

## **Abstract**

The bachelor thesis focuses primarily on the Viennese musical *Elisabeth*, which the creative duo Michael Kunze & Sylvester Levay based on the life story of the Austrian Empress Sisi. The text itself deals with the recording of a renewed production from The Theater an der Wien (premiered in October 2003, recording made in October 2005) which is compared to the Czech premiere in The J. K. Tyl Theatre (premiered in November 2019). The Austrian staging, which was directed by Harry Kupfer, is considered a conventional adaptation of the piece and is put in contrast with the Czech production done by Lumir Olšovský which was created under free licence and its creative team chose its own innovative path. The text of the thesis searches for and names fundamental changes which arose between the two productions premiered 16 years apart. The following aspects are elaborated on in detail: the creative teams of the theaters, directing, costumes, scenography, choreography, actors and main characters. These aspects of the Austrian and Czech production are then compared to each other. In the case of the Czech production, the comparison is partly based on the opinions of domestic cultural reviewers. In the following chapter, three specific scenes, which (in the opinion of the author) have undergone the most notable changes, are analysed in detail. The scenes *Die ersten vier Jahre*, *Wenn ich tanzen will* and *Die Schatten werden länger* are, in addition to mutual comparison, briefly confronted with the libretto and relevant historical events. The reader will also be briefly acquainted with the development of musical, authors and a specific concept of Michael Kunze's drama-musical. Due to the historical-political nature of the work, the thesis, outside the, above-mentioned, fundamental deviations from real events, briefly touches the subject of the Habsburgs and the question of how the perception of this long-ruling royal family has changed over the years. From this point of view, it is also evaluated whether it was appropriate to present the work in the Czech Republic at the time of its premiere.

## **Key words**

Elisabeth, Theater an der Wien, The JK Tyl Theatre, Lumír Olšovský, Harry Kupfer, Michael Kunze, Sylvester Levay, musical