

ON MY LEAVING THE MEETING BRNO FESTIVAL AND THE UNAUTHORIZED PRESENTATION OF "VITKA"

In the summer of 2015, I initiated the multi-genre cultural Meeting Brno festival and became its first president and programme director. After its third year, however, I resigned from my position because my ideas about the non-profit festival differed considerably from those of my colleagues.

I refused to talk to the media who approached me asking for the reasons for my departure because I did not want to wash my dirty linen in public, let alone destroy the results of three years of my work. I refrained from any comments on social media, passed my agenda on to the new programme director of the festival and just left.

It was a mistake.

By not speaking publicly about the reasons for my departure, I enabled the current organizers to keep using my name and work as evidence of the ideological continuity between the previous years and this year's festival. Without my knowledge and consent, they included my play "Vitka" into the festival programme, not respecting the fact that I dissociated myself from any festival activities after I left.

That is why I think it is necessary to explain the reasons for my departure now. The professional reasons included mainly my **disapproval over accepting sponsorship donations from entities** that, in my opinion, **damaged the basic mission and reputation of the festival** (the DRFG), my **reservations about the management of these funds**, and my disagreement with the view of how much the **festival should be used as a tool for political representation of the city representatives**.

I was deeply disappointed that while I, as the festival president, promoted, for example, gender-fair remuneration and held up the Meeting Brno festival as an example, some members of the festival association **paid other royalties** behind my back than those we agreed upon.

I openly criticized these unethical ways of obtaining and distributing funds, thus becoming a threat to those who became financially dependent on the festival. That was why I was gradually isolated from the information related to, for example, concluded contracts and the common agenda. I received no response to my phone calls, emails and meetings, which I initially considered as busyness until my work started to be obstructed as well. I managed to follow through the five dozen programmes held during the third year of the festival only by mustering all my physical and mental strength, and then I gave up any further cooperation.

I accepted that the festival was taken over by Executive Director Petr Kalousek and Economic Director Jiří Mottl who did not find the financial resources provided by the vice president and director of the DRFG Foundation, David Macek, morally unacceptable. But I strongly disagree with another example of an unauthorized use of my name and work, i.e. including the play "Vitka" into the festival programme **without any contractual arrangements with the Husa na provázku Theatre, the Host publishing house, and the author**. Thus, the Meeting Brno festival has infringed my copyright and moral rights, and I think the only appropriate form of rectification would be taking "Vitka" down from the festival programme and all its print and online promotion.

I would also like to use this occasion to declare that I do not wish to be associated with the Meeting Brno festival anymore or to serve as a fig leaf for the political and especially economic ambitions of its current directors.

Kateřina Tučková

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