

## **Summary**

This dissertation delves into the fascinating world of ballet, one of the most expressive and fantastic artistic disciplines. Its primary focus is to analyse and compare the development of the Czech and Polish ballet scene between 1945 and 1970 in order to shed light on certain key phases and issues, such as the emancipation and recognition of ballet as a specific artistic discipline. The dissertation also focuses on the career paths of ballet dancers, examining the advantages and disadvantages associated with this career, including financial reward.

The structure of the thesis is divided into seven key chapters (source evaluation, methodological section, five thematic chapters), supplemented by an introduction, conclusion, lists and appendices. The first chapter focuses on significant changes in the interwar period, which are considered essential for understanding the development of the post-war ballet scene in Czechoslovakia and Poland. The chapter also focuses on the personalities whose legacy influenced subsequent generations of ballet artists. A separate chapter is devoted to dance education at three levels, exploring the causes and consequences of differences with potential implications for future developments. This section is closely linked to another section focusing on the expansion of ballet on permanent stages, post-war developments and the 1950s. Here I also present important post-war ballet personalities and their fates against the background of the political regime (Saša Machov, Ivo Váňa Psota). The last thematic chapter is devoted to the 1960s, with an emphasis on ballet innovators (Pavel Šmok, Conrad Drzewiecki), as well as on Ballet Prague and the issue of dancers' emigration. Throughout the thesis, a Czechoslovak-Polish comparative line is traced, taking into account the broader historical context interrelation issues, including the question of Těšín.

Throughout the dissertation, considerable attention is also paid to the protagonists of this wonderful art - ballet dancers, choreographers and teachers - through biographical medallions, which in some cases are accompanied by pictorial material. The dissertation also makes use of a wide range of source material.

## **Keywords**

Ballet, ballet artists, Czechoslovakia, theatre scene, dramaturgy, choreography, National Theatre, dance, dance education, Poland