

Abstract (in English):

The aim of this Interdisciplinary diploma thesis is to analyze the influence of the Soviet Union and Soviet artists on Avant-Garde Czechoslovak theatre during the years of the First Republic and including a slight overlap into the post-Second World War era. The purpose is to show the different approaches of the emerging Avant-Garde movement in Czechoslovakia and its reaction to Soviet influence. These approaches are specifically shown in the examples of E.F. Burian and the various Avant-Garde theatres in which E.F. Burian performed or co-founded.

The emphasis then shifts to the Osvobozené divadlo of Jiří Voskovec and Jan Werich and looks at the influence of Jindřich Honzl - an important link between these two theatres and a prominent promoter of innovative theatre aesthetics from the Soviet environment. The difficulty of assessing the influence of Soviet propaganda and Soviet artists is also due to the fact that Soviet artists were not always working towards a Soviet goal but were documenting purely artistic responses in the social conditions in which they were working. I use the methodology of comparative analysis. The source of the work will be first and foremost primary texts (such as archival funds, period manifestos, essays), then press and secondary literature. The title of the work, 'The Password of Time is: Speed. The Meaning of Time is: Transformation. Such is the Method and the Goal,' is a quote from Josef Hora and refers to the generational perception of the necessity of change in culture and life after the First World War and the search for new inspiration.