**Puskás: musical to be presented about the life of the most famous Hungarian**

**Exactly 75 years ago, on 20 August 1945 Ferenc Puskás played for the first time in the Hungarian national football team and scored his first national league goal during the Hungary-Austria (5:2) match. For the anniversary a musical has been made, directed by Vajk Szente with the debuting pre-show in the Erkel Theatre on 20 August.**

Puskás musical brings alive and pays tribute to the story of the most well-known Hungarian, alongside to the greatest football team ever, the Golden Team. The musical shows the life of the world’s greatest football player between 1937 when Puskás was 10 years old and got signed first to Kispest till the European Champion Clubs’ Cup finals of Real Madrid - Eintracht Frankfurt in 1960.

Every detail of the musical is based on the true story and presents this era in an authentic way. Each character once lived and did exactly what is shown in the musical.

**At the press conference of the musical producer László Szabó said**: *„Each and every Hungarian person in this world is touched by Puskás and the story of the Golden Team. It is a brave move to make a musical about Puskás but the creators and the team guarantee the worthy tribute. This musical can be played on any international stage just as Ferenc Puskás could play at any international football field. Puskás embodied all that we, Hungarians are proud of: patriotism, bravery, friendship, loyalty and naughtiness.”*

The producer added that the debut pre-show was planned to be on Heroes Square to commemorate the 75th anniversary. The open air production with spectacular show elements will happen later due to the pandemic. 21 actors, 60 dancers, 30 child actors will participate in the show with 20 songs included. The pre-shows will be on 20 August at 3pm and 9 pm. The final rehearsal will be on 19 August at 7pm when the health workers of the capital are invited via a registration through the Hositals’ Association who can watch the show free of charge.

**Puskás, the musical is not the first gigantic production of the director, Vajk Szente**. Many of his previous works gained huge success in the Hungarian musical scene such as the Sister Act Show or the Shrek, played in Arena. Puskás, the musical is not a license production but an entirely Hungarian composition attached to the trio of Levente Juhász – Vajk Szente – Attila Galambos. They have already worked well together forming a creative team previously, like on Macskafogó (Cat City) at József Attila Theatre or on A beszélő köntös in Kecskemét at the Katona József Theatre.

 *„Each member of the production was invited to participate at the show. I reached out to those professionals and experts whose work is beyond question and who can bear the weight of such a production. We all know the name of Puskás and of the Golden Team but to understand their history we must get to know their personal stories. When we decided to create a musical of Ferenc Puskás’ life, we agreed on two important things: it mustn’t be a football musical but a heroic one. And we also decided that beside the grandiose outcome, the most important thing to focus on is the authentic psychology of it. We must create a show that pays proper tribute to the most well-known Hungarian legend”* said the director at the press conference.

At the press conference **Péter Fekete, the Secretary of State for** **Culture** thanked the performers their hard work for the production during the pandemic which they will perform after the virus is gone to entertain and amaze the audience and he expressed his solid feelings that each member of the audience would welcome the musical with much love.

**Szöllősi György, a színmű szakértője**, a Nemzeti Sport és a Four Four Two főszerkesztője, a Magyar Sportújságírók Szövetségének elnöke, Puskás-ügyek és a magyar futballhagyomány hivatalos nagykövete, a Puskás életrajz írója a sajtótájékozón elmondta: „*Új művészi nemzedék állít emléket különleges műfajban az Aranycsapat hőseinek, akikből ezekben a pillanatokban válik történelmi személyiség: hihetetlen és nagyon megható látni, hogy Czibor Zoltánt például, akivel éjszakákat beszélgettem át, akiről könyvet írtam, Ember Márk alakítja, a lányaim egyik kedvence, aki négyéves volt Czibor halálakor.”*

**The expert of the musical,** **György Szöllősi** who is the editor in chief of Nemzeti Sport and Four Four Two, the chairman of the Hungarian Sport Journalist Association, the official embassador of Puskás related matters and the Hungarian football traditions and the author of Puskás’ biography said at the press conference: *„ A new artist generation pays tribute in a special genre to the heroes of the Golden Team who become historic figures in front of our eyes: it is incredible and moving to see as Zoltán Czibor, with whom I talked anights and about whom I wrote a book, is played by Márk Ember, who is one of the favourites of my daughters, was only 4 years old when Czibor died.”*

**Cast of Puskás, the musical**

Ferenc Puskás: Tamás Veréb

Wife of Ferenc Puskás, Erzsébet Hunyadvári: Gyopár Kovács

József Bozsik: Tibor Fehér

Zoltán Czibor: Márk Ember

Klára: Petra Gubik

Mihály Farkas: Sándor Nagy

Red comrade: Szilveszter Szabó P.

Emil Östreicher: Béla Szerednyey

Gusztáv Sebes: Péter Cseke

György Szepesi: Levente Harsányi

Gyula Grosics: Nándor Berettyán

Sándor Kocsis: Dávid Péter Cseh

József Zakariás: Ádám Pásztor

László Budai: Péter Kovács

Gyula Lóránt: Zoltán Illés

Nándor Hidegkuti: Dániel Solner

Jenő Buzánszky: Dávid Baranya

Mihály Lantos: Richárd Kovács

Alfredo di Stefano: Balázs Nagy

Mother of Ferenc Puskás, Margit Bíró: Erika Náray

Father of Ferenc Puskás, Sen Ferenc Purczeld: Zoltán Barabás-Kiss

Stage designer Tamás Rákay, costume designer Yvette Alida Kovács, choreographer Lajos Péter Túri, music executive Katalin Károly.

**The health regulations necessary during rehearsals and shows are helped to be kept by the Hungarian Hospitals’ Association.**

**Tickets for the 3pm and 9pm shows on 20 August can be bought on** [**www.puskasmusical.hu**](http://www.puskasmusical.hu)**.**