

TNT THEATRE presents

ANIMAL FARM

written by
George Orwell

adapted by
Paul Stebbings



musical score by
John Kenny and
Christian Auer

directed by
Gaspard Legendre

town	theatre	date	time	tickets
Pardubice	Východočeské divadlo U Divadla 50	27 February 2023 28 February 2023	9:30 and 12:00 9:00 and 11:30	Tickets available from 17 January 2023 at 10 a.m. ONLINE booking only at www.english-theatre.cz for questions tel: +420 777 135 763 info@english-theatre.cz
Brno	Kulturní centrum Semilasso Palackého třída 126	6 March 2023	9:30 and 12:00	
Ostrava	Kulturní dům Poklad Matěje Kopeckého 675/21	8 March 2023	9:30 and 12:00	
Praha	DLABAČOV Bělohorská 24	9 March 2023 10 March 2023 14 March 2023	9:30 and 12:00 9:00 and 11:30 9:00 and 11:30	
České Budějovice	KD Metropol Senovážné nám. 2	13 March 2023	9:30 and 12:00	

Price: 200 Kč presale / 220 Kč payment in cash before the show

www.english-theatre.cz

ANIMAL FARM is surely the greatest political fable ever created and one that is never more relevant than in the present world, where our liberties are falling under the shadow of populism and dictatorship. The direct historical background of the story might no longer exist, but the power structures described by Orwell are an intricate part of human nature. One sees oneself reflected in the emotions, goals and desires of the animals depicted and can clearly hear the ghost of Charles Darwin preaching his theory of evolution.

But ANIMAL FARM is also a wonderful story in its own right, an entertainment of the first order that combines humour with exciting action and heart breaking tragedy. George Orwell knew from bitter personal experience in the Spanish Civil War that hope is not enough, that in dreaming of Utopia we can create a Hell on Earth. But he also knew that without hope and optimism we are animals, condemned to be dominated by the strongest and fiercest.

The characters of ANIMAL FARM have become legend: Boxer the heroic and betrayed horse, Napoleon the scheming pig and a host of dogs, sheep and pigs who end up under the most terrifying slogan in modern literature:

“All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others”.

ANIMAL FARM calls on the reader to imagine talking animals. Staging or filming the book removes this imaginative collaboration. As soon as we dress up an actor as a chicken there can be no pathos and little politics, only laughter. How does “four legs good two legs bad” translate into a realist portrayal of animals by (two legged) actors?

We have attempted to solve this problem by allowing the audience to react as the reader, to imaginatively collaborate with the artist. And (a nod to Brecht) to allow the actor to demonstrate an animal without trying to be one. Our **migrant workers**, without permits are the victims of both economics and politics. We all know they are everywhere, but we look away. So here we place them on stage where we cannot look away and allow them and our own imaginations to create ANIMAL FARM, perhaps as Orwell intended...

TNT theatre’s aim has always been to combine the popular with the original, to allow the audience to laugh and cry. ANIMAL FARM is an ideal story for the company to illuminate with our blend of physical theatre, music and sensitive analysis of text. We are confronted by animals, see and hear their sounds and movements on stage. But we are never made to feel that this is a children’s story, but are immediately fascinated by the timelessness of this production.

We are made aware of our strengths and weaknesses and somehow sense that we, too, can be cajoled into accepting conditions in the name of sacrifice which we would normally consider to be far below our standards. Are we capable of allowing ourselves to be enslaved by others? At least in an emotional sense, yes. Could we find ourselves so passionately involved in a cause that we could convince others at almost all cost to join us?

The Seven Commandments:

- Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.
- Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.
- No animal shall wear clothes.
- No animal shall sleep in a bed.
- No animal shall drink alcohol.
- No animal shall kill any other animal.
- All animals are equal.

George Orwell, Animal Farm (1945)

Expected duration: 1 hour 25 minutes (no interval)

An American Drama Group Europe production - www.adg-europe.com