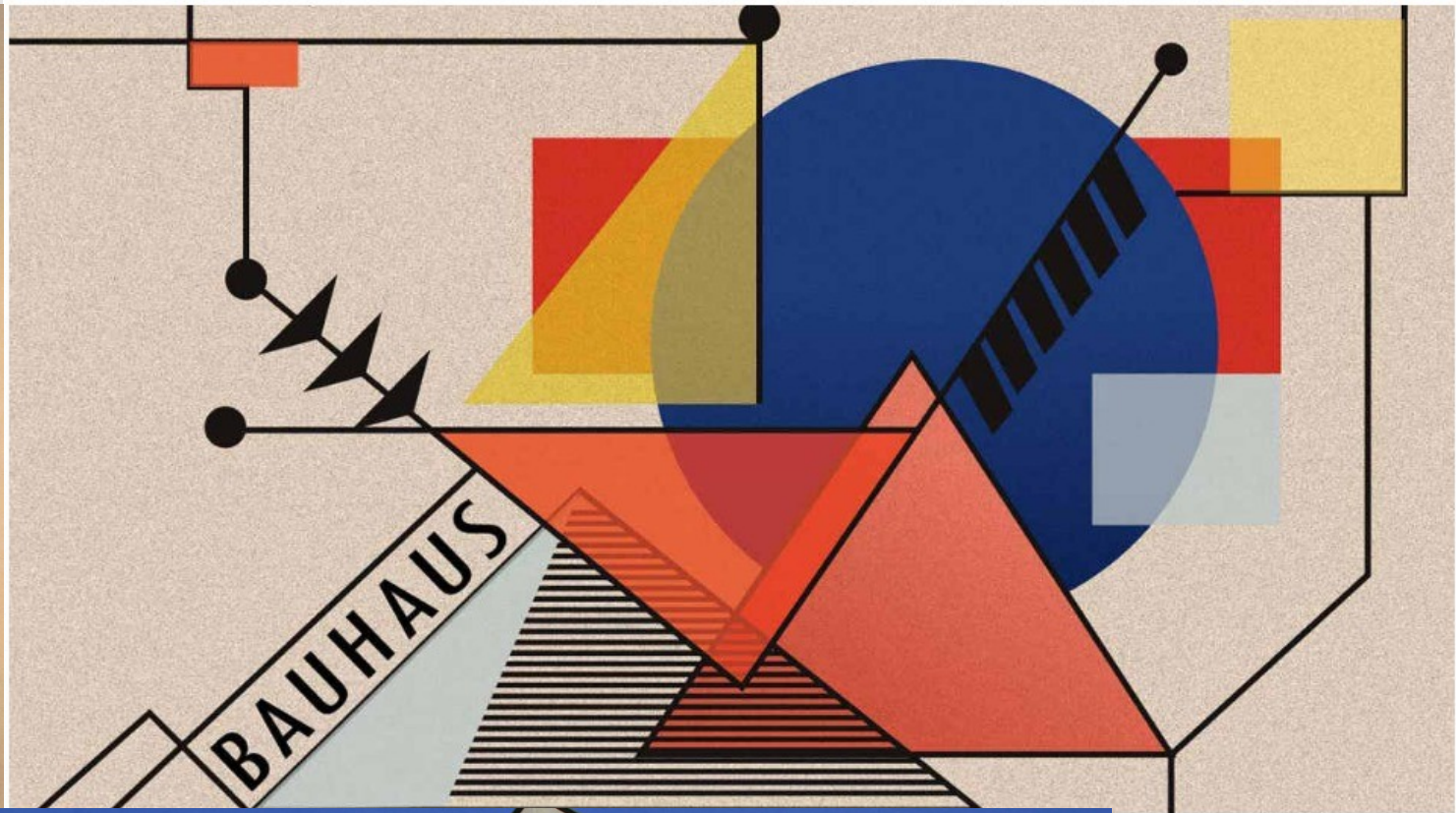


**CZECH  
AVANT-GARDE  
THEATRE**

