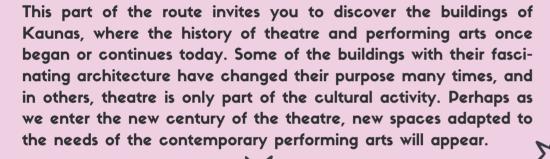


PLACES



3 NATIONAL KAUNAS

DRAMA THEATRE

During the interwar period, one of the most

luxurious cinemas, the Art Deco Metropolitan

(architects Vladimiras Dubeneckis, Klaudijus

Duš-Dušauskas) was built in 1928. In 1940, the

Soviet government nationalised the buildings, and

the Kaunas Musical Comedy Theatre was soon

established there. The Drama Theatre officially

moved there in 1959, after the reconstruction that

completely changed the structure. And the rest is

the history of the first professional stationary

drama theatre in Lithuania, which continues to

this day. The most important Lithuanian directors

from Juozas Vaičkus, Antanas Sutkus, Andrius

Oleka-Žilinskas and Borisas Dauguvietis to Henri-

kas Vancevičius, Jonas Jurašas, Jonas Vaitkus,

Gintaras Varnas, Gytis Padegimas, Jonas Vaitkus,

and representatives of the young generation, who

are eager to experiment, have created and

Latvian Modris Tenisons (1945-2020), a panto-

mime pioneer and an avant-garde, is another exceptional personality related to this theatre. It

was at the Kaunas Drama Theatre that a very

significant period of his work passed (1967–1970).

Tenisons prepared a whole generation of stage

movement teachers. His work in Kaunas was

interrupted by a grim event: after the self-immo-

lation of Romas Kalanta, Tenisons, who was a

witness to this event, was forced to leave Lithua-

This institution is considered the cradle of Lithuc

nian professional theatre, as its actors and

directors went on to form the Siauliai Drama

Vilnius State Theatre (now Lithuanian National

Currently, the theatre pays great attention to the

education of small children and actively collabo-

The founder of the theatre and long-term artistic

director Stanislovas Rubinovas (1930–2013) has

said that the appearance of the Chamber

Theatre - Youth Music Studio back then - in

Kaunas was prompted by the booming theatre

experiments across the Soviet Union and Eastern

European countries, as well as the cultural

vacuum that appeared in Kaunas after the

departure of Modris Tenisons. So, this centre of

culture dates back to 1976, although it did not

have its own premises until 1991. It spent more

than a decade touring and even performed for

the liquidators of the Chernobyl nuclear power

plant accident. Today, located in a small white building next to the City garden, the classical

theatre is friendly with innovative solutions, the

youth's creative work for the young, performance

peaceful beast of the Chamber Theatre is raised.

dedicated to the little ones, and the progress of

dedicated to the little ones, and the progress of dance. This is how a unique, always hungry but

4 KAUNAS CITY CHAMBER

Theatre (1931), Klaipėda Drama Theatre (1935) and

continue to create there.

Drama Theatre, 1940).

rates with foreign colleagues.

VILKOLAKIS THEATRE Maironio a. II

There is no history without prehistory, right? Vilkolakis, which was founded as an artists' club in 1919, soon became an experimental and improvisational theatre of satire. Here the acting was based on Italian principles of commedia dell arte - impromptu, improvisa tion, comic and folk acting, pantomime. In 1925, after socially controversial premieres, the theatre closed, and its head Antanas Sutkus together with the actors moved to the

2 KAUNAS STATE MUSICAL THEATRE

The State Theatre founded in this building in 1920 was the first professional Lithuanian theatre, consisting of opera and drama troupes, and later a ballet troupe. The history of Lithuanian theatre begins with the first premiere – Hermann Sudermann's St. John's fire (the troupe rehearsed it in the nearby ipartment on Kęstučio Street), which took place on December 9, 1920. And after a few weeks, on December 31, La Traviata was shown here for the first time. However, the history of the building dates back to 1890, when the construction started on the site, based on Kaunas province architect Ustinas Golinevičius' project. The grand opening of but it didn't have a permanent troupe, the performances were shown only by touring

The building is also important in the wider historical context. On May 15, 1920, when Kaunas became the temporary capital, the Constituent Assembly of Lithuania started its work there. Paradoxically, it was in this building that Lithuania was declared the Soviet Socialist Republic by the occupants. The building finally became a musical theatre on November 27 of the same year, when the Kaunas State Musical Theatre was established instead of the State Theatre. The first play was Boris Aleksandrov's Wedding in Malinovka. Presently, Kaunas Musical Theatre shows almost 250 operettas, operas. and musicals during the season, with 3 to 4



5 CIRKO SAPIENS CONTEM-**PORARY CIRCUS CENTRE**

The contemporary circus festival Circulation, which has visited many microdistrics of Kaunas, inspired its organisers and participants to settle down in one place. Cirko Sapiens is the first such modern circus centre in the country. Its doors are open to various age groups, with lectors from abroad sharing their experience.

