

Mene Tekel

15th year of the international project against totalitarianism October 11 – October 17, 2021, Prague

Due to the pandemic situation, the programs are being prepared in a personal participation version as well as in an online version. We kindly ask visitors to respect all government regulations.

Monday, October 11

1:00 p.m. Gallery of the New Town Hall, Karlovo náměstí 1/23, Prague 2

Opening of the intergenerational exhibition project *The Roads to Freedom*

Curator Mgr. Michal Kuchta

Moderated by Debora Štolbová

- *Exhibition of landscape-architectural projects, in a competition for the Lety u Písku Memorial.*

The exhibition was created in 2020 as a result of a landscape-architectural competition organized by the Museum of Romani Culture. It represents a total of 41 designs from all around the world. Prepared by the Museum of Romani Culture.

- *Exhibition *The Journey is free!**

In late summer and early autumn 1989, thousands of people were fleeing the German Democratic Republic (GDR) through the West German embassy in Prague to the other side of the Iron Curtain. Their will for freedom shook the last pillars of the communist regime and it directly led to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Prepared by the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes.

- *Exhibition *The Roads to Freedom**

Selected works of pupils and students of primary schools and primary art schools, participants in the art competition of the same name.

The exhibition will run until October 21. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., free entry.

4:00 p.m. Karlovo náměstí, Prague 2

Opening of the exhibition *The Long Road to Independence* - *History of Ukraine in the 20th Century*

Moderated by Debora Štolbová.

Many distorted historical arguments have appeared in the Czech public space since 2014 in connection with the Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity and the ensuing military conflicts over Ukrainian territory. The aim of the exhibition is to present the political and power constellations accompanying the formation of Ukrainian statehood in the 20th century, the ideals and struggles associated with it.

Prepared by the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes.

The exhibition will be opened by Mgr. Jana Černochová, the Mayor of Prague 2 city district and Mgr. Zdenek Hazdra, Ph.D. the Director of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes. A performance by the Coloretton Choir, from the Ilja Hurník Art School, conducted by choirmaster Silvia Młynarczyk, will be a part of the opening ceremony.

The exhibition will be open until October 21.

5:00 p.m. Church of St. Ignatius, Karlovo náměstí, Prague 2

Opening of exhibitions „*I believe that my short life was not in vain: The life and death of priest Jan Bula*“ and „*The native who should have been forgotten: The life of priest Václav Drbola*“. The exhibitions were compiled by the Brno Diocese and will be presented by the MEMORY association members.

Both exhibitions will be on view until October 25, 2021.

7:00 p.m. Cinema Kino Mat, Karlovo náměstí, Prague 2

Ceremonial opening of the 15th year of the Mene Tekel festival

Moderated by Debora Štolbová

Speeches by representatives of partner institutions

- **Premiere of the feature documentary *The ATA*.**
- **A film delegation is taking part.**

The story is the first in a series of documentaries on political processes of the 1950s entitled "*In the Name of the Republic*" and is a follow up of the book of the same name, published by the Auditorium publishing house.

The story takes place in Litomyšl, East Bohemia, where at the end of the 1940s a group of high school students did not intend to accept the fact that the Junak - Czech Scouting was incorporated into the Czechoslovak Youth Union, and its existence was thus terminated.

In a show trial, the state court sentenced 24 people to more than 220 years in prison and Rector F.A. Stříteský who was accused was even threatened with the death penalty.

Miroslav Matějka, Jiří Kopřiva, Bohdan Metyš, and Václav Jozefy, then participants in the student resistance, appear in the document.

Prof. JUDr. Jan Kuklík, DrSc., JUDr. Lukáš Blažek, Ph.D., PhDr. Alena Simankova, PhDr. Martin Boštík will represent a legal-historical point of view,

Directed by: Vít Mazánek, produced by the *11:11 Production, s.r.o.*

A reconstruction of the monster process of Stříteský and co. was premiered on 27 February 2016 as a part of the 10th Mene Tekel festival in the Jury Hall of the High Court in Prague, Pankrác.

The theater of fact was written and directed by Mgr. Jan Řeřicha in cooperation with the Faculty of

Law.

The performance was further repeated in the autumn of the same year in the authentic space of Smetana's house in Litomyšl and at the Freedom Festival in Bratislava.

Tuesday, October 12

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Cinema Kino Mat, Karlovo náměstí 19, Prague 2

Screening of thematic films by students of The Film Academy of Miroslav Ondricek, in Písek.

