions as well as the domestic social and political life and the essence of theatre. The Slovak playwrights were unable to escape the trendy fashions and hazards that negatively influenced the form and quality of the plays. Just like the stories and heroes struggled with their own problems and external circumstances, the Slovak drama underwent its own struggles – with more or less success. It left us with important messages about the human perceptions and sensitivity in the context of contemporary and civilizational changes.



VHV (Vladimír Hurban Vladimírov): A SCREECHING LOCK  
Theatre of the Slovak National Uprising Martin (today Slovak Chamber Theatre Martin) 5 February 1993  
Directed by Stefan Korenčí  
From left Ján Kožuch, Jindřich Obšil, Lubomíra Krkošková  
Photo Matúš Olha/Theatre Institute Archive

*“The greatest enemies of Slovaks are Slovaks!”*

*Fischl's line from Ivan Bukočan's play Before the Rooster Crows.*

Peter Zvon: A DANCE OVER CRYING  
Slovak Theatre Prešov (today Jonáš Záborský Theatre in Prešov) 1 April 1944  
Directed by Dezider Stern-Stránský  
From left Imrich Jenča, Richard Novák, Štefan Adamec, Andrej Chmelko, Elena Rampáková  
Photo Ambrozý/Theatre Institute Archive



Július Barč-Ivan: THE TWO  
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 2 March 1984  
Directed by Vladimír Strnisko  
From left Ctibor Filčík, Martin Huba  
Photo Jozef Vavro/Theatre Institute Archive



Ivan Bukočan: BEFORE THE ROOSTER CROWS  
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 30 August 1969  
Directed by Jozef Palka  
Front Jozef Kroner, back Jarmila Koleničová, Juraj Slezáček  
Photo Jana Nemčoková/Theatre Institute Archive



Peter Karvaš: THE MIDNIGHT MASS  
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 25 October 2014  
Directed by Lukáš Brutovský  
From left Anna Javorková, Milan Ondřík, Dano Heriban, Emil Horváth Jr.  
Photo Slovak National Theatre Archive



LEOPOLD LAHOLA: SUNSPOTS  
Regional Theatre Nitra (today Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra) 30 November 1968  
Directed by Igor Ciel  
Playbill for the premiere from 1968  
Art design Bořivoj Slavík



Peter Kováčik: SLOVAK RHAPSODY OR A PUB UNDER THE GREEN TREE  
(A Pub under the Green Tree)  
Jozef Gregor Tajovský Theatre Zvolen 27 October 1995  
Directed by Ján Sládeček  
From left Miloš Chrappa, Andrej Mojžiš  
Photo René Miko/Theatre Institute Archive



Osvald Zahradník: SOLO FOR A (STRIKING) CLOCK  
Jozef Gregor Tajovský Theatre Zvolen 9 June 1973  
Directed by Peter Jezný  
Poster Igor Hudcovič/Photo Igor Hudcovič, Karol Miklóši

*“The trio of his plays The Scar, The Midnight Mass and Antigone and Others represent a milestone not only in his work, but also in the entire Slovak drama. At the turn of the 1950s, the Slovak and Czech dramatic works gradually started to distance themselves from the schematism of the 1950s and turned their attention from the building themes to the issue of a man in the vortex of social changes. Karvaš's dramas attracted attention as well as many controversial questions.”*

KOVÁČ, Peter. *The Midnight Mass*. In: *The Fighter*. 7 August 2014, no. 16, pages 1 and 5.

*“Individual characters are coming down from the top of the mountain to the semi-darkness of a local pub to tell us about themselves, about others, but also about us, how we lived in 1933, but also how we live and what stays with us. The multi-layered text reveals the lives of individuals who are carrying their bundles full of unhappiness, injustice, misery, hope, and through them the author paints the fate of this nation with all its characteristics – goodness, evil, envy, callousness, poverty.”*

PODMAKOVÁ, Dagmar. *Kováčik again, and about the man again*. In: *Pravda*. 31 October 1995, year 5, no. 252, page 5.