

# MONDIAL du THEATRE

Festival Mondial du Théâtre Amateur  
World Festival of Amateur Theatre  
Festival Mundial del Teatro Amateur

Sous le Haut Patronage de S.A.S. le Prince Souverain

## Mondial du Théâtre

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*18a edición del 20° al 27° agosto de 2025*

## dNO PLAYING GOD

1960. The mass murder in a church in the town of Namestovo, Czechoslovakia. The murderer, John J., was a chronic alcoholic, thief and rapist. He had committed numerous petty crimes and thefts, in which he got off scot-free. For the attempted rape of a young mother in the presence of her child, he received a sentence of 2.5 years' imprisonment. Shortly after his release from prison - on 26 February 1960 - he committed an act that ranks among the greatest crimes in the history of Slovak criminology. He murdered three people while stealing alms from church coffers. He received the death penalty and was executed on 20 December 1960. He was 21 years old.

Playing God paints a portrait of the individual and the state who have usurped the divine right to decide life and death. The horrific event - a mass murder in a local church - resonates to this day, and even the long decades have not eased the horror and grief of many of its memorials. We do not want to reopen old wounds. We look at this tragedy with a generational distance and with a focus on the continuing dangers of alcoholism, individualism and mutual ignorance. The play denounces our stereotypes, traditions and folklore, using archival material from investigative and court files as well as the recollections of eyewitnesses. The result is a fictional collective testimony that works with the means of physical and musical theatre and subverts the storyline into a non-chronological sequence of stylized images. We present a subjective view of the contexts, causes and consequences that we were confronted with in the research phase before the creative process. In our play, imaginings and desires alternate with the eruption of facts, the tonality of existence culminating in the atonality of a nightmare. Faith is as much a mystery as emptiness, good and evil are mutually conditioned - one without the other is indistinguishable and unnameable...

