

ProtimlufFest is foreshadowed by the theme of a journey

More than twenty poets and prose writers from six countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe will convene from Wednesday 16th to Friday 18th October at the 13th International Literary Festival ProtimlufFest 2019 in Ostrava. During the three days, you will be able to enjoy readings, debates with the authors or a discussion about November 1989, or a music performance.

The topic of this year will be a journey in all possible forms, and contemporary Hungarian, Slovak, Czech, German, Bosnian and Polish poetry and prose. The festival is going to take place at three places in Ostrava – at the Gallery of the Fine Arts, the Fiducia second-hand bookshop and gallery and at the Pant centre. The programme includes not only the authors of the Visegrad countries such as prosaist Anna Bolavá from Czech republic, poet Eugeniusz Tkaczyszyn-Dycki from Poland, prosaist Marek Vadas from Slovakia or poet-and-performer Gábor Gyukics from Hungary, but the festival also offers a Czech-German evening, Ostrava young literary scene, a concert of the Ty Syčáci music band with frontman Petr Váša, and a discussion about November 1989.

„This year marks the 30th anniversary of this important event of our contemporary history, and therefore we invite its active participants both from our country and Poland to come for the first day of the festival. We have invited Petr Placák from Prague, a founder of the pre-1989 České děti movement, and Andrzej Jagodziński from Warsaw. Jagodzinski was in a close relationship not only with Polish dissent, but with the Czech one as well and who translated texts by Václav Havel and Josef Škvorecký into Polish,“ Jiří Macháček, the director of the festival, says.

The biggest gust of literature could be expected on Thursday evening in the Gallery of Ostrava, where various readings, a debate on the topic of a journey in the literature, and concerts of Ty Syčáci music band and guitarist Jindřich Holubec will take place. In a few halls. „Holubec who is both a singer and a guitarist, will accompany the reading of Gábor Gyukics, who had a book of poetry *čí je ta tvář* published by Protimluf Publishing House this year. G. Gyukics emigrated from Hungary to Holland and later to the USA, after which he came back to Hungary, where he organises various jazz poetry sessions,“ Macháček said. Macháček will then moderate the discussion of the authors-travellers Martin Ryšavý and Marek Vadas himself. „Siberia which is described in the work of Ryšavý, and Africa which Vadas writes about, will be connected through the debate on medicine-men and their social roles for the Evenks, Yakuts and other African native tribes,“ Macháček explains this unusual link between the tropical and subarctic.

The last day of the festival will see new books being launched and the Czech-German project called Překladiště/VERSschmuggel presented. An eponymous book was published bilingually by the Protimluf (Ostrava) and Wunderhorn (Heidelberg) publishing houses this spring. You will hear readings by Milan Děžinský and Steffen Popp who will read in Ostrava for the first time.

The organizers of the festival would like to extend special thanks to the Statutory City of Ostrava, the Ministry of Culture, International Visegrad Fund and the Gallery of fine arts in Ostrava for their support, and the other cooperating institutions too. Entry to all the events is free.