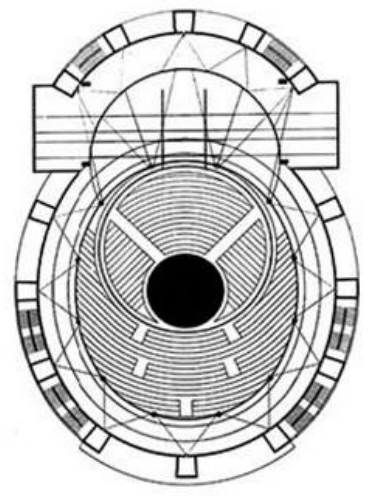
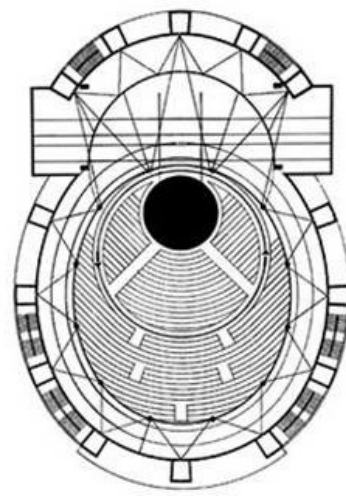
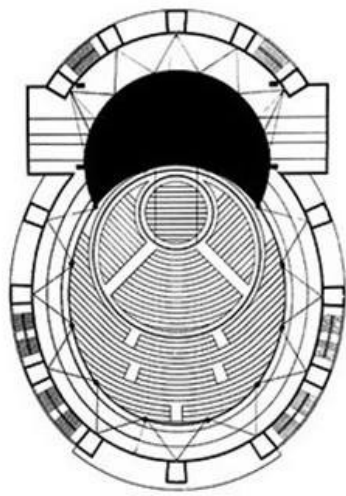