The show dramaturgy and direction: MgA. Miroslav Sovják, FAMO teacher, television and film screenwriter

Punishment Without Crime, directed by Jindřich Vosec

Prohibitoria, directed by Filip Kilián

Laughter Club, directed by Jindřich Vosecký

Film awards: Košice International Monthly Film Festival 2020 - Honorable reward Czech / Slovak short film, Tagore International Film Festival 2020 – The Best Student Film, Lisbon Monthly Film Festival 2020 - Honorable reward in the category of The Best Drama and The Best Camera.

Flucht !, directed by Ondřej Veverka

Borders, directed by Martin Kopp

Hunting, directed by Pavel Bartovský

Film Awards: The Best Istanbul Film Festival 2020 – The Best Horror Film, Eastern Europe Festival 2020 – The Best Actress

Visitor, directed by Pavel Bartovský

Film Awards: Frostbite (USA) 2020 – The Best Sound Design, The Best Student Film, Toronto Film Channel Festival 2020 - Award for The Best Horror Film and The Best Actress in a Leading Role, The Best Actor Award, New York 2020 - Silver Award for The Best Actress in Horror Film

The call, directed by Ondřej Burda

Film Awards: ČT 2019 Film Accelerator - 2nd place, British Monthly Film Festival 2020 - Winner Student Film (20 mins or less), Tagore International Film Festival 2020 - Outstanding Achievement Award, Prague International Monthly Film Festival 2020 – The Best Student Film

Dusno (Stuffy), directed by Michal Starý

Awards: Košice International Monthly Film Festival 2020 – The Best short Czech-Slovak film

Wednesday, October 13

10:00 a.m. Cinema Kino Mat, Karlovo náměstí, Prague 2

Interactive program for schools in cooperation with the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes

Historical laboratory

Persecution and discrimination have plagued the entire 20th century and certainly deserve condemnation. However, understanding the situations in which they have occurred is not a simple task in education. The support can be found in a historical laboratory - HistoryLab, in which students use a series of interactive tools to step-by-step analyze period documents, historical photographs, or audio recordings. As a result, they acquire skills that help to support critical thinking and the development of historical literacy in an interesting way.

Expert guarantee: Mgr. Vojtech Ripka, Ph.D.

4:00 p.m. Literární kavárna Academia (Literary Cafe), Václavské náměstí 34, Prague 1

Presentation of Darina Ničová's book trilogy „Against the Current“

The main motive of the trilogy is based on the life story of the author's great-grandfather, who was in 1940 convicted by the Nazi legislation in preparation for the high treason of the Third Reich. After the war, he was awarded as a participant in the national liberation struggle in memoriam by the Czechoslovak Ministry of National Defence.

The first part is a collection of six literary-independent short story sets. The plot of which takes place from the 1930s to the present. The central short story *Brandy for Hitler* is later developed in more detail in the second part of the trilogy, in the historical novel *When the Snowdrops Grow up*.

The third volume entitled *The Secret of John*, is a historical document revealing the whole case, but also archival records discovered only after 2013, for example in Bundesarchive Berlin or in Auschwitz.

The author describes the hectic events of the twentieth century in a very special, literary and successful way through the complex destinies of her family, with a focus on the territory of Tešín Silesia. The suggestive narration was made under the professional supervision of Ondřej Kolář from the Silesian Museum in Opava and Jiří Friedl from Masaryk University in Brno.

The trilogy will be presented by actor Jan Sklenář.

7:00 p.m. Cinema Kino Mat, Karlovo náměstí 19, Prague 2

Evening for Latvia

The patronage has been taken by the Ambassador of the Latvian Embassy in the Czech Republic, Dr. Sc. Pole. Gunta Pastore who will personally attend the event.

Festive screening of the award-winning film from the Cold War period: *My Father, the Spy*, 85 min.

In 1978, Ieva Lešinska was a university student who lived with her mother in what was by that time Soviet Latvia. Her father officially worked as a translator for the UN in New York, but he was also a KGB employee. In a captivating feature-length documentary, Ieva tries to uncover the incredible life and strange death of her father, a KGB agent who defected to the CIA.

Director: Jaak Kilmi, Gints Grube

Co-production: Latvia, Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia

Thursday, October 14

10:00 a.m. Cinema Kino Mat, Karlovo náměstí 19, Prague 2

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12.30 p.m. Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

Valdštejnská zahrada (Wallenstein Garden), Prague 1, by the pond (u rybníčku)

Opening of the exhibition *Under a Foreign Sky*

The exhibition was prepared by the Museum of Victims of Genocide at the Centre of Research on Genocide and Resistance of the Lithuanian People. The auspices were undertaken by H. E. Laimonas Talat-Kelpša, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to the Czech Republic.

In June 1941, a massive wave of mass deportations from Lithuania began. Thousands of civilians, mostly women and children, were arrested overnight and taken in cattle wagons far to Siberia. After World War II, deportations were restarted with even greater intensity. The fates of opponents of the regime and innocent victims remain a warning memento.

