

# NIGHT OF MUSEUMS 2018



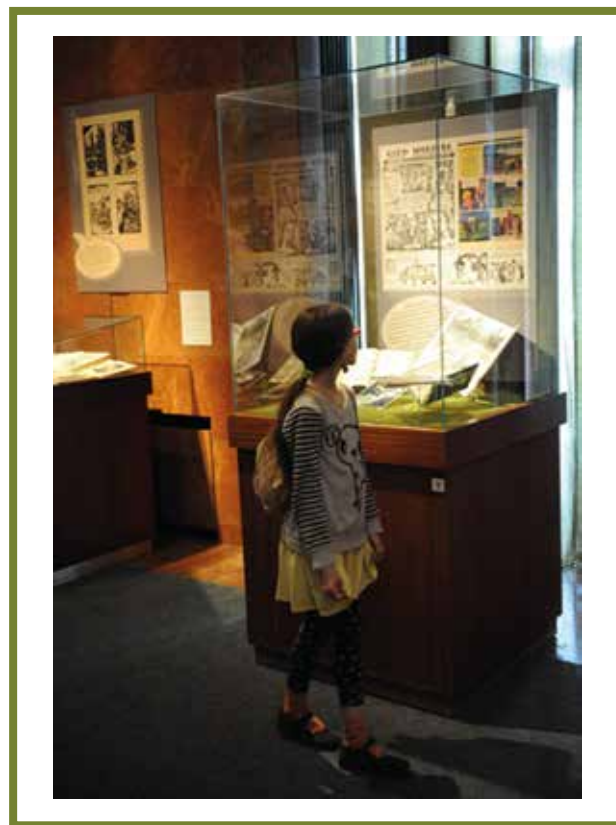
On 23 June 2018, the National Széchényi Library held a series of programmes organized for the Night of Museums entitled *Playful Museum Night*. 2018 was the Year of the Family, so our various events followed this topic announced by the Ministry of Human Capacities.

When planning and organizing this series of events, we aimed at creating various and rich cultural and artistic programmes that would be built around the keywords *play* and *playfulness*, as these concepts are able to bring together families, relatives, friends of families and acquaintances. By choosing this title and the topic, we tried to shape up a list of events mutual in their concept – also taking into consideration the NSZL's other programmes held throughout the year – in order for the National Széchényi Library to transmit the substantial message that the library, apart from the institution's basic tasks as a library and museum, is a cultural and community space ready to offer colourful experiences. This essential idea matched also the Library Salon's literary and cultural series of events entitled *VII. Playful Season* which was realized by the Directorate of Research and Academic Affairs during the season of 2017/2018.

The series of events began at four o'clock in the afternoon in the Lion Court, in front of the national library's main entrance, with a mood-enhancing jazz concert entitled *Buzzword* performed by the Youth Brass Band of Vác. The delightful ear candy music and delicious handmade ice cream served at the main entrance attracted the passers-by and tourists, as well. The interested audience was welcomed at the main entrance by the book stand where the publications of the NSZL Publishing House could be purchased, offering further useful information and an opportunity to browse through various books and periodicals. Those who went further could learn about why and how web archiving takes place, they could gain an insight into the first public archive of Hungarian webpages and we invited the visitors to solve crosswords and puzzles related to this topic. These activities were provided by the Department of Electronic Library Services. Parallel to this, the process of library digitization could be followed with the help of various documents, the most modern equipment and special methods presented by the staff members of the Digitizing Department.

Our first and foremost mission as the national library is to promote reading, so in the National Relic Exhibition Space a cosy reading corner was set up in cooperation with an enthusiastic book publisher of children's books of high standard. Apart from reading, the visitors could immerse into the colourful drawings with animal motifs of children's book illustrator artist and painter Eszter Nagy. A playing corner was set up here as well, and the visitors could try out less known board games, including original puzzles designed and developed by our colleague Gábor Gondos. Right next to the reading corner, children's books, cookbooks and books on lifestyle of the Kisgombos Bookshop and Publisher could be purchased, so both children and adults could find the most engaging readings for themselves.

During the planning phase, it was an important aspect that apart from offering a pastime full of interesting content, we also wanted to transform every inch of this research space into a visually attractive venue. In order to create a visually appealing interior and atmosphere, we were looking





for partners who could contribute to ideas and the milieu of the given topic of the series of events offered by the national library. The ceiling of the main entrance was decorated with hanging spring toys depicting fairy tale characters from Fakopács Online Toy Store and some toys by Rubik's Cube Toy Store and – with the contribution of the Restoration and Bindery Department – celestial bodies that evoke the image of the night sky were also added to the decoration. On the southern corridor of the fifth floor, visitors could get an insight into the art of book bindery with the contribution of the Restoration Department, and next to the craftwork corner skill-developing toys could be tried out and purchased in a playful atmosphere evoking fairy tales.

