

Abstract

This bachelor dissertation heads to an analysis of a criminal prosecution with members of The Theatre Waterloo, which took part in Ostrava in the years 1971 and 1972. The members of the theatre were prosecuted and judged for putting on stage of several social critical and even satirical plays. The most problematic piece of work was a parody of Russian novel of Valentin Katajev's *Son polka*. The prosecution was based on an expert opinion of produced texts and interrogation of the charged and witnesses. However the proces had been finished by a custodial sentence for four of them (namely Petr Podhrazky, Petr Ullmann, Ivan Binar and Edvard Schiffauer). This punishment influenced either their lives during the stay in custody or it affected their whole lives.

The dissertation study is found on the analysis of evidence which the State Police and court had at disposal. The dissertation consists of an analysis of the expert opinion which was the main source of evidence. Furthermore it examines the intterogations of prosecuted members of the theatre and witnesses, it examines the progress of the whole trial on the base of judicial proceedings. Moreover, the dissertation is accompanied by original interviews with surviving contemporaries.

The analysis proves a subjektivty of the whole court case. The charged were not able to reverse the trial result without agreeing with the policy of KSČ or collaboration with State Police. The research shows that the punishment was exemplary and the right purpose of the trial was to scare the society.