

Czech puppetry company ALFA Theatre Pilsen to make Hong Kong debut with "Zorro" in December (with photos)

Upon the invitation of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, renowned Czech puppetry company ALFA Theatre Pilsen will make its Hong Kong debut at the "Cheers!" Series in late December. It will stage four performances of "Zorro", a retelling of the legend of the sword-wielding vigilante Zorro by traditional Czech marionettes with live band music and vocal accompaniment, bringing winter delights to kids and adults during the festive season.

Czech puppet theatre was inscribed on the representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2016. In this comedy puppet show, talented Czech puppeteers will skillfully manipulate puppets to make many great action scenes, accompanied by the Mexican live band music in Mariachi style, giving audiences a fast-paced and funny performance.

The story is about Zorro, a masked superhero who trounces the bully and rescues the weak. Highly respected by the villagers, Zorro always leaves behind the symbol "Z" after he saves the villagers from danger. One day, the beautiful young lady Isabella is proposed by the rampant captain. Her mother, on the other hand, has already arranged for her marriage to the son of a wealthy landlord. Then, Isabella and her mother end up being taken to jail by the rampant captain. After many twists and turns, Zorro rescues the duo successfully from the rampant captain and the true identity of Zorro is finally revealed.

ALFA Theatre Pilsen was formerly a Children's Theatre and established in Pilsen, the well-known cradle of traditional puppetry, in the Czech Republic in 1966. As the largest Czech puppetry company, it captivates audiences around the world with its incredible artistry and funny style. Since 1967, the theatre has been the joint organiser of the International Festival of Puppet and Alternative Theater Skupa's Pilsen, which is the largest puppet festival in the Czech Republic. The company has undertaken over 100 tours to countries and regions around the world since 1970.

"Cheers!" Series: "Zorro" by ALFA Theatre Pilsen (Czech Republic) will be performed in English and Czech with Chinese and English surtitles. It will be held at 8pm on December 29 (Friday), at 3pm and 8pm on December 30 (Saturday), and at 3pm on December 31 (Sunday) at the Studio Theatre of Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Tickets priced at \$260 and \$320 are now available at URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone bookings, please call 3166 1288. Package discounts will be available for ticket purchases with different stage shows in "Cheers!" Series to be held between December 2023 and February 2024. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7323 or visit

www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/multi_arts/programs_1618.html

Moreover, a workshop (conducted in English with Cantonese interpretation) will be organised, in which the puppeteers of the company will introduce the history of ALFA Theatre Pilsen as well as the puppets' structure and manipulation techniques. Participants can enjoy close encounter with the traditional Czech puppets. The workshop will be held at 11am on December 31 (Sunday) at the Studio Theatre of Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Tickets priced at \$120 are now available at URBTIX. For details, please refer to the above-mentioned website.

Another highlight in the "Cheers!" Series is "Passengers" by The 7 Fingers (Canada) which will be held from December 1 to 3. For details of the "Cheers!" Series programmes, please visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/f_entertainment/groups_1617.html.



