

WOLFHEART

musical shadow theater

Text (inspired by real events) by : **Nana Milčinski, Peter Kus**

Directed and music by **Peter Kus**

Dramaturgy by **Nana Milčinski**

Art design by **Morana Dolenc**

Puppet art design by **Boris Sekulić**

Costumes by **Patrik Dolenc**

Light design by **Borut Bučinel**

Choreography by **Bruno Kontrec**

Performed by **Igor Baksa, Davor Dokleja, Karolina Horvat, Bruno Kontrec**

Produced by **Kazališna družina Pinklec (Čakovec, Croatia), Zavod Federacija Ljubljana (Slovenia)**

Co-produced by **Zavod Bunker (Ljubljana, Slovenia)**

Supported by *The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia, The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, Čakovec City, Ljubljana City Municipality*

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For children over 5 years of age. Duration is 45 minutes.

PRESS REVIEWS:

“Carefully put together and visually powerful, Wolfheart does not just bring attraction in the sense of strong and short-lived impression, but is the result of a thoughtful creative process, which does not go too far and does not impose final answers. Instead, it allows the spectators contemplation of its topics and visual quality, which are the result of good interaction of performers and handling of different theater techniques.” **Leon Žganec-Brajša**, www.kazalište.hr, Dec. 2nd 2015.

“[Wolfheart] is a thoughtful and accessible interaction of science and art which empower each-other and offer each-other chance for mutual inspiration and interpretation... Wolfheart presents the story of Slavc through a lot of different performing elements, which nonetheless function as consistent and supplement each other. A feeling for the right measure of individual elements (which in their accuracy never forget on a grain of always welcomed self-irony) builds in the whole performance a dramaturgical dynamics and exciting unpredictability. The performance fulfills multiple purposes (as well as types of audiences): it is educative, humorous, critical and “full-blooded” theater.” **Zala Dobovšek**.

FESTIVALS:

- Beavers festival 2016, Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- 21st Vukovar puppet spring festival, Vukovar, Vinkovci and Županja (Croatia)

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

The puppet and music project *Wolfheart* tells a story about the life of a young wolf being separated from his own pack and forced to venture on his own path of life. Along the way he is facing challenges similar to the challenges of the youth in human cultures: he has to say goodbye to the safe environment of his family (pack), start a life counting on experience passed onto him, face the new situations which are foreign and sometimes hostile, overcome fear, be inventive, gather the strength and courage and start a new life in his own pack. The tale about a wolf growing up is also a tale about ourselves. The original text by **Nana Miličinski** and **Peter Kus** was created based on the real story of the wolf named **Slavc**. Biologists from the *University of Ljubljana* were following him via a telemetric collar from July 2011 till August 2012 (the project [Slowolf](#)) and reconstructed his journey from Slavnik mountain on the Karst in Slovenia to Lessinia natural park in the northern Italy.

An important endeavor of the performance is to unveil the mystical image of the wolf, which in the Western culture (and especially in children's literature) is presented as dark, evil and bloodthirsty creature. Through the story the basic biology of the wolf is presented, as well as its relation to the man with the aim of better understanding of the wolf's nature. Wolf can become, as in the belief of Native Americans, our teacher. Instead of destroying the wolf and all wild nature we should discover it as a source of our inspiration. The optimism of the story about "wolfheart" is an opposite to the destruction of nature and the incapability of our cohabitation – the cataclysm of a planet appearing at the horizon.

The performance is conceived as a combination of shadow theater and live music. It is intended for children older than **5 years of age** and adults.

PETER KUS

is composer, puppet theatre director, instrument builder and educator from Ljubljana, Slovenia. In his latest projects he is exploring the field where music and theatre meet. The results are puppet/musical performances like **Black Kitchen** (2004), **The Voice** (2005), **Tristan Vox** (2006), **A King Listens** (2007), **The Lost Tone** (2010), **The Forest of Songs** (2012), **Bing, Bang, Boing – the noise making boy** (2014) and **Sound Kitchen** (2015). He also investigates other puppet theater techniques such as video (**The Singing Castle**, 2011) and shadows (**Wolfheart**, 2015). The performances were invited to numerous international festivals and received many awards for music and originality (see below). Peter Kus is also original musical instrument's designer and builder. In September 2008 he conceived a widely appraised series of exhibitions of original musical instruments **Euphonia**, presented in various towns in Slovenia. From 2012 to 2015 his exhibition **The Garden of Sound** was presented in Reims (France), Wels (Austria), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Šibenik, Osijek (both in Croatia) and Kotor (Montenegro). In October 2010 he published a guide book **The Singing Castle, a Guide for Making Original Instruments** in the form of a comic book together with the illustrator Kaja Avberšek.