In order to present every aspect of the national library's activities, we literally opened every door from the basement to the attic. First, an 'adventure tour' took place in the repositories, organized by the corresponding department. The guided tours had been fully booked days before the event. An event of similarly great interest was the programme entitled *Széchenyi Code*, organized by the Manuscript Collection, an interactive game during which visitors could learn about the history of the Széchenyi family. Then the Collection of Early Printed Books presented through mini exhibition called *Kiddo, Shirt Dress, Whirligig* through which they let the audience imagine what it might have been like to be a child in the early modern period, what kind of toys children had and how they participated in the everyday life of the family. In addition to the showcased early books, we invited the children to play with dress-up paper dolls, seal figures inspired from the illustrations of old books and a resting corner was also set up for them.

The main exhibition available during the Night of Museums was *COMICS AS NARRATIVE. The Ninth Art and its Icons in Hungary* organized in collaboration by the library and the Hungarian Comics Association with the aim of presenting the connection between this independent genre and literature, and displaying the treasures of the library's collection connected to this topic. The exhibition introduced to the visitors what a good comics is, enlisted the masters of this genre, gave an insight into the creative process of a work, made it visible how much work is carried out until a piece of art is born and it also showed where and how this genre is used. The exhibition shed a light on the characteristics of the Hungarian socialist comics starting from the periodical *Füles* (*Füles* is the name of the magazine's iconic figure, a donkey) through the adaptations of classic literary works, moreover, it raised the attention to Hungarian pieces of literature which served as basis for adaptation. Next to the work of contemporary artists, pieces from legendary illustrators like Pál Korcsmáros and Ernő Zórád were also displayed.

As part of the comics exhibition we could see a collection of short comic strips entitled *Fritz's Strips* by Zoltán Fritz published in the periodical *Filmvilág* [World of Movies]. The curators of the exhibition were literary historians Anikó Ágnes Patonai and Rita Szűts-Novák from the library and Eszter Szép representing the Comics Association. During the *Fritzinger's Comic Jam* event, our visitors could make comics themselves with the help of experienced artists.

Another event among the offered programmes was *TOURNAMENT* during which a historical swordplay was presented and the most courageous ones could take part in an auction, and bid on old or new books, fairy tales, newspapers, maps, posters and other interesting documents thanks to the courtesy of the library's colleagues and friends. Furthermore, a so-called 'book flea market' was also set up where people could browse books freely.

*Moving and Not Moving – What is it?* was the title of the filmstrip projection event held by the colleagues of the Library of Book History, Library and Information Science, who selected pieces from the largest filmstrip collection of Hungary. These included pieces from fairy tales to library science. Children were invited to engage in activities like glass painting, film strip puzzle and colouring sheets, while the adults could look for the favourite strips of their childhood. The organizers set up a 'kid care' as well, so parents could attend programmes organized for adults. The last FIFA World Cup took place in 2018, so the visitors could follow the day's events on large-screen televisions in the 'daddy care' established on the eighth floor.



or Péter Máté were performed in an unusual adaptation, since the songs of Hungarian popular music have not been played as jazz standard. The show intended to entertain all generations, from grandparents to grandchildren.

In 2018, the Night of Museums attracted a record number of visitors (approximately 4600 people) to the national library.

<http://www.oszk.hu/rendezvenyek/muzeumok-ejszakaja-2018-jatekos-muzej>

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One of the major highlights of the evening was the two-hander play entitled *'Too Much of Women...'* (*Life Duet*) featuring the Jászai and Kossuth Award Winner Teri Tordai and Lili Horváth. This was a mother-daughter story about how a parent becomes a grandparent, and how a child becomes a mother. What happens to us when we wake up one day and see that we have grown old in the eyes of society, but we do not feel it inside? According to the author, Éva Pataki, one grows old on the outside but there is an inner core, the self, roaming freely, regardless of one's body. From this show, one could learn to dare say if something has gone by; not to be afraid of new situations and that one of the most important things in life is humour. This event accompanied the mini exhibition by the Theatre History Collection entitled *Theatre Families, Theatre Dynasties* on the apropos of which we managed to enlarge the stage of the Ceremonial Hall on minimum budget.

Those who like wine could get to know the Villány Wine Region's latest, 'Y-generation' community bistro wine. 'A Portugieser-based blend of the wine region, Villány's REDy is light bodied and fruity, but also promises plenty of fun and partying, while still being exciting and simply cool. It doesn't want to be more than it should be. It is just like its makers: the eternally young Villány winemakers.'

Those fond of Hungarian pop music were entertained by the concert of Farkas Gábor & his band. The visitors could listen to songs close to their hearts, performed by Gábor and mixed with his anecdotes. Gábor Farkas and his jazz trio selected from popular cabaret pieces, dance songs and major hits of the period starting with the 1920s, via the 1950s, right until the 1980s. Most well-known melodies once sung by Éva Mikes, Ilona Hollós, Pál Szécsi, Zsuzsa Cserhádi

