

t h e a t r e . s k

Operetta

The tradition of musical entertainment theatre, particularly the operetta, formed in Slovakia thanks to the Hungarian and German traveling theatre companies which brought new other forms of musical theatre – musical comedies, farces and vaudeville. Proximity to Vienna, which became one of the leading centres of operetta in the 19th century, had influence over the cultural life of the residents of Bratislava – they did not have to go through the birth pangs of creating an operetta as a genre, as they were getting the finished products. The audiences loved operetta; the critic refused it. It was one of the reasons why operetta had a difficult life in Slovakia. Time and again it had to prove its validity as an art form – sometimes using the help of the classics, other times through the ingenuity of the contemporaries and frequently also the domestic authors. Even today, in the time of musicals, it is still true that an operetta is a high-quality musical foundation and the performers' maturity and resourcefulness can fill a theatre house.



Oskar Nedbal – Leo Stein: POLISH BLOOD
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 4 April 1920
Directed by Bohuš Vilim
Musical direction Ferdinand Ledvina
Photo from the play
Photo Theatre Institute Archive

Mikuláš Schneider-Trnavský: BELLAROSA
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 24 May 1941
Directed by Drahoš Zelenský
Musical direction Juraj Viliam Schöffer
Photo from the play
Photo Theatre Institute Archive

Johann Strauss – Ignác Schnitzer: THE GYPSY BARON
National Theatre Košice 23 October 1949 (today State Theatre Košice)
Directed by Jurij Seregij
Musical direction Bohuš Valaštan
Wide-screen shot
Photo Theatre Institute Archive

Dmitri Dmitriyevich Shostakovich – Vladimir Zakharovich Mass – Mikhail Abramovich Chervinsky: MOSCOW – CHERYOMUSHKI
New Scene Theatre Bratislava 17 October 1959
Directed by Ján Kákoš
Musical direction Zdeněk Macháček
From left Belo Turba, Jozef Kuchár, Jindra Láznicka
Photo Theatre Institute Archive



Gejza Dusík – Pavol Braxatoris: BLUE ROSE
State Theatre Košice 8 November 1964
Directed by Kornel Hájek
Musical direction Radovan Fest Spišiak
From left Božena Hanáková, Ladislav Pačaj
Photo Ondrej Béreš/Theatre Institute Archive



Florimond Ronger Hervé – Henri Meilhac – Albert Millaud: MAM'ZELLE NITOUCHE
Jonáš Záborský Theatre in Prešov 20 December 1985
Directed by Ján Šilan
Musical direction Jan Bedřich
Wide-screen shot
Photo Lubor Marko/Theatre Institute Archive



Jacques Offenbach – Hector-Jonathan Crémieux: ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD
Jozef Gregor Tajovský Theatre – Opera Banská Bystrica (today State Opera Banská Bystrica) 10 April 1992
Directed by Martin Bendík
Musical direction Pavol Tužinský
Wide-screen shot from the play
Photo Matúš Olha/Theatre Institute Archive

Milan Novák – Milan Ferko: FIELD EQUIPMENT FULL OF LOVE
New Scene Theatre Bratislava 29 August 1957
Directed by František Krištof Veselý
Musical direction Zdeněk Macháček
Photo from the play
Photo Theatre Institute



Franz Lehár – Victor Léon – Leo Stein: THE MERRY WIDOW
New Scene Theatre Bratislava 3 February 2017
Directed by Peter Oravec
Musical direction Rudolf Geri
In the middle Miroslav Dvorský and Adriana Kohútová
Photo Ľubor Bachratý/Theatre Institute Archive

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