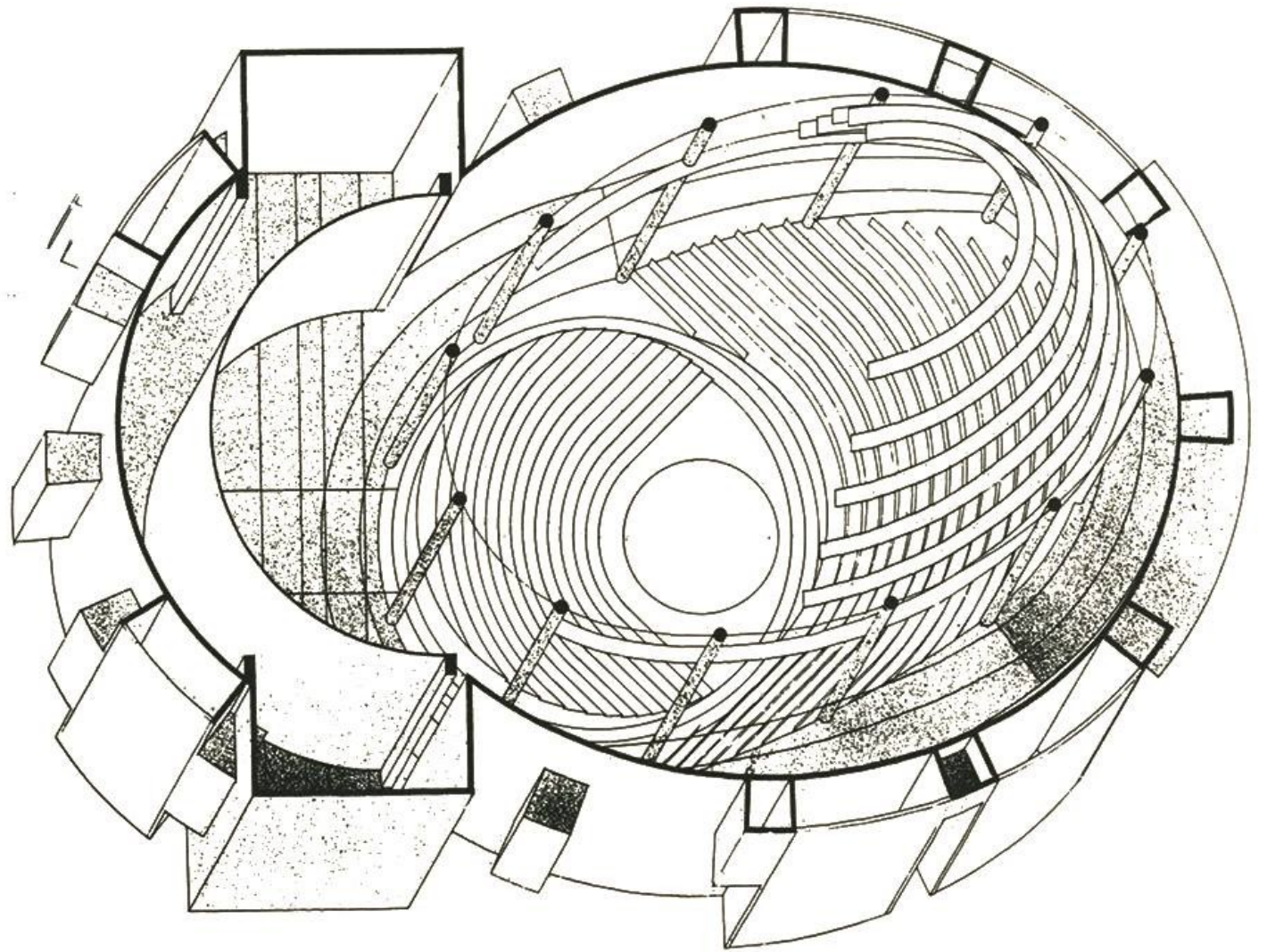
**ELITISTIC  
OR  
POPULAR?**







