

## SUMMARY

In this thesis I dealt with commonly accepted theory, that Czech author Emil Arthur Longen wrote his plays in style similar to film slapstick comedy.

The work starts with biography of Emil Arthur Longen. He was born in 1885 and died in 1936, his life was filled with many rises and falls because of his short temper, alcoholism and turbulent relation with his first wife, Polyxena (commonly called Xena), also an actress. Longen started as a student of Arts in Prague, but never ended his studies and left to pursue his interest, first in painting, later in another fields like filmmaking and acting, but he is most known as a playwright. He wrote more than seventy dramatic pieces and adapted another hundred more for his own theatre and also for other houses he worked with. His first efforts were cabaret shorts, he also wrote more serious things, but his most successful plays are farces one to four acts long. He was a principal playwright who wrote plays for the theater of Vlasta Burian, nicknamed The King of Comedians in interwar Czechoslovakia, who excelled in many of them.

Critics during his lifetime but also later ones noted that his plays are inspired by American film slapstick comedy. Theory of comedy says that there are many types of comedy, number of the types varies greatly among notable authors, I will follow the distribution of Zdeněk Hořínek. The word slapstick, in Czech „groteska“, has more meanings in czech, one is slapstick, the other one is grotesque, I will search for both.

In the bulk of this work I analyzed 11 of Longen's plays to find slapstick-like comedy effects. I found that while many works contain such setups, most notably *Někdy kriminál nad svobodu* (*Sometimes Jail is Better than Freedom*), some others are comedies that have another techniques dominant to create comical effect. Therefore we cannot say that Longen was author of slapstick comedies only.