

Cultural tip: Triptych Together Alone debuts 18 July at PONEC

Prague's PONEC Theatre will debut the triptych **Together Alone** by Ukrainian artist Yana Reutova on July 18 from 8 p.m. The world premiere follows on July 21 at the Kilowatt Festival in Cortona, Italy. Online ticket sales: <https://divadloponec.cz/cs/together-alone-triptych>

How to cope with the burden of loneliness? How to explain it? And why is it sometimes strongest when we are surrounded by others?

Yana Reutova started working on the triptych **Together Alone** last summer with five Ukrainian dancers, thus creating a quintet with the subtitle **Lost**. Lost in an unknown land, far from their loved ones, inadvertently together here and now, and yet each alone. The first part of the triptych is inspired by Anton Ovchinnikov's verses written after the war broke out in Kyiv, as well as the music of the Canadian-based Ukrainian radical anti-Putin band Balaklava Blues. Tomáš Kerle fine-tuned the sound atmosphere. The piece was selected for the Czech Dance Platform, as well as the Ukrainian Platform in Vilnius and the L'Altre festival in Barcelona.

For the second part of the triptych, **Invisible Traces**, Yana decided to approach Czech artists Jitka Čechová, Lukas Bliss Blaha and Katy Jabůrková. The musician Tomáš Kerle could not be missed. And as luck would have it, AVU graduates Lucie Podroužková and Štěpán Rubáš offered to use their "barre" facility. The project took on clear contours, alternations for trips to Italy and Brazil were also added, and the project was supported by the State Cultural Fund.

The third part of **Together Alone** is the duet **Endless Talks**, which was created again thanks to a chance meeting. In November 2022, the dancer Ladji Kone from Burkina Faso was in Prague for a whole month, and he and Yana started talking and creating together. During the residency in Prague, the creative team was completed by Tomáš Kerle, whose music thus became the connecting element of the entire triptych.

"We can hardly imagine what goes on in the minds of refugees and what they have to face," says Yvona Kreuzmannová, founder and director of Tanec Praha/PONEC. "However, we can offer something – a creative background, support so that they do not lose their desire to create, get involved in work with our artists and develop meaningful projects for refugee children and adults. Yana is doing well. For the commission from the EFA (European Festivals Association), she was supported by five other festivals from the EU, which are waiting for the premiere. I believe it will be an extraordinary experience."

About the author

Yana Reutova worked as a dancer, choreographer and teacher in the Odessa region. In 2014, she founded Dance Theatre Plastilin in Chornomorsk and created a number of award-winning performances. She organized a festival and worked intensively with children (Creative Kids project). In March 2022, together with her daughter and several students, she fled the war to Prague, where she now works. She danced in the projects of Anna Källblad, Nicole Beutler, POCKETART, Flávie Tápias, leads workshops for children and develops her own creative work with various artists. In April 2023, she created a project with Czech and Ukrainian artists **Strength in Beauty and Beauty in Strength** for the Louny Gallery. The work with her youngest dancer, Diana Khrushch, was awarded special recognition by the international jury of the Czech Dance Platform. The

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concept of the triptych Together Alone succeeded in the European competition within the first open call of the EFFEА (European Festival Fund for Emerging Artists) and was thus included among the 40 supported projects.

About the PONEC Theatre

PONEC – the dance venue is a unique space for creativity, inspiration, meeting, dialogue and new impulses. On the border of lower Žižkov and Karlín, it has been involved in the creation and emergence of new progressive dance works for 22 years, especially as a co-producer. It also appeals to children and young audiences and pays great attention to the creation of interactive performances for schools and families. It gives space to domestic artists while fostering opportunities for international cooperation. The PONEC Theatre is the home stage of the TANEС PRAHA and Czech Dance Platform festivals.

PONEC is operated by Tanec Praha z.ú. based on a lease agreement with the Municipal District of Prague 3, with the financial support of the City of Prague, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, the Municipal District of Prague 3 and others. It is a member of the European Dancehouse Network.

Tanec Praha z.ú. is a partner of the Krenovka project. SUDOP Real received a grant of CZK 6,625,000 from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway for revitalization within the EEA Funds 2014-21.

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Contacts

Official web: www.divadloponec.cz

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/divadloponec>

Media services: 2media.cz, s.r.o.

Markéta Faustová, marketa@2media.cz, tel: 722 119 091

Simona Andělová, simona@2media.cz, tel: 775 112 857

www.2media.cz, www.facebook.com/2media.cz, www.instagram.com/2mediacz