**What to look forward to seeing you at the 33rd International Festival of Theatre Schools MEETING/ENCOUNTER. We now know which international schools will take part and we can also present the jury.**

We are not even two months away from the start of the International Festival of Theatre Schools SETKÁNÍ/ENCOUNTER. That is why we would like to present the programme, which is prepared every year by the students of the Theatre Faculty of the Janáček Academy of Performing Arts. The theme of this 33rd edition of the festival is **Mraveniště/Anthills**.

At the end of this month, participating schools from nine countries will come to Brno to show their work on the stages of our local theatres – Centrum experimentálního divadla, Divadlo na Orlí, and Studio Marta. From 28. 3. to 1. 4. you can see productions by students from Georgia, Bulgaria, Poland, Germany, Slovenia and Great Britain.

In addition, this year the festival will feature an international artistic jury which will present itself professionally as part of ENC: TALK. Lighting designer Sascha Kühne will come from Germany, along with theatre director Antal Bálint from Hungary. Sonia Murcia Molina, actress and director of a theatre school in Spain, will be the third foreign juror. The Czech Republic will be represented by Aminata Keita, a director currently working at the National Theatre Brno. Although SETKÁNÍ/ENCOUNTER is a non-competitive festival, the jury awards the Marta Award for outstanding artistic achievements. Another prize that students can receive is the Award of the Festival Director, which is still Docent MgA. Michal Zetel, Ph.D..

## As part of the OFF programme, musicians will perform on Moravské náměstí. There will be an Open Air Stage for the public. Of course, you can also look forward to parties in the ArtBar, Divadlo Husa na provázku and První patro. The programme promises a lot of interesting events. Actor Jaroslav Plesl, who is one of this year's festival ambassadors at the SETKÁNÍ/ENCOUNTER, recalls:

*„I would like to say how we talked about theatre and acting with students from other theatre schools, creating an overview and opinion about what is happening in acting and its forms. In fact, it was always a wonderful party where everything was really discussed and played out. But that's part of it! Of young people, of art school students, of theatre..."*

More information about the OFF programme and the festival will be published in the next press release. You can also follow the news on our social media channels such as Instagram and Facebook, or on our website [www.encounter.cz](http://www.encounter.cz).

The project is co-financed by the governments of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia through Visegrad grants from the [International Visegrad Fund](https://www.encounter.cz/partneri/). The mission of this fund is to promote the ideas of sustainable regional cooperation in Central Europe. Furthermore, this festival is created with the financial support of the City of Brno, The City districts Brno-stred and The State Fund for Culture Czech Republic; under the auspices of the Mayor of Brno, the Governor of the South Moravian Region, the Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic, The City districts o Brno-stred, The Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, ENCATC and UNESCO. The main media partner is Czech TV. We would like to thank [all these entities](https://www.encounter.cz/partneri/) for their support.

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