



**puppet – musical fairytale**

Conceived, directed and music by **Peter Kus**

Text and dramaturgy by **Ajda Rooss** (inspired by short stories by Sergei Kozlov)

Set and graphic design by **Kaja Avberšek**

Original musical instruments by **Peter Kus, Darko Korošec**

Costumes by **Iztok Hrga**

Light design by **Borut Bučinel**

Puppets made by **Silvo Metelko, Ana Kravanja, Kaja Avberšek**

Set made by **Rajko Miladić, Adolf Košmrl, Peter Kus, Jurij Kus**

Performed by **Laura Betka Kranjc, Gregor Hrovat/alt. Lola Močnik, Bruno Kontrec, Ivan Štok**

Produced by **Kuskus**

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**For children over 4 years of age. Duration is 42 minutes.**

**PRESS REVIEWS:**

»... the show is a real play of music, art and youthful performer's charm and therefore has to be watched and listened carefully. This is a magic of theatre arte.« **Mira Muhoberac, Vijenac (Croatia)**

»...Exceptional art design and beautiful sound, combined with top artistry, take us away from the usual and demand active effort of watching the show from the young audience. However, at the end this is rewarded by the joy of understanding and satisfaction of experiencing.» **Iva Gruić, KAZALIŠTE (Croatia)**

»The show enchanted the audience with imagination inspired by forestall stage set and its inhabitants, who lived through the adventures in all four seasons. Under the direction of Peter Kus the whole stage of this musical and puppet theater transformed into the forest home of the bear and the hedgehog. His performances attract us with magical images and sound, with humor, refined feeling and abundance of ideas. The actors Andrea Giordani, Bruno Kontrec, Gregor Hrovat and Ivan Štok persuaded us with reach musical talent and great enthusiasm of performing on stage.« **Sophia Juen, Vorarlberg Online (Austria)**

“Forrest of Songs is an enchanting theatre experience that brings, with the help of theatrical instead of pedagogical means, nature to children and children to nature. ... Four musicians play and animate puppets – instruments on such a skillful level that the child and adult audience can experience rare freedom of talent. ... Musical and artistic beauty and incredible imagination in the construction of the instruments and recreating nature is enough to take a breath away and inspire the soul.” **Mina Petrić, Bilten 27. Festivala ekološkog pozorišta (Srbija)**

## PAST INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCES, FESTIVALS AND AWARDS:

- *Figuretheater Festival*, Wels, Mar. 20th 2025
- 19th Ogulin Festival of Fairytales, Sept. 9th 2024
- *ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2023 (Turning Point)*, Novi Sad (Serbia), Nov. 21st, 2023,
- *Cikl Cakl*, Sankt Michael ob Bleiburg (Austria), Oct. 18th, 2023,
- 22. *International festival of theater for children*, Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Oct. 11th, 2023 – **best music, grand prix for best performance of the festival**,
- *Pozorište Zvezdariše*, Beograd (Serbia), Sept. 29th, 2023 – **award for creation and animation of puppets**,
- *International Festival for Children's Theatre „Igor Madzirov“*, Skopje (North Macedonia), Sept. 28th, 2023 – **best music, best stage set design**,
- *International Theatre Festival Walizka*, Łomża (Poljska), Jun. 3rd, 2023 – **best music award, best performance by audience award**
- *Sommertraumhafen Festival*, Eibiswald (Austria), May 6th, 2023
- *Teatro Miela*, Trieste (Italy), Feb. 19th, 2023
- 27th Festival of Ecological Theater, Bačka Palanka (Serbia), 2021 – **expert jury award for best overall performance, children's jury award for best show**
- *Plesni zbirkus*, Rijeka (Croatia), 2020
- *Trallallero*, Artegna (Italy), 2019
- *30th Summer Puppet Pier*, Maribor (Slovenia), 2019
- *Summer in Dubrava*, 2018, Zagreb (Croatia)
- *Internationale Puppentheatertage*, 2017, Mistelbach (Austria)
- 18. *Lutfest*, 2017, East Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) – **award for best original idea „Lutkobaz“ Marko Kovačević (Peter Kus), award “magic of puppetry Radoslav Lazić”, award for best stage set design (Kaja Avberšek), award for best music (Peter Kus), award for best performance by the children's jury**
- *Internationales Storytelling Festival*, 2017, Irdning, Graz, Bad Schönau (Austria)
- *21st Revue of Puppet Theaters*, 2016, Rijeka (Croatia)
- *Pannopticum*, 2016, Neusiedl am See (Austria)
- *Sommertraumhafen*, 2016, Wies (Austria)
- *Luaga und losna*, 2015, Feldkirch (Austria)
- *Špancirfest*, 2015, Varaždin (Croatia)
- *Kotor Festival of Children's Theater*, 2015, Kotor (Montenegro)
- *Fantasima*, 2015, Lienz (Austria)
- *Cikl Cakl*, 2013, Bleiburg (Austrija)
- *International Children's Festival*, Šibenik (Croatia), 2013
- *International Festival of Children's Theatres*, Subotica (Serbia), 2013 – **award for best music**
- *SLUK Festival*, Osijek (Croatia), 2013 – **award for innovation in puppetry**
- *Beavers*, 2013, Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- *Assitej Croatia Meeting*, Čakovec (Croatia), 2012 – **best set and musical instruments design, best music and best light design**
- *Prelet Festival*, Ljubljana (Slovenia) 2012

## **ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE**

The central idea of the performance is to construct a sonic forest theatre using natural materials. In this space, plants, trees, fruits, and other forest elements come to life as musical instruments, puppets, and scenographic components.

The main narrative thread of the performance follows the tale of a hedgehog and his best friend, a bear. It is based on a series of children's stories by Russian author *Sergei Kozlov* (1940–2010). Living in the forest, the hedgehog and the bear explore their surroundings together. They encounter other animals, observe nature, and witness the seasonal changes within their woodland home. Through their relationship, the stories explore themes such as friendship, trust, loneliness, tolerance, sensitivity, wonder at the world around them, and the joy of life. Together with the hedgehog and the bear, children embark on an emotional journey through the lessons of life—its challenges, mysteries, and delights.

## **PETER KUS**

Peter Kus is a composer, musician and director. His works mainly explore the limits of puppet theatre, and its connection to music and video. Original instruments form an integral part of his works; they appear as set, prop and puppet, creating the soundtrack for his shows. His performances have participated at many international festivals and he received various awards for originality and music. He is also an active musician, a virtuoso of wind instruments, and occasionally writes music articles for different Slovenian media

## **AJDA ROOSS**

is a versatile artist, working mainly on puppeteering as a dramaturge, director, puppeteer, writer, pedagogue. She collaborates with numerous institutions such as the Ljubljana and Maribor Puppet Theatres as well as many independent theatres from Slovenia. Her mainstays are solo puppet shows, where she connects acting with a masterful approach to varied animation techniques. Children know her best as the friend of Bine the Rabbit, with whom she plays on Slovene national television.

## **KAJA AVBERŠEK**

is a comic artist, illustrator and designer, finishing her post-graduate studies at University of Ljubljana. Her "Notes and Drawings from Azores Islands" was published by the Portuguese publishing house Texto Editores. She has collaborated with the Portuguese puppet theatre 'Lua Cheia - teatro para todos' and with the director Peter Kus stage set designer. She's created the animations for the performance *The Singing castle*, where she has also performed. She's a member of the editorial board at the magazine *Stripburger* and its regular contributor. She has received several awards for her work.