

# Stage Right

The monthly newsletter of the Prague Playhouse

October 2009



Jim High, Logan Hillier and Matthew Blood-Smyth  
in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*

## Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are... Czech?

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern ARE dead. Hamlet did it. To be fair they were trying to have him killed so it was either Hamlet or them. And the Prince was on a bit of a murderous roll. But being dead doesn't mean that Rosencrantz and Guildenstern can't entertain you. Along with a Comic Pornographer and his Rabble of Prostitutes, the disgustingly perverted King, his 'free-love' Queen, their royal entourage and, of course, Prince-'Cut-'em'up'-Hamlet himself for 3 nights only at the Alfred ve Dvore (Wed-Fri, 4-6th Nov) they guarantee blood, weird love, pocket dimensions and more murders than you can shake a bodkin at.

Performed in its original English version the production brings out a flavour of the local Czech taste for black comedy. Stoppard [the playwright] was born in Zlin and as well as his classic plays (*Arcadia*, *The Coast of Utopia*) and screenplay work (Terry Gilliam's *Brazil*, Shakespeare in

Love) he certainly kept his links with the Czech Republic, translating several of Havel's plays into English, reworking communist-era pieces of Czech 'living-room' theatre and, most recently, in his portrayal of the Charter 77 movement in *Rock 'n' Roll*, currently playing at Narodni Divadlo in Czech.

Blood, Love and Rhetoric Productions with the Prague Playhouse bring you a re-working and new understanding of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern here in Prague. A departure from the obvious reading this production winds together the British penchant for irony and sarcasm with Czech black comedy and gives you a quite monstrously funny and hilariously dark evening, a high body count and plenty of blood.

**For tickets and information visit:**  
<http://randgaredead.pragueplayhouse.com>

***Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead***  
**by Tom Stoppard**  
**Tickets on Sale Now!**  
**200 Kc**  
**November 4-6, 2009**  
**7:30pm**  
**Alfred ve Dvore, Františka Křížka 36**  
**Directed by Logan Hillier**  
**Starring: Jim High, Matthew Blood-Smyth, Logan Hillier, John Poston and Jeff Fritz**

### Prague Playhouse Classes

- Acting for Professionals
- English through Theater
- Acting One-on-One

For more information or to sign up for any class, please call 608 577 012 or email [acting@pragueplayhouse.com](mailto:acting@pragueplayhouse.com)

Any Suggestions or Feedback? Email [newsletter@pragueplayhouse.com](mailto:newsletter@pragueplayhouse.com)



The Prague Playhouse: Providing a home for English-language theater in Prague

[www.pragueplayhouse.com](http://www.pragueplayhouse.com)

## 2009-2010 Season



### Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

by Tom Stoppard  
Directed by Logan Hillier  
November 4-6, 7:30pm

Alfred ve Dvore, Františka Křížka 36  
Prague 7

### Expats.cz and Prague.tv Playwriting Contest

Submission deadline:  
November 6, 2009

Performance in  
March 2010



### True West

by Sam Shepard  
Directed by Jeff Beck  
January/February 2010

### I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change

Books and lyrics by Joe Dipietro  
Music by Jimmy Roberts  
Directed by Mary Angiolillo  
April/May 2010

FOR TICKETS AND  
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION,  
EMAIL:

[tickets@pragueplayhouse.com](mailto:tickets@pragueplayhouse.com)

[expats.cz](http://expats.cz) PRAGUE TV

## PLAYWRITING CONTEST

by **Richard Byrne**, winner of the 2007 Prague Playwriting Contest

Labor Day is one of the major holiday weekends in the United States. Perched right at the beginning of September, it represents summer's last hurrah for a lot of Americans.

But I spent part of my Labor Day weekend this year at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. I was watching a sneak preview of my play, *Burn Your Bookes*, performed before more than 280 people in the center's Family Theatre as part of the annual "Page-to-Stage Festival. The full play – which is part of Taffety Punk Theatre Company's 2009/2010 season – will open in Washington in April 2010

The journey to that production, however, began in Prague at the Divadlo Minor. A one-act version of *Burn Your Bookes* was the winning entry in the very first Prague Playwriting Contest in March 2007. I took time off work to come to Prague for the rehearsal process – and ended up finishing my first draft of the full play at various cafes in Stare Mesto. (Let's just say I became a regular at the Literarni Kavarna in Retezova Street.)

So if you're thinking about entering the 2010 contest, this could happen to you too. And if you're a fan of English language theater in Prague, you're in for yet another year of great new work.

If I had to put my finger on what the most useful part of my experience as a playwright whose work was selected as a finalist for the first contest, it was the experience of a production.

If you are an experienced playwright, you know just how difficult it is to secure a production even for the best new work. It's quite normal for contemporary playwrights to run a gauntlet of staged readings and workshops and never even get to a full production

Being selected as one of three finalists means that your play will get a full production at a working professional theater in Prague. In my case, I also had the benefit of working with a terrific director, Julek Neumann, and three great actors: Akiva Zelman, Brendan Payne and Mark Bowen. Plus, there was all the terrific work of the folks behind the scenes who made the entire contest possible – especially Brian and Dagmar Caspe.

The casts of each play bonded during the process, helping move sets together and sharing the Divadlo Minor's green room. The camaraderie was terrific. Real theatre with real people.

Best of all, that combination of competition between plays and team spirit in putting them on gave the audiences who came to Divadlo Minor a terrific evening of theatre unlike anything else in Prague. New work performed with the energy and enthusiasm of people who love theatre.

Any English-language playwright with connections to the Czech Republic (see the website for rules) should be delighted that the contest is back for another year. As a writer who has benefited from the experience, I know I am very happy that it is back!

**Expats.cz and Prague.tv Playwriting Contest Submission Deadline: November 6 Performance in March 2010**

**For more information, visit [www.playwritingcontest.cz](http://www.playwritingcontest.cz) or email [info@playwritingcontest.cz](mailto:info@playwritingcontest.cz)**

### Get Involved with the Playhouse

#### Be a Volunteer

The Prague Playhouse needs both short-term and long-term volunteers for marketing, staffing shows, and other projects.

#### Be a Season Sponsor

Sponsor the Prague Playhouse and support high-quality English-language theater in Prague!

**If you are interested in being a volunteer or a sponsor, email Brian Caspe at [brian@pragueplayhouse.com](mailto:brian@pragueplayhouse.com)**

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