

Věra Velemanová

The „Apartment-Theatre“ and its „Authentic Space“

Recently, in connection with the question of authentic space and theatre, the phenomenon of the deserted factories, industrial spaces, railway halles, etc., is very fashionable and frequent. In Czech Republic, there are a lot of such spaces, very often they are very interesting buildings, optimal for contemporary performances.

But, in my opinion, the spaces, which don't have original purpose and have turned into mere interesting attraction, lose their authenticity (while, for example, when graphiker Vladimír Boudník or the painters, Vála sisters in the 50s, from their own iniciativity and absence other possibilities worked and exhibited in the enviroment of a factory, full working, there it was in real, authentic space, in authentic atmosphere).

That is why, when they say „authentic space“ connected with the theatre, the phenomenon which was specific more for totalitarian time – „an apartment-theatre“ operated privately and gainlessly by people, who, for political reasons, couldn't realize in their profession, comes to my mind.

The most famous actress, who made this phenomenon known, was Vlasta Chramostová, who before that worked in Divadlo na Vinohradech and Krejča's Divadlo za branou. In the flat of Chramostová several performances originated. Two of them were shot and transported to Austria, where they were introduced on TV. In the performances for example Pavel Landovský played too and as director Luboš Pistorius cooperated.

The paper is going to reflect the way, how protagonists of these theatres resolved the questions of the lighting, architecture of the small play-spaces, costumes etc. in these in fact amateurish conditions.

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1990-1996 – Philosophical Faculty of the Charles University in Prague

- Theatre Studies (dissertation – *Scenography of Libor Fára of the Divadlo Na zábradlí and Činoherní klub in Prague*)

Věra Velemanová has worked for the Theatre Institute in Prague since 1996. Her exhibitions focusing on Russian emigrants in Czechoslovakia and on Theatre of Czechoslovakian Legionnaires in Russia during World War I were exhibited at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Russia, at the Vinohrady Theatre in Prague and in the Slavic Library in Prague. Since 2000, she has been employed at the Theatre Institute as a theatre historian, working on the *Bibliographical Dictionary of Czech Theatre* in the Department of Czech Theatre Studies.

Specialization: Czech scenography, theatre of Russian emigrants

Published works:

- Various studies and reviews in the *Divadelní revue (Theatre Review)* and in the *Divadelní noviny (Theatre News)*
- Exhibition catalogues
- Co-author of *Libor Fára 1925-1988* (Praha 1999)
- Author of the Who's Who of Czech scenographers (*Allgemeine Künstlerlexikon*, Saur, Leipzig-München, published regularly)
- Co-author of *Le Théâtre d'Art de Moscou. Ramifications, voyages* (Paris 2005)
- Co-author of *Libor Fára / dílo* (Praha 2006)