HUNGARIAN DRAMA AND THEATRE HISTORY FOR ERASMUS STUDENTS

BBNIN00200

Gabriella Reuss PhD
Contact: reuss.gabriella@btk.ppke.hu
Office hour @ BTK Z: Mondays 9-10 am

Purpose: to offer a brief survey of Hungarian Drama and Theatre History – a particularly Central-East European country's cultural history - with a variety of activities: lectures, film viewings, theatre visits, field trips, library visits.

Class venue, time: BTK Z Room 419, Tuesday 10:15-11:45

Attendance: officially, you may skip 3 classes out of the 14, but as 2 classes are cancelled in exchange of your theatre nights, only 2 can be skipped out of 12, with the exception of the test and the pre-organized field trips.

Field trips:

- the Hungarian Broadway – in class-time
- you must attend two theatre performances (please select from the recommended ones below)
- Actors' Museum (Bajor Gizi Színészmúzeum, Budapest Stromfeld Aurél utca 16.)

Recommended theatre nights in the next two months:

- *The Tragedy of Man* at the Budapest Puppet Theatre by Imre Madách (in Hungarian (bunraku and marionette puppets,110 mins)
- Stephen the King by Szörényi-Bródy, Budapest Operetta Theatre (with English surtitles
- *Tartuffe* by Molière at Örkény Theatre - check surtitles
- Richard III by Shakespeare at Radnóti Theatre in Hungarian, dir. Andrei Serban, venue: Magyar Theatre, Hevesi Sándor Square
- ***Hamlet*** by Shakespeare (Örkény Theatre:) Vígszínház (Comedy Theatre)

Grades: will depend on your

- two theatre reviews (700 words each) of Hungarian productions
- participation in programmes
- written reflections (150-word/one passage) on each of the reading assignments, due before the class discussion
- 2-4 slides when you briefly present a production
- in-class test

Schedule: should there be any changes, I will let you know in due course via neptun (please check your email and neptun messages regularly)

Have a great term!

Schedule

Date	Class discussion topic	Assignment for the next class
Sept 12	Week 1. Class cancelled	•
Sept 19	Week 2. Introduction to the course Introduction tothe History of Hungarian Drama and theatre Introduction to basic concepts and periods • itinerant players vs new building, • singing-crying school vs new stage practices	• Get familiar with *Bánk bán* by József Katona and Ferenc Erkel (play and opera)
Sept 26	Week 3. Early Hungarian theatre: struggle for independence on the stage • theatre vs opera • rising nationalism: *Bánk bán* (1819) by József Katona) -> opera film with English surtitles	Prepare to briefly present a production of *King Lear* in your language
Oct 03	Week 4. The role of Shakespeare in Hungarian Theatre • Gábor Egressy and his *King Lear* (1838) (cf Macready's *Lear* in London • Andrei Serban/Radnóti Theatre	Prepare to present a contemporary trend in you home country's theatre culture
Oct 10	Week 5. Contemporary trends in performance and translation: • *Tartuffe* etc	Week 5 will be a field trip! Meet in front of the Opera (M1 stop), 10:15
Oct 17	Week 6. Field trip: the Hungarian Broadway • sculptures, architecture, cultural context	read Imre Madách: *The Tragedy of Man* in English http://mek.oszk.hu/00800/00876/00876.pdf, https://archive.org/details/tragedyofmandram00madrich
Oct 24	Week 7. Reading and discussion of *The Tragedy of Man* Puppetry: a medium	
Oct 31	Week 8. Autumn break	read Ferenc Molnár's *Liliom* https://archive.org/stream/liliomlegendinse00molnuoft/liliomlegendinse00molnuoft_djvu.txt
Nov 7	Week 9. Reading and discussion of Ferenc Molnár's *Liliom*, (1909) - original of the 1945 Broadway	

	musical, *Carousel*, and of Fritz Lang's 1934 French film	
Nov 14	Week 10. Class cancelled in exchange of your theatre night	
Nov 21	Week 11. Theatre culture in the thirties • Sándor Hevesi and Edward Gordon Craig: Expressionism and the early 20th century	Deadline for theatre reviews: 8am, 28 November (via email)
Nov 28	Week 12. Theatre in the Socialist era Socialist Shakespeares (*Liliomfi* /*Romeo and Juliet*) Film viewing session: *Othello Gyulaházán*	Prepare for the test: • interpretation of a passage from a Hungarian play you have read (*Bánk bán, Tragedy of Man, Carousel*, *Stephen the King*) • lexical part: Budapest Broadway, Egressy, Hevesi, Socialist era, Shakespeare, contemporary directors
Dec 05	Week 13. In-class test	
Dec 12	Week 14. Conclusion: feedback	