

PRESS RELEASE

CZECH AVANTGARDIST S.D.CH. IN LONDON

27 March – 23 May 2015, London: The Czech Centre London in partnership with Divus London proudly presents a multi-genre project that strives to promote Czech award-winning playwright, author, and visual artist Miloslav Vojtíšek aka S.d.Ch. to London audiences for the first time ever. An exhibition at Divus London gallery, a theatre play at the Horse Hospital and site-specific readings at the magnificent Kensal Green Cemetery will introduce S.d.Ch.'s 'contemporary acute work' distinct in its sarcasm, brilliant writing and boundless imagination, making him a unique phenomenon of the Czech cultural scene.



Collages, Drawings and Book Launch

The project begins with an exhibition at Divus London gallery opening on Friday 27th March at 7pm, where S.d.Ch.'s most recent collages and comics will be presented, some of them created specifically for the London show. His visual humour relates to the surreal collages of Max Ernst. **On the occasion, the author will also launch his new book**, a mystifying romanetto inspired by philosopher Ladislav Klíma; *A Makeshift Imitatio Christi*, newly published in English by Divus. The exhibition will then continue until the 23rd May.

Theatre Play: Spiritual Death in Venice

S.d.Ch.'s work penetrates a remarkable variety of art forms; however the complexity of his artistic expression has been firmly united through his distinctive rich language and often cruelly acute critical observations and a talent for writing dialogues which is hard to match. His work was compared to the writing of Thomas Bernhard, Céline or Alfred Jarry. In London, S.d.Ch. will present his award-winning play *Spiritual Death in Venice*, an allegory on the extinction of masculinity, in a brand new English translation by Eva Daničková. The play for four actors with live animation and puppetry will take place on Wednesday 1st of April at the Horse Hospital London.

A Cemetery Romance

A site specific literary performance was curated by Steven J Fowler featuring also a series of British poets including Emily Berry, Scott Thurston and others. *Cemetery romance*, referring to S.d.Ch.'s 25 years working experience as a gravedigger, will take place in the magnificent backdrop of Kensal Green Cemetery on Saturday 28th March.

About S.d.Ch. & his work

Over the past five years, an artist working under the pseudonym of **S.d.Ch.** has become a phenomenon, embellishment and enfant terrible of the Czech cultural scene. Through his brilliantly written plays, in which even technical comments have an emotionally driven literary form, he ironises our contemporary times whilst still evoking the horrors of their direction. For his literary and dramatic work he has received several awards (including two most prestigious Alfréd Radok awards) and continuous interest from Czech critique. Born in Prague in 1970, today S.d.Ch. (real name Miloslav Vojtíšek) is a well-known author of prose and drama, a collagist and the leader of the underground music band *Ruce naší Dory (Hands of our Dora)*. He is regularly published by Divus.

-ENDS-

NOTE TO EDITORS

For more information, press enquires, book copies and photos please contact: Tereza Porybná, Czech Centre London, porybna@czechcentre.org.uk, 079 8080 5319. The artist will be available for interviews from March 23 till April 3 2015 in London.

Websites and links

<http://sdch-varlen.cz>

<http://divus.cc/london/en/article/b-s-d-ch-a-makeshift-imitatio-christi-b-exhibition-and-new-book>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CzechCentreLnd>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/londonczechcentre>

Web: www.czechcentre.org.uk

Season Listings:

Collages and Comics - Exhibition and Book Launch

28 March – 23 May 2015

Private view: Friday March 27 at 7pm

Divus London, London SE8 4AL

<http://divus.cc/london/en/article/b-s-d-ch-a-makeshift-imitatio-christi-b-exhibition-and-new-book>

Cemetery Romance (site specific literary performance)

Saturday 28 March 2pm

Kensal Green Cemetery, London W10 4RA

RSVP: info@czechcentre.org.uk

<http://london.czechcentres.cz/programme/travel-events/miloslav-vojtisek-cemetery-poetry-reading/>

Spiritual Death in Venice: Theatre Play

Wednesday 1 April 7pm

The Horse Hospital, London WC1N 1JD

<http://www.thehorsehospital.com/now/spiritual-death-in-venice/>

About the Czech Centre

The Czech Centre London is a government funded cultural agency whose mission is to actively promote the Czech Republic by showcasing Czech culture in the UK. Its programme covers visual and performing arts, film, literature, music, architecture, design and fashion. As well as hosting its own events, the Czech Centre offers support for other groups organising Czech related initiatives in the UK. www.czechcentre.org.uk

The project has been supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and TECHO.