



**Titel:** Thevo theatre in Brno  
**Duration:** 5:45  
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Camera: Markus Klingele  
Cut: Michael Bauer

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**Content:**

“AIDS is loose” – that’s the title of a theatre play for young people that the actors of the Nuremberg Thevo theatre have already performed about five hundred times in Germany. And yet this performance is like their first night: the theatre company has a guest performance in the Czech city of Brunn to perform their play for the first time in front of an audience for which German is a foreign language.

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**Text:**

**Brunn has almost 400,000 inhabitants and it the second biggest city in the Czech Republic. It is said to be the European heart of experimental theatre and is a popular place for guest performances of foreign theatre companies.**

**In the youth club “Labyrinth” on the outskirts of Brunn the theatre company of the Thevo theatre from the Bavarian town of Nuremberg has its guest performance. The five actors perform their play “Aids is loose” in front of 70 Czech pupils, who learn German at school.**

**Scene 1 (attention: subtitle!)**

*Everyone (singing):* “**AIDS is loose... Aids is loose.**”

*Actor (sprechgesang):* “**The play is about to start. We are four pupils in our classrrom and pretty cool. That’s the teacher over there, this is “Anne Müller”(actress interrupts). She is not keen on English lessons, her friend, Belinda sits next to hear summer and**



winter. On this side, one row behind are sitting two guys – “you mean, two kids!”  
(actress from the off). This is Boris, I am Nicolai, and we don’t like school!

The Thevo theatre presents scenes taken from young people’s everyday life and – not  
as the play’s title might suggest – with wagging finger.

### **Scene 2 (attention: subtitle!)**

Actor 1: “You know what, I have slept with her!”

Actor 2: “What, that is my Belinda, do you get that!”

Actor 1: “Your Belinda?” Pause. “Wake up and smell the coffee, the whole ice hockey  
team slept with her!”

Love and sex are the main topics and yet the actors do not try to convey morality or  
information.

#### **Quote Klaus Maier, Thevo theatre**

“I think it would be foolish to think that in the year 2004 we still have to tell young people that  
they should use condoms when having sex. We assume that they know the theory. We  
simply want to make them start thinking about the subject: if I had sex would I make use of  
my theoretical knowledge.”

The Nuremberg theatre company performs interactive plays that is to say that the  
audience can influence the play.

#### **Quote Klaus Maier, Thevo theatre**

“The audience can interrupt the play whenever it feels like it and change the characters or  
even create new ones. The important thing is that we want the audience to become active  
and show what it wants or even come on stage and present its ideas.”

Thomas dares being first. He thinks that the conversation with the parents should be  
totally different in reality than the way they played it on stage before.

### **Scene 3 (Attention: subtitle!)**

Acto: “.... You know that I have not left out on anything, I have tried everything. But you  
should really not try that!”

Jacek is next. He tries to act as a policeman raiding a disco.



#### **Scene 4 (Attention: subtitle!)**

*Actor:* “We have drunken milk only!”

*Pupil:* “This is a device for testing alcohol...!”

*Actor:* “No, no!”

**And Milena argues with the teacher.**

#### **Scene 5 (Attention: subtitle!)**

*Pupil:* “No, that is not fair!”

*Actor:* “Hehe, too bad for you!”

**The actors have performed the play almost 500 times – and yet the performance in the Czech Republic is like a first night. For never before have they performed in front of an audience for which German is a foreign language.**

#### **Quote Klaus Maier, Thevo theatre**

“The language was no problem at all. We were astonished that so many young people spoke German with almost any accent and that the play was understood immediately.”

#### **Quote Matthias Höppel, actor Thevo theatre**

“Nobody was too shy to come on stage. Nobody refused to participate or was not open. Although there were a lot of people watching, the young people came on stage and did not care who was watching them.”

#### **Quote Diana Iglesias 25:17-25:36**

“I think that the pupils here simply have a lot more experience in the field of theatres that it is integrated in their everyday life. Insofar they don't mind coming on stage. However, I am really impressed that they come on stage, even if it is not their native language, with a camera team around – I think that demands a lot of courage.”

**Just like in Germany, the concept of the Thevo theatre is welcomed enthusiastically in Brunn – by the pupils as well as by the teachers.**

#### **Quote teacher (without Bauchbinde)**



"I think that this topic is also very interesting for our pupils. We also speak at school about drugs, Aids and about anything that interest the young people of today. I really liked it! It really fits our timetable."

**Quote teacher (without Bauchbinde)**

"I have to say that this is a topic, about which we lead a lot of discussions. It goes without saying that we will talk a lot about this play tomorrow at school. And the pupils will tell us – I don't know how to put it – the lessons they have learned from this play."

**Quote pupil (without Bauchbinde)**

"It was really good. A great idea!"

**Quote pupil (without Bauchbinde)**

"It was interesting, a new experience!"

**The Nuremberg actors meet some Czech colleagues after the performance: Exchange of experience and a glass of beer as well as an invitation for the Czechs to come and do a guest performance in Franconia.**