

The puppet tour around Pilsen

follows especially in the footsteps of the most famous Pilsen puppeteers – Josef Skupa and Jiří Trnka.

A) Josef Skupa's works in Pilsen are commemorated by these monuments:

- a) Sculpture group of Spejbl and Hurvínek in Šafaříkovy sady (park), close to the main building of the Západočeské museum (West Bohemia Museum)
- b) A memorial plaque with a bust of Skupa placed on the so-called Mrakodrap (skyscraper) building (corner of Americká and Prokopova), above the entrance to house at Prokopova 15. The text commemorates the past importance of so-called "feriální" theater settlements, a wooden building of which was once near the place where you can now see an apartment building.

Text on the memorial plaque: Josef Skupa, puppeteer (1892-1957). Originally a secondary school teacher of drawing and mathematics, he worked in the theatre of the Pilsen feriální settlements. He created the original puppet duo Spejbl and Hurvínek. The Pilsen puppet theatre of feriální settlements used to play in these locations between the years 1920 and 1935, and it was from here that nationally renowned artist Josef Skupa, the creator of Spejbl and Hurvínek, came. (January 1967, City of Pilsen)

- c) In Pilsen's Central Cemetery we can also find the grave of Josef and Jiřina Skupa, Czech puppeteers. The monument was made according to a design by Jiří Trnka. The central theme of the monument is a statue of Hurvínek crying and kneeling on a stage with the curtain drawn.

Text on the monument: Josef Skupa, Czech puppeteer (* 16. 1. 1892 in Strakonice, + 8. 1. 1957 in Prague), Jiřina Skupová, Czech puppeteer (*2. 2. 1895 in Mladá Boleslav, + 10. 6. 1970 in Chrást u Plzně).

B) Jiří Trnka's works in Pilsen are commemorated by these monuments:

A simple memorial plaque on his birthplace at Houškova 27. **Text on the memorial plaque:** In this house, Jiří Trnka, a great Czech artist, was born on 24th February 1912.

- a) A monument standing in the park on Mikulášské náměstí, across from the main entrance to the grammar school, a former so-called reálka, where Jiří Trnka studied. The top of the monument is decorated with a bronze bust of the artist that shows his appearance in later years. On the three sides of the prismatic monument you will find bronze reliefs representing puppets from Trnka's most famous cartoons, e.g. Sen noci Svatojánské (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) and Prince Bajaja.
- b) **Trnka's grave is in** Pilsen's Central Cemetery. You will find it with the aid of an information panel close to the main entrance to the cemetery.

C) Puppet theatres: Alfa, V Boudě, Střípek