

November 17, 2009

20 YEARS WITHOUT THE CURTAIN - A REASON TO CELEBRATE

October 15, 2009 - **On November 17, 2009 the center of Prague will transform into of a huge celebration for the 20th anniversary of the fall of the iron curtain in the former Czechoslovakia.**

Under the title “20 years without the Iron Curtain – reason to celebrate!” Opona, the non-profit organization, is organizing a commemorative parade from the Albertov to Narodni Street, following the route the students took twenty years ago. The parade will end on Narodni Street with a unique celebration -- a special concert with the band Monkey Business, accompanying a whole array of singers of various styles of music. The event is completely open to the public, for everybody who wants to remember this turning point in our modern history.

The entire event will begin on November 17th at **3:00 PM at Albertov**. After about 30 minutes of speeches from both former and current students the **parade** will begin. It will take the historic route towards Národní St. where it meets with Mikulandská St. A group picture will be taken of everyone who has come for the remembrance. The picture of “twenty years after” will be taken by Tomáš Třeštík, a photographer for the Reflex weekly magazine. It will be immediately followed by a light show symbolizing the fall of the iron curtain, marking the beginning of the actual celebration.

Národní St. will be closed to traffic at **6:00 PM** and the streets will be open for this **unique concert**. Monkey Business will accompany icons of the Czech music scene, including Vladimír Mišík, Dan Bárta, Vlasta Třešňák, Lenka Dusilová, Vladimír Merta, Pavel Zajíček, Tony Ducháček, Michal Ambrož, rappers James Cole, Vladimír 518 and Orion.

Roman Holý and Monkey Business have created unique arrangements of classic freedom songs for the concert. Songs that helped people believe that freedom of speech and individual thinking will return to the country. The concert will be moderated by Zdeněk Suchý. The last performance will be followed by the theme songs played by DJ Mardoša, a member of Tata Bojs.

“Our inspiration to do this was from our memories -- we still remember the times that preceded the events. We believe that the changes in those twenty years have been positive despite all those maladies which came along with the freedom. That’s a reason to celebrate,”

says David Gaydecka, one of the organizers. Marek Vocel, the chair of the Opona board of trustees adds: *“There are some concerns that our everyday problems and troubles living in the fragile democracy could be used to question the direction our society has been headed since 1989. We are convinced that there is in fact a reason to celebrate.”*

“Prague will witness a party like we’ve never seen in those twenty years.” says Matěj Ruppert from Monkey Business

November 17: A reason to celebrate.

3:00 PM - Albertov - Commemorative parade

Albertov - Vyšehrad - riverbank - Národní třída

6:00 PM - Národní Street - concert 20 Years without the Curtain

Monkey Business and Vladimír Mišík, Dan Bárta, Vlasta Třešňák, Lenka Dusilová, Vladimír Merta, Pavel Zajíček, Tony Ducháček, Michal Ambrož, rappers James Cole, Vladimír 518 and Orion.

7:30 PM - Národní Street - DJ Mardoša

collection of theme songs

For more information, keep checking for updates at www.20letbezopony.cz.

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