**WALTER  
GROPIUS  
PROJECT  
OF  
TOTAL  
THEATRE**



# SOME GENERAL FEATURES OF CZECH THEATRE AVANTGARDE

*French* (Apollinaire, Breton)  
and *Russian* (constructivism,  
Tairov, Meyerhold)  
inspirations

Fascinated with modern pop-  
culture (film, cabaret, music-  
hall, jazz)

Montage – Synthetism

Director as key element

Search for new acting



**Osvobozené divadlo /Liberated Theatre** was  
founded in 1925 as theatre section of Děvětsil  
group

First performance in April 1926 – Circus  
Dandin (based of Molière) directed by Jiří  
Frejka





**Alfred Jarry:  
King Ubu**

**Apollinaire:  
Les Mamelles  
de Tirésias**



# EMIL FRANTIŠEK BURIAN

## (1904-1959)

Educated as musician / composer  
Founder of **VOICEBAND** group

Jazz singer, theatre performer and  
finally

Theatre director

In 1933 establishes his **theatre D 34**





**DIVADLO D 34 / THEATRE D 34**

**AND**

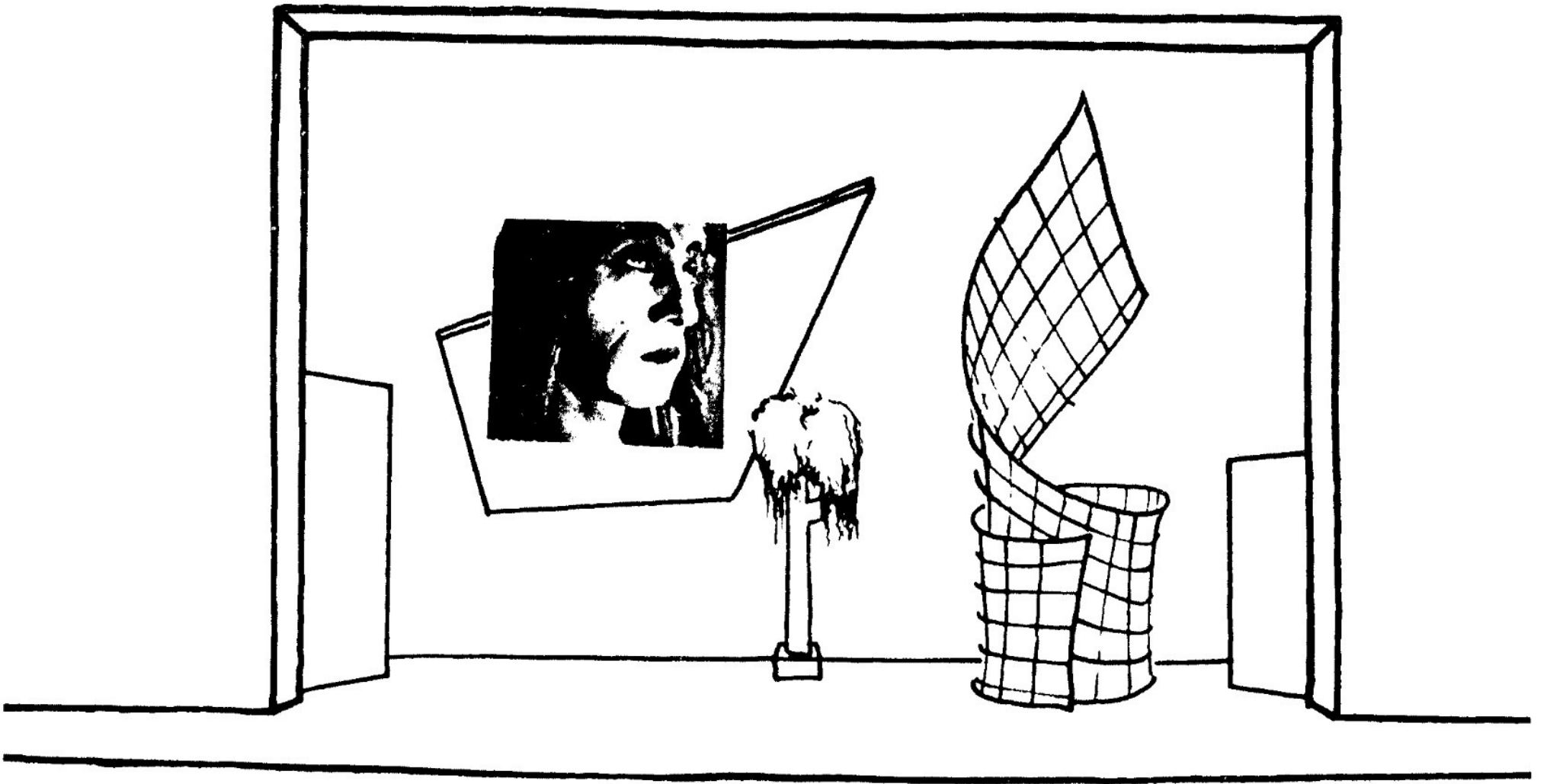
**THEATHERGRAPH**

The old opera composers composed chromatic stage storms for the strings, lightning for the piccolo and thunder for tympani. (...) An **obvious metaphor** would emerge from this example if the orchestra was playing from the speakers in the auditorium and there were several projection screens placed on stage, showing enlarged rain drops falling towards the audience. The stage would be covered in silver mesh, reflected by the mirrors into the audience. **The rhythm** of the whole stage picture would have to correspond with the rhythm and the colour of the orchestra. **The audience would probably run away in fear that they will get wet or stricken by lightning.**