KTU THEATRE STUDIO

Actor Petras Likša, who worked at the National Kaunas Drama Theatre (called the Great Theatre at the time), in 1948, in his alma mater Kaunas Polytechnic Institute, founded the Student Theatre Studio, which is the oldest, yet always youthful, and democratic university theatre in Lithuania.

VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY THEATRE

The mission of the professional university theatre established in 2012 is to present the diversity of performing art forms, to nurture the performing arts audience, which would be open to innovation, to promote innovative theatre, other performing arts, and new media phenomena. Currently, admission to the acting studies at Vytautas Magnus University is not taking place but theatre, as a physical space, remains open to the aims of young

8 VU FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION RED **CARPET THEATRE**

The theatre was established at the Kaunas Faculty of Vilnius University in the fall of 2013. Its first director is actor and director Andrius Žiurauskas. Currently, the theatre is managed by Indrė Endriukaitė, an actor of Kaunas State Puppet Theatre.

THEATRE CLUB

This chamber independent theatre space open for various ideas and forms, is located in Architektų namai – a historic building touched by the Reform Movement of Lithuania. The founder of the club, theatre scholar Ina Pukelytė, presents her latest works to the visitors of this theatre and invites other relevant creators to the Old Town.

KAUNAS STATE PUPPET THEATRE

The Puppet Theatre, which was founded in 1958 in the Odeon cinema built in the interwar period, has brought up thousands of Kaunas residents who are already taking their own children to their favourite performances. And if they are no longer on the program, you'll meet your beloved characters at the museum located right there, in the theatre.

AURA DANCE THEATRE

As for contemporary dance in Kaunas, its history requires a separate book! Choreogra-pher Birute Letukaite founded the Aura Dance Theatre in 1980; Aura International Dance Festival has been taking place in Kaunas since 1989. Earlier, Letukaitė studied modern dance with one of the pioneers of this genre Kira Daujotaitė (who in turn was a student of Danutė Nasvytytė, a graduate of J. Klamt free dance school in Berlin) Although the international Aura dance company doesn't have its own theatre and is constantly looking for new, non-traditional spaces for its performances, rehearsals, and other work takes place in the Old Town.

12 KAUNAS CULTURE CENTRE

Kaunas Culture Centre, which started its 81st season in the fall of 2020, has changed its title several times but the purpose of the institution was always the same - a space that provides the best opportunities for performances or other events are always . welcome as well. It was here — Kaunas Trade Union Palace at the time - that Kira Daujotaitė's free dance studio Sonata found refuge. And there are many stories to tell. For example, Kazys Binkis Theatre operating in Kaunas Culture Centre was founded back in 1936. later, it was briefly headed by Juozas Miltinis himself. Sigutis Jačėnas, Elvyra Žebertavičiūtė, Vytautas Grigolis, and many others, who later became professionals, started their careers at this amateur theatre. And it is impossible to avoid coincidences and links: the theatre is headed by Rimantas Štaras, the legendary administrator of the National Kaunas Drama Theatre!

13 KAUNAS ARTISTS' HOUSE

Kaunas Artists' House is a villa of exceptional interwar architecture open to all muses. Although today's repertoire consists more of performances than traditional plays, the imprint of drama is very prominent in this story. One of the most productive Lithuanian directors, Gytis Padegimas, has said that he had established a chamber theatre here during the occupation, frequented by such bohemians like Kestutis Navakas. One play could only be shown in winter because it needed snow, on which the actors poured

VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY'S GREAT HALL

Although the Vytautas Magnus University Theatre itself is very close by, this hall, which is one of the biggest in Kaunas, often tries on the theatre garb. Tours of major Lithuanian theatres, dance performances, and other performing arts events take place here.

