

**The New York Public Library  
for the Performing Arts**

DOROTHY AND LEWIS B. CULLMAN CENTER



***PERFORMING REVOLUTION IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE***

**November 6, 2009 – March 31, 2010**

New York, NY, September 30, 2009 – The ***Performing Revolution in Central and Eastern Europe*** festival kicks off on November 6. Presented by **The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts**, in association with leading cultural organizations and academic institutions, the festival examines how the performing arts contributed to the 1989 revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe. The citywide festival features more than 25 events in theater, dance, music, film, and literature, as well as exhibitions and symposia.

*Performing Revolution* focuses on the performing arts in the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. The festival considers “revolution” not only within the framework of the era’s profound social and political changes, but also in terms of ongoing experiments within a particular genre. From revivals of significant works from the period to new projects that reflect upon the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain and beyond, *Performing Revolution* is a celebration of the transformative power of the arts and their potential to reshape political and cultural systems.

On **November 5**, The Harriman Institute at Columbia University will host a pre-festival symposium that discusses the performing arts in the context of political change. The festival opens on **November 6** with ***Rebel Waltz: Underground Music From Behind the Iron Curtain***, featuring six bands from Eastern Europe, all playing in the U.S. for the first time. These bands performed in the 1980s as a form of political rebellion and 20 years later represent a successful movement for change. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center will present ***Revolutionary Voices: Performing Arts in Central & Eastern Europe in the 1980s***, a major exhibition that opens **November 18** and examines how performances attempted to break boundaries set by the Communist state’s politicians and censors. Among the many other events is a rare revival of the **Theatre of the Eighth Day**’s landmark 1985 production of ***Wormwood***, performed by the original cast; a book launch for the first multi-author anthology of Eastern European plays to appear in English, published and presented by the Martin E. Segal Theatre Center; and the U.S. premiere of ***Petrushka*** by the **Győr National Ballet from Hungary** at The Joyce Theater.

*Performing Revolution in Central and Eastern Europe* is presented by The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts in partnership with the **Czech Center New York; Goethe-Institut New York; Hungarian Cultural Center; Polish Cultural Institute in New York; Romanian Cultural Institute in New York; the Consulate General of Slovakia; the Consulate General of Slovenia; Abrons Arts Center; Agentura Dell'Arte; Austrian Cultural Forum; Dance New Amsterdam; Erste Bank Group; The Film Society of Lincoln Center; GOH Productions; The Harriman Institute at Columbia University; HERE Arts Center; Janeil Engelstad; The Joyce Theater; La MaMa E.T.C.; (le) Poisson Rouge; Martin E. Segal Theatre Center; The Tank; Theater for the New City; Theatre Department at Barnard College, Columbia University; Untitled Theater Company #61; WaxFactory; and the 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Festival.**

A complete schedule of festival events (as of September 30, 2009) is attached. For more information, please visit the Festival website at [www.performingrevolution.org](http://www.performingrevolution.org).

For press information, contact Janet Stapleton at 212-633-0016 / email: [jstapleton@worldnet.att.net](mailto:jstapleton@worldnet.att.net). Digital images are available on request. A press contact list for the individual events follows the festival schedule.

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**The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts** houses the world's most extensive combination of circulating, reference, and rare archival collections in its field. Its divisions are the Circulating Collections, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, Music Division, Billy Rose Theatre Division, and the Rodgers & Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound. The materials in its collections are available free of charge, along with a wide range of special programs, including exhibitions, seminars, and performances. An essential resource for everyone with an interest in the arts - whether professional or amateur - the Library is known particularly for its prodigious collections of non-book materials such as historic recordings, videotapes, autograph manuscripts, correspondence, sheet music, stage designs, press clippings, programs, posters, and photographs.

#### **About The New York Public Library**

The New York Public Library was created in 1895 with the consolidation of the private libraries of John Jacob Astor and James Lenox with the Samuel Jones Tilden Trust. The Library provides free and open access to its physical and electronic collections and information, as well as to its services. Its renowned research collections are located in the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street; The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center; the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem; and the Science, Industry and Business Library at 34th Street and Madison Avenue. Eighty-seven branch libraries provide access to circulating collections and a wide range of other services in neighborhoods throughout the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island. Research and circulating collections combined total more than 50 million items. In addition, each year the Library presents thousands of exhibitions and public programs, which include classes in technology, literacy, and English for speakers of other languages. All in all The New York Public Library serves more than 17 million patrons who come through its doors annually and millions more around the globe who use its resources at [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).