

This MA thesis is dedicated to the most important period of work of the Chamber Theater in currently non-existing space in the great hall of the Central Hotel in Hybernska Street, Prague. It was the home of the Cabaret Cervena sedma, and in the twenties of the Orion Movie Theater. Since 1930 the Chamber Theater belonged to the Vinohrady Theater, and in 1950 it became one of the stages of the City Theaters of Prague.

During the „vinohrady era" the Chamber Theater was intended for generally "lighter" repertory but from half of 1950's until its elimination in 1976 it became an exceptional occurrence in the context of contemporary professional theaters. It managed to effectively fight against political imperatives; it produced such shows as Bulgakov's Escape, Durrenmatt's Physicists, Play Strindberg and Romulus the Great, Sartre's Flies, Kllma'a Jury, Barnes's The Rulling Class even Shakespeare's Richard II. This theater was the birth place of one of the . most famous productions by the director Alfred Radok, Rolland's Game of Love and Death. Apart from Radok many other regime-unpopular directors have worked there as well - for example: Karel Dostal and Miroslav Machacek. The repertory of the Chamber Theater can be considered as an example of a precious dramaturgic policy which was balancing on the edge of obligatory and wanted. Plus this theater was also well famous for its great actors and actresses - Irena Kacfrkova, Dana Medricka, Vaclav Voska, Svatopluk Benes, Rudolf Hrusfnsky etc.; other actors became famous due to their appearance in production done by the Chamber Theater, such as Vaclav Postranecky, Viktor Preiss.

All this took place under the guidance and leadership of Ota Ornest who was the head of the City Theaters of Prague from September 1st 1950 until February 1972. He was the same man who in 1949 determined firm rules and regulation for post-war Czech and Slovak theater dramaturgy.

...