The exhibition lasts until October 27.

**2:00 p.m. Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, the Main Hall,
Valdštejnské náměstí, Prague 1**

International Conference on the *Right to Law*

Under the auspices of the President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic RNDr. Miloš Vystrčil.

Moderated by PhDr. Petr Kostka, Director of the Secretariat of the President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic.

Opening by the greetings of the representatives of the organizations involved in the program.

Handing over of the *Mene Tekel Festival Personality Award*.

Speakers:

Dr. Hist. Gints Apals, Museum of the Occupation in Riga: *Conceptualization of the Latvian Experience under Foreign Domination. Resistance versus adaptation.*

MJur Sergei Metlev. Council of the Estonian Institute of Historical Memory, Tallinn: *The Formation of Estonian Historical Identity in the Context of 20th Century Development.*

PhDr. Petra Svobodová, Museum of Romani Culture: *History of the so-called Gypsy camp in Lety, including the history of this place and activities leading after 1989 to the rehabilitation of this locality*

Mgr. Zdeněk Hazdra, Director of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes: *Presentation of research on the Roma Holocaust, resp. issues related to confiscated Roma property in 1938-1945*

PhDr. Jan Kalous, Ph.D., Director of the XX. Century Memory Museum: *Persecution of social and religious groups in Czechoslovakia in the founding period of the communist regime*

Mgr. and Mgr. Miroslav Erdinger, Evangelical pastor, lecturer, and supervisor in social services: *On law, justice, punishment and forgiveness - and what next?*

Mgr. Petr Šimíček, secondary school pedagogue: *Reflections of communist injustice through the eyes of students*

Projection of the documentary *Borders*

7:00 p.m. Library of Václav Havel (Knihovna Václava Havla), Ostrovní 13, Prague 1

"But even worse awaited me."

StB (State Secret Police) actions against selected social groups in documents and memories. The documentary composition of recordings from memories, investigation protocols, and period documents was prepared by the XX. Century Memory Museum.

Guests: PhDr. Jan Kalous, Ph.D., PhDr. Petr Blazek, Ph.D., Mgr. David Svoboda, Ph.D., MgrA. Veronika Bendová

Friday, October 15

1:00 p.m. Cinema Kino Mat, Karlovo nám. 19, Prague 2

Testimony of the Daughters of the 1950s

The program was prepared in cooperation with the Daughters of the 1950s Association. Milena Kozumplíková, the chairwoman of the board of the Karel Hartig Endowment Fund, is a guarantor of the program.

Screening of the film *A Farm*.

The story of one family and one farm with all its turning points through the 20th century, Theme, screenplay and direction by Lucie Korcová and Martin Rachmann, camera by Martin Solár. Produced by the Czech Television, 2018.

6:00 p.m. New Town Hall, the Great Hall, Karlovo nám. 1/23, Prague 2

Festive concert

Co-organizer: the Prague 2 City District under the auspices of the Mayor Mgr. Jana Černochová.

Dramaturgical cooperation: Ing. Jaroslav Šolc.

X-tet & Vít Fiala

Lee Andrew Davison will perform at the concert as part of the Mene Tekel project, accompanied by Jiří Růžička (piano) and Vít Fiala (double bass).

Jazz singer Lee Andrew Davison is from the US state of Oklahoma. He grew up in an environment of Protestant chants, spirituals and gospels. Now he lives in Prague, where he has established friendly and musical contacts with leading Czech jazz musicians, and in addition to the mentioned American sacred music, he also interprets well-known American jazz standards.

Jana Koubková Quartet

Jana Koubková has been one of the leading figures in Czech jazz for years.

Jana Koubková knows how to choose great musicians, so at the festive concert of Mene Tekel she will be accompanied by Ondřej Kabrna - piano, Vít Švec - double bass and Jan Červenka - drums. The program will feature an original theatre stage by pupils from the Metaphor literary-dramatic group of the Ilja Hurník Art School, under the pedagogical guidance of Věra Herajtová.

Sunday, October 17

2:00 p.m. Church of St. Ignatius, Karlovo nám., Prague 2

Ecumenical worship for the victims of totalitarianism

Prepared in cooperation with the Ecumenical Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Spiritual Administration of the Church of St. Ignatius, Prague 2.

The service will be headed by Daniel Ženatý, Chairman of the Ecumenical Council of Churches and Synod Senior Synod of the Czech Brethren Evangelical Church.

The service ceremony was prepared by the Secretary-General of the ERC, ThDr. Petr Jan Vinš, Rector of the church P. František Hylmar, vice-president of KPV ČR Leo Žídek