

PRESS RELEASE

Name: **ROBERT WILSON: HAVE YOU BEEN THERE ALREADY 2. NO. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME**

Date and time: Sunday, 6. April 2014 - 15:00 p.m.

Place: **The Slovak National Theatre (SND)**, New Building, Opera and Ballet Hall
Pribinova 17, Bratislava

Robert Wilson for the first time in person on the SND stage

Multi-talented theatre director, conceptual artist and designer Robert Wilson will be coming to Bratislava at the beginning of April to reveal the nooks and crannies of his creative mind. Slovaks will have a unique opportunity to experience interaction with this genius in person, thanks to the support of J&T Banka, which has established a year-round partnership with the Slovak National Gallery.

Pavleye Art and Culture, in cooperation with J&T Banka, brings a unique performance by Robert Wilson entitled **1. HAVE YOU BEEN THERE ALREADY 2. NO. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME** to the Slovak National Theatre's stage. This invitation to personally meet an artist whose career has significantly effected the evolution of theatre follows up Wilson's gallery premiere in Slovakia – the exhibition entitled **ROBERT WILSON: VIDEOPORTRAITS**, presented by the Slovak National Gallery at the end of last year.

"J&T Banka, we have associated ourselves with art for a long time, whether through various events, exhibitions or institutional support for art. Our goal is to increase cultural awareness and bring art to the general public. In December, we brought an exhibition of Robert Wilson's video portraits to the Slovak National Gallery; now the public will have the opportunity to see this world-famous artist in person and thus familiarize itself with another part of his wide spectrum of work. We are confident that lovers of theatre and contemporary art will not allow themselves to miss out on this opportunity," says Andrej Zát'ko, the CEO of J&T Banka.

1. HAVE YOU BEEN THERE ALREADY 2. NO. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME

"For the Slovak National Theatre, it will be a holiday and an honour to be visited by such an important personality of the theatre world as is Robert Wilson. It is splendid that it is also involves cooperation on a project by our partner, the Slovak National Gallery. We thus also anticipate another co-production project in which the SND's Drama section, Prague's National Theatre and the Vígsínház in Budapest will participate. Entitled "1914", it will be performed here at our theatre in October of this year.

I have had the honour of getting to know Mr. Wilson in person at the premiere of his staging of Janáček's opera "Osud" [Destiny] at Prague's National Theatre in 2002.

*His “court” performer, Mrs. Soňa Červená, personally delivered the synopsis and script for the 1914 project during our meeting at the Ostrava Opera. I thus feel that I have a personal stake in the promotion of this work, and am glad that we shall soon see his work in Slovakia as well,” says **Marián Chudovský, Director General of the SND.***

This singular three-hour performance is an intimate self-portrait of Robert Wilson’s creative process, through which he allows the audience a glimpse of his fascinating aesthetic universe.

“There is no exact script for this performance. Bob has prepared an outline, but how the evening will develop depends to a significant degree on the public’s reaction and the degree of its participation,” says Noah Khoshbin, the curator of the exhibition at the SNG.

During the evening, Wilson will refer to his key set design for plays such as Deafman Glance, A Letter for Queen Victoria, Einstein on the Beach, which he co-created with composer Philip Glass, The CIVIL warS, and The Black Rider. Viewers will also not be deprived of the creative process behind recognized works of the operatic and dramatic repertoire – Madame Butterfly, Wagner’s Ring cycle, The Magic Flute, Ibsen’s Peer Gynt and Müller’s Quartet.

Robert Wilson’s personal appearance in Bratislava is the work of Pavleye Art and Culture Agency, which in the past has brought the Central European public personalities such as David LaChapelle or Angelika Taschen.

“My team and I bring in world-class art projects, with the aim of capturing the attention of the general public, and especially a new, young public. Robert Wilson, who launched his career in the 1970s with opera and recently took 22 video portraits of Lady GAGA for the Louvre, fits our vision perfectly. I am personally very glad that Slovak theatre aficionados will have the opportunity to interact directly with a legend like Robert Wilson,” concluded the project’s producer, Jozef Pavleye.

Tickets are available at SND ticket offices, at OC Eurovea and online from the comfort of home via www.snd.sk.

PRESS LINK: <http://robertwilson.com/press/presskit>

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