

# Vatzlav



**By Sławomir Mrożek**  
**Directed by Lily Whitsitt**  
Presented by the Theater Department

**Thursday-Saturday**  
**April 10-12, 2014**  
**CFA Theater**

**Center for the Arts**  
**Wesleyan University**  
**Middletown, Connecticut**

Dedicated to Sławomir Mrożek  
and his spirit of contradiction.

This production runs 90 minutes.  
There will be no intermission.

The performance includes loud noises, strobe lights,  
mature themes, and strong sexual content.

## Director's Note

Mrożek's plays reveal the fears and anxieties of his time, a crumbling social order on the brink of total chaos. Tragedy becomes ridiculous and history is a monster. Violence squelches reason and "justice" is no more than an empty catchphrase. He ridicules stereotypes and political ideology. Yet his work goes beyond both politics and the absurd. What am I willing to sacrifice? What will I compromise for convenience? What do I believe in? These are some of the questions we asked ourselves throughout the rehearsal process. Mrożek invites us to grapple with these questions as we laugh at Vatzlav's folly.

- Lily Whitsitt '06

## About the Author

Born near Krakow in 1930, Sławomir Mrożek was a pre-eminent Polish playwright, journalist, cartoonist and satirist. As a young man he was enthusiastic about the Communist regime, but then became a staunch critic of totalitarianism during the Cold War. In 1964 he left Poland and lived the next two decades in exile, mostly in France. When he opposed the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, his work was banned from Poland and the Eastern bloc. *Vatzlav* was not performed in Poland until 1979. Mrożek died in 2013 at the age of 83.

"In their obsessive concern with conspiracy, terrorism, and paranoia, and their exposure of the hidden links between culture and power, [Mrożek's] plays seem strikingly contemporary. As long as humanity is caught in mechanisms of dominance and submission and forced to play masked games imposed by the wielders of authority, his works will find responsive audiences. Like all effective parables, his plays are cast in universal forms that leave the determination of particular meanings to the spectator."

- Daniel Gerould, *The Mrożek Reader*, xii

# Cast

Vatzlav.....Peetie McCook  
 Mr. Bat/The Genius/Executioner.....Albert Tholen  
 Mrs. Bat/Justine/General Barbaro.....Ian Teixeira  
 Bobbie.....Matt Catron  
 Quail.....Sivan Battat  
 Sassafras.....Anika Amin  
 Oedipus/Lackey/Guide.....Melanie Parziale

# Production Team

Director.....Lily Whitsitt  
 Scenic Designer.....Marcela Oteiza  
 Costume Designer.....Leslie Weinberg  
 Lighting Designer and Production Manager.....John Carr  
 Assistant Director.....Sivan Battat  
 Stage Manager.....Brendan Coakley  
 Assistant Technical Director,  
 Master Carpenter.....Charles Carroll  
 Assistant Technical Director,  
 Master Electrician.....Suzanne Sadler  
 Audio Engineer.....Robert Russo  
 Costume Shop Manager.....Christian Milik  
 Assistant Stage Manager.....Helen Handelman  
 Assistant Scenic Designer.....Cicily Clare Gruber  
 Assistant Lighting Designer.....Sara Guernsey  
 Scenic Assistant and Movement Coach.....Josef Mehling  
 Scenic Paint Assistant.....Amanda Sonnenschein  
 Vocal Coach.....Anne Swedberg  
 Property Assistants .....Kate Malczewski, Eva Ravenal  
 Hair and Makeup Assistant.....Hanako Rodriguez  
 Publicity.....Sarah Corbyn Woolf  
 Light Board Operator.....Philip Halin  
 Sound Board Operator.....Taina Quinones  
 Run Crew.....Jess Cummings, Grace Herman-Holland,  
 Peter Hazel, Laurel Martin, Amber Smith

# Theater Department

## Faculty and Staff

Chair, Associate Professor.....Yuri Kordonsky  
Professors.....Ronald Jenkins, John Carr  
Associate Professor.....Cláudia Tatinge Nascimento  
Assistant Professors.....Marcela Oteiza, Rashida Shaw  
Visiting Assistant Professors.....Christina Anderson,  
Anne Swedberg  
Visiting Scholar.....Lily Whitsitt  
Resident Artist in Theater & Dance.....Leslie Weinberg  
Assistant Technical Directors.....Charles Carroll,  
Suzanne Sadler  
Costume Shop Manager.....Christian Milik  
Administrative Assistant.....Dawn Alger

### Office Staff

Alexa De la Cruz, Rachel Kaly

### Costume Shop Staff

Sisam Archarya, Serena Berry, Emma MacLean, Hanako  
Rodriguez, Bianca Treto, Claire Whitehouse

### Technical Staff

Anika Amin, Ariella Axelbank, Adriin Brandi, Henry Bushnell,  
Brendan Coakley, Anthony Dean, Michael Edwards, Rebecca  
Fredrick, Cicily Clare Gruber, Rebecca Hanschell, Alison Lam,  
Rachel Leicher, Nicholas Murphy, Nic de Soto-Foley, Avi Stein,  
Daniel Storfer, Shoko Yamada, Benjamin Yap

### THEA 105: Production Lab

Jess Cummings, Helen Handelman, Peter Hazel, Laurel Martin,  
Amber Smith, Susannah Clark, Rebecca Hsieh, Taina Quinones,  
Linsin Smith, Nola Werlinich, Cheyanne Williams

# Center for the Arts Staff

Director.....Pamela Tatge  
Business Manager.....Alecia Goldfarb  
Associate Directors for  
Programming and Events.....Barbara Ally, Hanna Oravec  
Box Office Manager.....Kyle Beaudette  
Associate Director for Facilities  
and Technical Operations.....Mark Gawlak  
Assistant Technical Director/  
Sound and Video Specialist.....Robert Russo  
Assistant Technical Director/  
Lighting Specialist.....Suzanne Sadler  
Assistant Technical Director/  
Scenery Specialist.....Charles Carroll  
Art Director.....John Elmore  
Freelance Designer.....Ellen Maurer  
Program Manager.....Erinn Roos-Brown  
Press and Marketing Manager.....Andrew Chatfield

# Upcoming Events

## **A Talk by Paula Vogel**

*Monday, April 14 at 8pm*

*Memorial Chapel*

*Reception and book signing to follow. Free!*

Paula Vogel is the Eugene O'Neill Adjunct Professor of Playwriting at Yale School of Drama and Playwright in Residence at the Yale Repertory Theatre. Her play *How I Learned to Drive* received the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Her other award winning plays include *The Baltimore Waltz* and *The Long Christmas Ride Home*. Her play *A Civil War Christmas* was produced at Long Wharf Theatre in November 2008.

## ***Until We Get it Right***

A Senior Thesis Staged Reading

Written and Directed by Natalie Sacks '14

*Friday, April 25 at 8pm, Saturday, April 26 at 8pm*

*Theater Studio*

*Until We Get It Right* is a deconstructed portrait of major depression across the past 150 years. Using snapshot scenes and actors playing multiple characters, the play tells the stories of three troubled individuals and their struggles to relate to their loved ones. Written and presented in partial fulfillment of her Honors Thesis in Theater, Natalie Sacks '14 wrote this play to consider how the extremely personal, internal experience of depression can be shared with an audience.