

Meeting Brno Festival 2019

“Now that We’ve Got what We Wanted”

29 May to 9 Jun 2019

The fourth year of the festival brings to Brno another rich palette of discussion forums and cultural events. Meeting Brno 2019 starts on 29 May with the opening of the exhibition *Brno Liberated!?*, prepared in collaboration with *Memory of Nations* as a contribution to the 30th anniversary of the fall of the communist regime in Czechoslovakia. A unique exhibition that does not judge or evaluate, but provides a platform for the witnesses of the crucial events of the 20th century, *Brno Liberated!?* is the main project of this year’s festival. Located in a very unusual and, we hope, attractive setting – the underground space near the statue of the Red Army soldier on Moravské náměstí – it includes an open-air café.

The festival’s programme offers many and various events for all ages and proposes stimulating interventions into public areas, as the festival’s director, Petr Kalousek, explains: “Lively, interesting and hence functional public spaces are characteristic of a vibrant and liveable city. Fascinating happenings in the streets and squares are what make the city a city. So, at Meeting Brno we will hold selected festival productions in public spaces, reminding ourselves of important, but perhaps less known, chapters of our history. Let’s hope that mounting events at suitable sites will help them to become new, unconventional meeting places. Indeed, this is the origin of the festival name, Meeting Brno.”

The festival patron this year is **Milan Uhde**, who will also appear as a guest in a major discussion forum about Brno’s anti-communist dissent, alongside **Anna Šabatová**, **Petr Fiala** and **Karel Schwarzenberg**. We will talk about notions of freedom and exactly what it was that we wanted thirty years ago, whether we really have it today, and what we can do *now* for our future. We will examine the topic of our responsibility in a free country with our permanent representative to Nato, **Jiří Šedivý**, and the bishop of Plzeň, **Tomáš Holub**.

On Thursday, 30 May, we present the premiere of a performance by Feste Theatre, **Václav Havel: Anatomy of Hatred**. The troupe, led by Jiří Honzírek, will include the resident artist of this year’s festival, the Polish actor Marcin Zarzeczny. Římské náměstí – an intimate square – will provide the stage set for the actors. We have also prepared a dance performance in a public space, reflecting the tragic events that occurred in Brno on 21 August 1969. Other events include an open-air cinema and a series of readings by writers from the former Eastern Bloc, including the Hungarian, Viktor Horváth, and the Czech, Petra Hůlová. On Saturday, 1 June we, the public, will embark on the Pilgrimage of Reconciliation with our German guests. Daniel Löw-Beer, a descendant of an important Brno family, will present his project of rehabilitating the site in nearby Brněnec, with a plan for a Holocaust and Oskar Schindler memorial.

Please see www.meetingbrno.cz for the complete programme.

The festival Meeting Brno is honoured to have the support of the mayor of Brno, Markéta Vaňková, and the governor of South Moravia, Bohumil Šimek.

On behalf of the festival team

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29/5–9/6/2019
ted' když máme, co jsme chtěli
jetzt, da wir haben, was wir wollten
now that we have what we wanted

**MEETING
BRNO**

festival

diskusní fóra
literatura
divadlo
hudba
film
výstavy
workshopy
setkání
procházky
pout' smíření

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The poster features a central white circle containing the text 'MEETING BRNO' in bold black letters, flanked by two colorful, stylized 'V' shapes. The background is a solid green color. Text is arranged in a clean, sans-serif font.