**1936 – stage adaptation of Czech romantic poem  
Máj / The May by Karel Hynek Mácha**







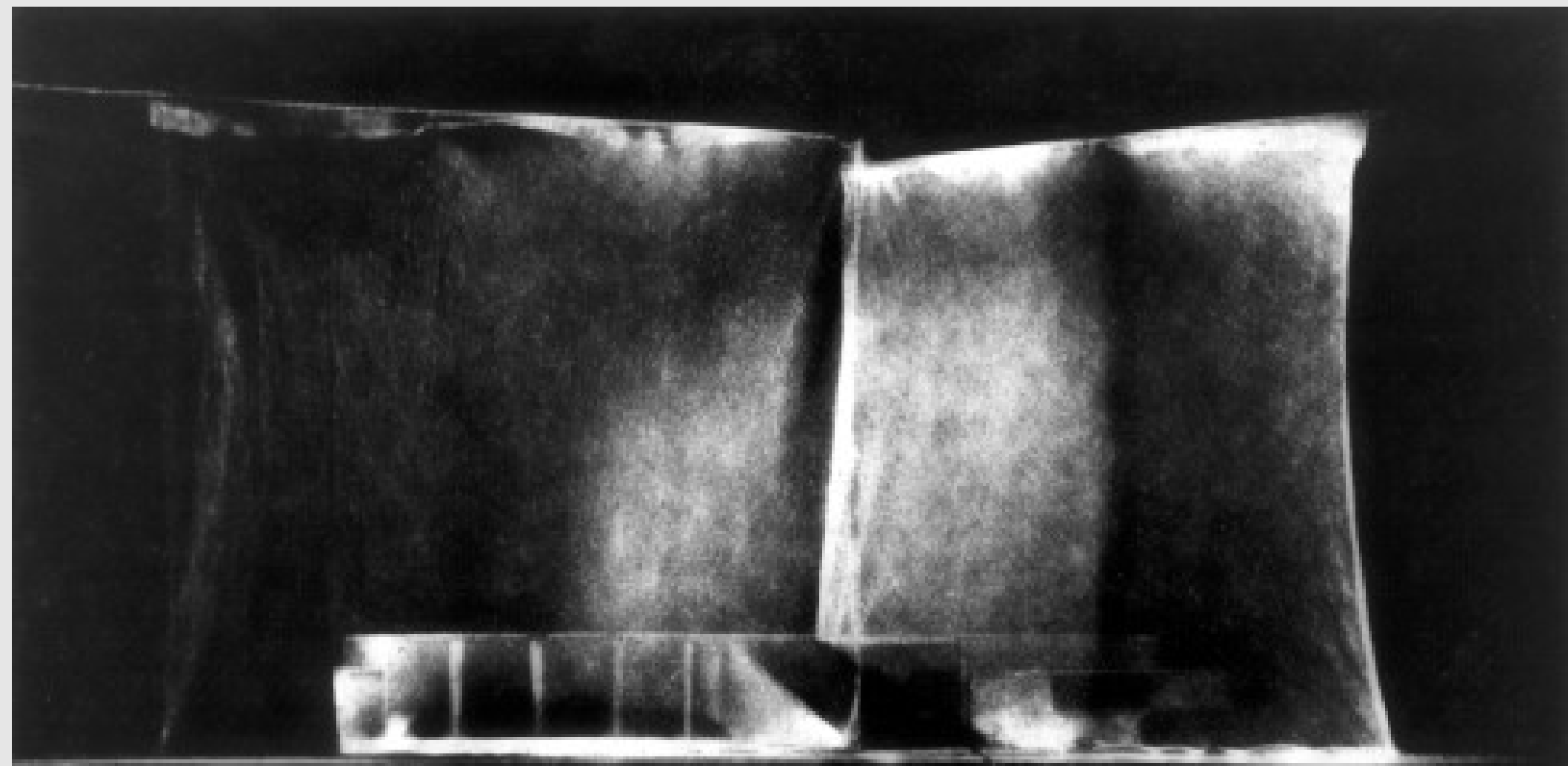












**1938 – Goethe The Sorrows of Young Werther**





**1935 - Frank Wedeking Spring Awakening**













**The WAR / Vojna**  
**1935 – script based on folk poetry**





**Vest Pocket Revue – 1927 (245 performances)**



**Jan Werich (1905-1980)**  
**Jiří Voskovec (1905-1981)**





# Voskovec and Werich in cinema

Pudr a benzin / Make-up and  
