

**Sláva Daubnerová**  
**SOLO LAMENTOSO**

*A portrait of a woman forced to listen to music*

Within the context of Slovak theatre, Sláva Daubnerová occupies a singular place – she is at once an author, director, performer and actress. She is known for pushing boundaries and conventions in contemporary Slovak theatre, combining genres and pronounced experimentation on a formal and aesthetic level. She also proves this with her latest physical-visual performance. It is inspired by a banal story about increasing aversion among people, which suggests that this is one way in which extremism is born. Daubnerová takes a step away from thematizing the personal within her body of work (where she would focus on female artists) towards thematizing socially engaged subject matter. *Solo lamentoso* is based on real events which have been reported by the media in recent past. The confession of a woman playing an aria becomes a device for Daubnerová with which she can approach timeless topics, such as the ambiguity of truth and the fight of an individual against society. Daubnerová, a conceptual experimenter, blends authenticity and documentary techniques with fiction in order to pose fundamental questions about the boundaries of humanity and the position of an outsider within our society, thus creating a performance oscillating between documentary, physical and strongly visual theatre.

Written, directed and performed by Sláva Daubnerová

Stage and costume design: Sláva Daubnerová

Choreography: Renata Ptačin

Music and sound design: Matej Gyárfáš

Lighting design: Slavomír Šmálik

Translation: Margit Garajszki, Zsuzsanna Gulyás

Narration: Sláva Daubnerová, Petra Vajdová, Ján Gallovič

Photography: Jakub Gulyás

Produced by P.A.T. *Platform for Contemporary Theatre*

Premiere: December 18, 2015, Sľuk Theatre

[www.slavadaubnerova.com](http://www.slavadaubnerova.com)

**Financial support:** The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava Self-Governing Region, Literary Fund

**Awards:** Student's Jury Award at the Nová dráma/New drama 2016 festival

**Selected festivals:**

*Nová dráma/ New drama, Bratislava 2016*

*Dotyky a spojenia, Martin, 2016*

*Festival Vlnoplocha – Czechoslovak festival of progressive theatre, Banská Štiavnica 2016*

*25<sup>th</sup> international festival Divadelná Nitra 2016*

*24<sup>th</sup> international festival Divadlo, Plzeň 2016*

*Protéza – festival of author's theatre, Bratislava 2016*

**About the performance:**

*I hate people... they have mutilated my soul. That's why I hate them... I have done everything out of hatred towards the society which it had grown in me itself by how it had treated me... If society has no remorse in destroying an individual, why shouldn't an individual be able to destroy the society?*

*Ol'ga Hepnarová, the last woman to be executed in Czechoslovakia*

*I wasn't born with a feeling of resentment and hatred towards rats. I grew to hate them for what they were. For the damned years throughout which I got to know the behavior and traits of the rats in Štúrovo.*

*Eva N., owner of the singing house*

*Solo lamentoso* is inspired by an unusual story of a woman who had barricaded herself in her house and terrorized the people of Košút Street in Štúrovo in a rather cruel manner. For unbelievable 14 years, she would play back the same aria sung by her favorite Spanish tenor, Placido Domingo, through low-quality speakers from six to ten'o clock in the morning. The case begins in the year 2000, when Eva N. had moved to Košút Street. She was bothered by the incessant barking of her neighbor's house which would cause her headaches. That neighbor, however, would tell her that *a dog is there to bark*. Eva therefore turned on the music, with which she wanted to drown out the barking. And so began the endless roundabout of a fourteen-year war. The war of Eva N., a lone woman against all of Štúrovo. Her neighbors and surroundings have become hostages in an act of bizarre terror, and even after fourteen years, nobody was able to reach a conclusion to it. Petitions, demonstrations, expert assessments, even courts did not help. Eva N. did not break the law. She had an impeccable understanding of it and dedicated her life to her fight for justice. In times of failing tourism, Štúrovo had entered public consciousness again. Media started to show interest in the unusual „Playing house“ – Slovak, as well as Hungarian networks have reported about it. The „Singing house“ (also known as „Music house“ or „Playing house“) on Košút Street was starting to rival the Esztergom Basilica or the legendary swimming pool. After fourteen years, Eva N. suddenly turned the music off. Coincidentally, this was the day of the president' visit to Štúrovo. The performance delves into the lonely fight of an individual against all of society.

*Because of the Štúrovo rats, I have studied the laws multiple times, and in the meantime I know them better than the lawyers. One of the complaints filed by the Štúrovo rats was that the voice of Placido Domingo is damaging to their health. I think they're just hearing the sound of buzz saw, lawnmower or songs in their heads. Either that or they were born this way.*

*Eva N.*

For thirteen years, our town has been involved in a desperate fight with a lonely woman suffering from mental illness. It is the case of Ms Eva N. from Štúrovo. This lady is putting pressure on a whole residential area: from six to ten o'clock in the morning, she plays music from bad, but more importantly loud speakers in an endless loop. The local governance knows about this problem, but hasn't been able to put a stop to this annoyance for over a decade. Do you think it's normal that this case couldn't be closed for over ten years? I ask you for help with the endless story of the Music house.

*Citizens of Štúrovo, excerpt from the letter to the speaker of National Council of the Slovak Republic*

She is literally torturing and restricting us. Can you imagine waking up every morning at six to the sounds of an aria, be it Monday or Sunday, and that for over thirteen years? It would be fitting to reevaluate her mental state. The courts are on the side of a mentally disturbed woman who disrupts peace and quiet with her actions. The case has been settled in court against the interests of us, simple people who only need some silence.

*Citizens of Štúrovo, excerpt from the letter to the Prime Minister*

The performance uses reportages of the Markíza television network.

Music used in the performance:

Ján Cikker: *Resurrection* (Vzkriesenie), Intermezzo No. 1

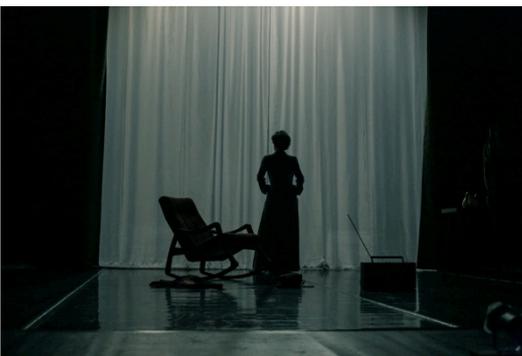
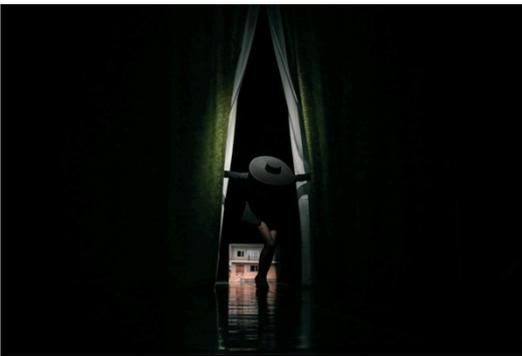
Béla Bartók: *Bluebeard's Castle*

Richard Wagner: *Flight of the Valkyries*

Giuseppe Verdi: *Il trovatore*, „Di quella pira“

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Queen of the Night's aria

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Photography: Jakub Gulyás