

# NUMBERS



**A MULTI-GENRE PRODUCTION ABOUT A TRAPPED SOCIETY  
TRYING TO OVERCOME ITS FEARS AND FIND FREEDOM**

Inspired by Oleg Sentsov's play of the same name, the anti-utopia Numbers follows a trapped society, trying to overcome its fears and find freedom. In the world of Numbers, everything is subjected to a strict system and the supreme ruler named Zero. Ten heroes are used to running in circles and doing everything according to The Rules. They don't get to choose how they live or who they love. But their lives change with the arrival of a new member who does not follow the rules...

They want to choose their own destiny, get their own names and create a new world with their own rules. But can the new system be better than the previous one?

International "English friendly" project, containing elements of puppetry, physical, dramatic theater and live cinema.

I am going to propose you a riddle.

I will present to you the rules of an establishment that really existed in France between 1840 and 1845. I will give you these rules without specifying whether it is a factory, a prison, a psychiatric hospital, a monastery, a school, or a barracks; it is up to you to guess which establishment it is.

This establishment houses four hundred bachelors who, every morning, must get up at five o'clock; at five fifty, they must have finished their toilet, made their bed, and drunk their coffee; at six o'clock obligatory work begins, interrupted at twelve fifteen for an hour of lunch break; at eight fifteen, dinner and communal prayer; from nine o'clock, they retire to their rooms to rest.

The residents can only leave the limits of the establishment during Sunday walks, but they are constantly monitored by the clergy. The clergy supervises the walks, the bedrooms, and ensures the control of the workshops and their functioning. The ecclesiastical staff thus

ensures not only control of work and morality but also economic control. The residents receive not a salary, but a remuneration in total amount fixed between forty and eighty francs per year and which is paid to them only upon leaving the establishment. If a person of the opposite sex needs to cross the limits of the establishment for practical or economic reasons, they must undergo rigorous selection and can only stay in the establishment for a short time. They are required to remain silent, under penalty of expulsion.

In general, the two main organizational principles, according to the rules, are as follows: residents must never be alone in the dormitories, dining room, workshop, and courtyard; furthermore, any contact with the outside world is considered inadmissible, only the Holy Spirit must reign in the establishment.

So what do you think? Which institution is it?



MICHEL FOUCAULT

Once upon a time, there lived Numbers. Neither they nor anyone else knew how and for what reason they appeared.

If you multiply by Zero, it always turns out to be Zero.

His whole story begins to resemble a story of a divine child. But soon we realize that he is just like everyone else - an ordinary person, an ordinary Number.

performance

DÁRIA NOVIKOVÁ  
MARIA TATARYNOVA  
ONDŘEJ LIPOVSKÝ  
IVAN VANKO


voiceover IAN TRANSUE

stage design and puppets MARK KLAWIKOWSKI  
live cinema ANNA MÖNNICH  
music NATÁLIE PLEVÁKOVÁ  
directed by LEX SHCHERBAKOV

PREMIERE 10. 2. 2024

stage manager KLÁRA HEŠKOVÁ  
light, sound, projection MILOŠ SLECHAN, ONDŘEJ ZUNT,  
MARKÉTA EFFENBERGEROVÁ

thanks to DAVID GRANT, ANASTÁZIE VLKOVÁ

 **DIVADLO  
NA CUCKÝ**