Petrol 1931

Peníze nebo život / Life or Money  
1932



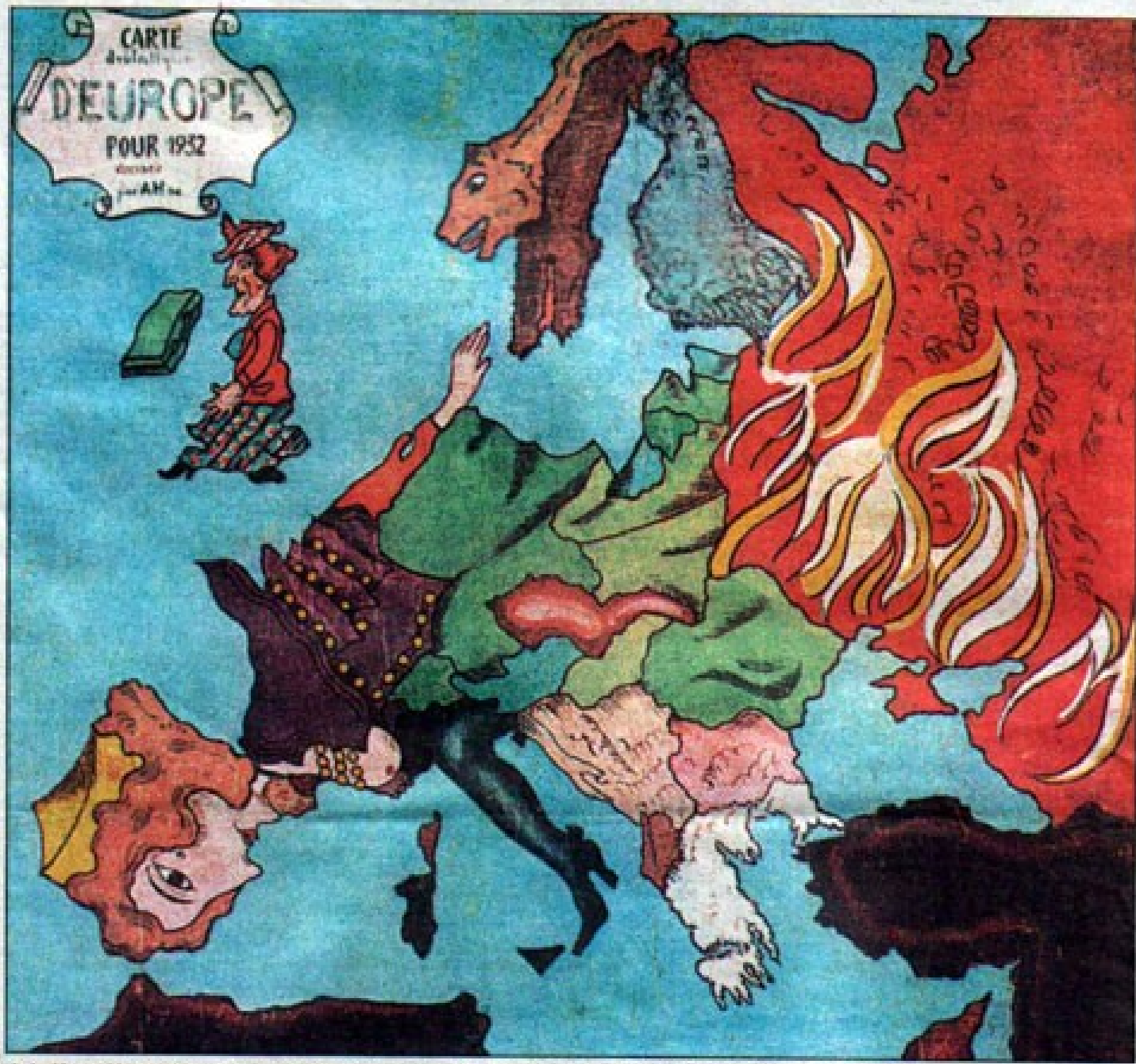
Hej-Rup! 1934

Svět patří nám / The  
World belongs to Us 1937









Adolf Hoffmeister: Mapa Evropy, 1932. Pro Osvobozené divadlo do hry V+W Caesar.

## Further reading

Jarka M. Burian

## Leading Creators of Twentieth-Century Czech Theatre

Bílke, Vojvodík, Wiendl (eds).

## A Glossary of Catchwords of the Czech Avant-Garde

