

Learning by playing

Bibiana is looking for children to entertain, and educate, this summer

By **Marta Ďurianová**

Spectator staff

IF you ask any school-aged kid whether vacations and learning go together they will most likely answer "No way". But why not let your child learn and have fun during this summer break?

The International Children's House Bibiana is providing just that opportunity in two exhibitions and the fifth annual International Alternative and Puppet Theatre for Children.

At Bibiana, children can develop their internal world through observation, play, creativity and imagination.

Experienced drama and art specialists carefully prepare each programme, which children, as well as parents, often find fascinating.

Handle with care

Glass is a limpid piece of the skies. To which we should bow.

Words from Slovak writer and poet Tomáš Janovic introduce you to an exhibition on glass called *Fragile!* The exhibition opened at Bibiana on May 20 and will continue until October 30.

Fragile! is one of a series of exhibitions devoted to materials used in everyday life. Visitors have already had a chance to see exhibitions on paper, wood, and textiles.

The oldest preserved glass object is a little ball made 5,000 years ago. The exhibition maps the history of glass from that time until the present day, including glass objects used in outer space. Children will also discover a lot about glass in nature.

Even adults might be surprised to learn how glass is



Courtesy of Bibiana

THE NAKED emperor is proud of his clothes.

sometimes created spontaneously when lightning strikes sand on a beach.

"Glass is a fantastic material, made from sand, sodium carbonate [washing soda] and other components after it is heated to 1,800 degrees centigrade," said Eva Čárská, Bibiana's curator of material exhibitions.

"First it becomes liquid then hardens as it cools. A hard but at the same time transparent material is the result. The range of uses for glass is enormous," she added.

Fairy tales

As if by magic children will be taken into the world of fairy tales. An exhibition called *Magic suitcase*, organized to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Hans Christian Andersen lasts until October 2.

Kids can try to guess the names of Andersen's fairy tales while watching scenes from the stories.

You see a sewing machine

that sews but you cannot see what it sews. What's the fairy tale? (see answer below)

Plays and puppet shows

Although adult theatres are closed over the summer, Bibiana

opens its doors for theatre performances and puppet shows for children.

Here are some of the events for children and their parents.

Theatre troupe *Buchty a Loutky* (Dumplings and Puppets) from the Czech Republic will open the festival on July 3 with a performance *Carodejnice* (Witches) based on a horror story by Roald Dahl.

Budapest's *Mikropodium* troupe will perform *Con Animo*, the story of the creation of the world, in miniature. The troupe works with tiny, very flexible marionettes.

Bibiana will present *Play Andersen*, based on Andersen's *The Puppet-Show man* and connected with *The Emperor's New Clothes* and *The Brave Tin Soldier*, on July 24.

Children can see traditional African marionette theatre on July 31. The only actor is Danaye Kanlanfe, who performs *Zando's stories and adventures*.

(answer to question in the article: *The Emperor's New Clothes*)

Bibiana's theatre festival programme

Theatre	Country	Performance	Date
Buchty a Loutky	Czech Republic	Witches	July 3
Mikropodium	Hungary	Con Animo	July 10
Commedia	Slovakia	Golden Key, Buratino's adventures	July 17
Bibiana	Slovakia	Play Andersen	July 24
Danaye	France	Zando's stories and adventures	July 31
ANPU	Czech Republic	The Wedding shirts	August 7
		(based on the ballad of Czech poet Karel Jaromír Erben)	
PIKI	Slovakia	Fellow giant	August 14
		(based on Roald Dahl's <i>Big Friendly Giant</i>)	
Teatr Viti Marčika	Czech Republic	Robinson	August 21
Banialuka	Poland	Siala baba mak	August 28
		(based on a folk fairy-tale)	