Press release:

**Prague Quadrennial and DAMU present PQ Studio Stage: an energising programme of 26 international performances by students and emerging artists**

*Prague, 18th May 2023 -* ***This June, the traditional theatre festival Zlomvaz transforms into*** [***PQ Studio Stage***](https://pq.cz/pq-2023-info/projects-2023/pq-studio/pq-studio-stage/)***, an exciting and vibrant series of performances by students and emerging artists as part of the Prague Quadrennial 2023. From 8 to 18 June, the programme consists of 26 performances, often crossing borders in an international collective effort. The project is organised by students of Arts Management at the Theatre Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts (DAMU) and curated by Canadian performance designer and professor Patrick Du Wors and Czech theatre lecturer and cultural manager Michal Lázňovský.***

*“PQ Studio Stage showcases diversity of the art of performance, in a series of interdisciplinary works which promote a sharing of theatrical languages, technologies, and techniques in performance – a learning experience for both audience and artist,”* says **Patrick Du Wors**, curator of the PQ Studio platform.

The performances will be held mainly in the DISK theatre, while some of them will take place in outdoor locations in Prague, giving students and emerging artists the opportunity to present their work for international and both professional and general audiences.

*“Delving into a broad range of topics, PQ Studio Stage gathers works of art from a fresh perspective. I am particularly excited for performances exploring scale, motion and larger-than-life journeys through the scenographic magic of miniatures, namely ‘*[***The Story of Lary***](https://pq.cz/pq-2023-info/projects-2023/pq-studio/pq-studio-stage/the-story-of-larry-moritz-praxmarer/)*’ and ‘*[***River Room***](https://pq.cz/pq-2023-info/projects-2023/pq-studio/pq-studio-stage/river-room-eszter-koncz/)*,’* **Patrick Du Wors** points out some of the highlights of the PQ Studio Stage programme.

Another group of performances is using the potential of outdoor spaces to connect to the environment with a socially and politically critical stance such as a walking performance: ‘[**Memory Police**](https://pq.cz/pq-2023-info/projects-2023/pq-studio/pq-studio-stage/memory-police/)’ which examines the post-pandemic, late capitalist, populist, climate emergency era; inspired by a book of the same name by Yoko Ogawa.

‘[**A Chorus of Immortal Toxins**](https://pq.cz/pq-2023-info/projects-2023/pq-studio/pq-studio-stage/a-chorus-of-immortal-toxins-tooth-n-fang/)’, an outdoor ritual confrontation takes a similar stand; the performance subverts traditional religious narratives and reveals the destructive consequences of industrialised greed and everlasting productivity by casting five of the most toxic and disastrous materials in existence: chromium, asbestos, lead, kerosene, and formaldehyde; and employing them as objects of worship.

PQ Studio Stage is organised by the Arts Management students at DAMU and is part of the curriculum during the second year of their Bachelor studies.

*“PQ Studio Stage is a great opportunity for our students to experience the production of the Zlomvaz festival, which, unlike in its traditional form, is now part of a much broader, more diverse concept thanks to PQ. During the festival, students develop their skills and consider their work in a unique international theatre context, meeting interesting people, building a network and learning new things. DAMU is honoured to become an artistic hub within PQ, where new approaches will be explored, ideas will be formulated and interdisciplinary paths to scenography and performance design will be sought,”* explains **Michal Lázňovský**, lecturer at the Arts Management department at DAMU.

Tickets for individual performances can be purchased now via the [GoOut platform](https://goout.net/en/pq-studio-stage/szqpxqv/). The [Festival Pass](https://pq.cz/festival-pass-and-tickets/) holders are entitled to a 50% discount. [The whole programme of PQ Studio Stage can be found on the website pq.cz](https://pq.cz/pq-2023-info/projects-2023/pq-studio/pq-studio-stage/).

**PQ Studio**

is an experiential educational platform for students, emerging artists, professionals, academics and anyone else looking for an embodied experience of performance design. It is divided into three sections: PQ Studio Stage, Workshops and Masterclasses, offering various educational opportunities and the [UN]Common Design Project, gathering projects from various universities under a unifying creative directive RARE.

For PQ 2023, PQ Studio engages in a wide array of poignant themes: social justice, decolonization, the global climate emergency, the impact of social media, physical, material, ephemeral design techniques, processes and craft, artistic strategies, collaborative structures, visual dramaturgy, design-led creation, immersive and text-based design.

An overview of the full PQ Studio programme can be found on the [PQ website](https://pq.cz/pq-2023-info/projects-2023/pq-studio/).

[**Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space**](https://pq.cz/)

Since 1967, once every four years, PQ explores the artistic areas of scenography, performance design and space within all their aspects - from scenic art, costume, lighting and sound design, and performance space architecture to site-adaptive performance, applied scenography, augmented and virtual realities, technologies like Motion Capture and laser, or costume as a performance, within the scope of exhibits, installations, architectural concepts, workshops, performances and other live events. The core of the festival’s idea is to present contemporary performance design as a self-sufficient art form, acting upon the human imagination through all the senses - sight, smell, hearing, touch and taste. PQ 2023 will host artists from around a hundred countries in 300+ programme items, making it the most important event of its kind in the world.

*Performance design/scenography has evolved substantially and expanded far beyond established theatre conventions. Models, sketches of designs, and performance photographs still remain excellent resources that map the minds and open the door to the imagination of their creators. On the other hand, these formats capture only one part of the creative process and tell us little about the environment, circumstances, emotions, and overall atmosphere of the performance. The one way to present scenography in its genuine form, comprising all of its parts and including audience participation, is to experience it live, in performative settings and curatorial environments that create or recreate its operations.*

[*The present-day practice of performance design/scenography is one of the most exciting art forms and creative domains*](https://pq.cz/about-pq/) *– in the innovative, fresh and holistic ways of engaging their audiences, participants, and the public.*

In 2015 Prague Quadrennial received the EFFE award and was named one of the most innovative festivals in Europe.

**Prague Quadrennial is initiated by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic**  
**and organized by the Arts and Theatre Institute.**

The 15th edition of the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space is held under the auspices of the president of the Czech Republic, **Petr Pavel**, the mayor of the Capital City of Prague, **Bohuslav Svoboda**, and was assigned the emblem of the **Diversity of Cultural Expression UNESCO** and the **EFFE label of the European Festivals Association**.

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