(B) GIRSTUTIS

Girstutis was the son of King Mindaugas, and in 1975 his name was given to a building designed for professional theatre. The palace was built by the Kaunas Artificial fibre factory. Today, Girstutis' mission is to promote professional theatre, music, dance, fine arts, and amateur art; to look for new forms of meaningful leisure time and communication

16 SMALL THEATRE AND **PANTOMIME THEATRE** (NOW TEMPO ACADEMY)

One house - several different stories! As an alternative to the academic theatre, the Small Theatre - an extravagant statement in a cosy space of the Old Town — was born in 1992. It accommodated not only a variety of experiments and boldest personalities but also one of the most popular bohemian cafes at the time – Suflerio būdelė. A several-decades old Kaunas Pantomime Theatre founded by Kestutis Adomaitis moved in there in 2010 Mimes not only toured extensively abroad but also migrated in Kaunas. They were based at the Drama Theatre, the Philharmonic, E. Ožeškienės St., Girstutis, and finally Daukšos Street. In 2017 Kaunas Small Theatre was officially connected to Kaunas City Chamber Theatre, the curtain was closed and the premises were not used. Currently, it accommodates a Tempo space of Kaunas -European Capital of Culture 2022, where ideas for the future are generated by youth and communities.

MAUNAS CASTLE

It is possible that once, performances were indeed shown for nobles and rulers at the Kaunas Castle, but this time, it is important to mention that an opera and operetta festival is taking place in the valley of the castle. Here, on Statehood Day on July 6, spectacula performances presenting the history of our country are shown, featuring the most famous actors. To make the experience even more convenient, an amphitheatre was built around

18 KAUNAS TOWN HALL

Kaunas Town Hall also called a "white swan" has played many roles throughout its centuries-long history. It served as a prison, a court, and a building where lectures for future architects took place... In 1865-1869 a theatre operated in the Town Hall, founded by the Governor-General of Vilnius Muravyov, nicknamed "the hanger". The theatre was supposed to spread Russian culture, but the goal was not achieved, and the Town Hall was handed over to the municipality. Today, it is a department of Kaunas City Museum, and on the weekend a place where you can get married.

Please check the website: http://kaunomuziejus.lt/rotuses_skyrius/ for the renovation closure details before visiting.

19 HOUSE OF PERKUNAS

One of the oldest buildings in Kaunas is an impressive monument of Gothic architecture, erected in the second half of the 15th century, which has had its own theatrical phase. The nobility of the time lived here, and later a chapel was founded in the building. In 1843, when Kaunas became the centre of the province, a theatre was established here. After World War I, in 1928 the building was transferred to Jesuits who turned it into school rooms. And nowadays, you can take part in a theatrical tour of Perkūnas' House, which takes you back to the past.

PEOPLE'S HOUSE (DID NOT

In 1899 on the corner of Mikhailovskaya (now A. Mapu) and Vilkomirskaya (now Sv. Gertrūdos) streets the so-called People's House was built according to the project of the provincia engineer Nikolai Andreev. It accommodated many institutions and organisations, including a hotel, the Jewish Theatre, the Sobriety Society, and others. The building of exceptional architecture did not survive; part of it was incorporated into a new building.

21 TILLMANS THEATRE

Cultural life was in full swing in Kaunas, as the centre of the province, even before the proclamation of the Republic of Lithuania. The Tillmans family of Kaunas industrialists cared not only for profits but also for their workers' free time. The workers' canteen was built near the factory, close to the Carmelite Church, at the end of the 19th century, which featured concerts and theatre plays. In 1909 an annexe was built with the entire Tillmans Theatre, which was solemnly opened with Anton Chekhov's play The Bear.

There are much more theatre and its buildings in Kaunas than it might seem at first glance, right? It is time to meet the personalities without whom the last century would have been much bleaker. As you take the second part of the route, you will notice interesting interrelationships that reveal the tightly knit life of the theatre community. Of course, it is impossible to "visit" all the theatricals' homes, some of them can only be found on memorial plaques in Kaunas. The first stop of this route contains the stories of dozens of inspiring personalities.

An ornate six-apartment house, which today houses the Kaunas City Museum, was built in 1924 by brothers Mikas (1873–1937. It was him who wrote the first Lithuanian opera Birutė) and Kipras (1885-1968) Petrauskas according to the project of A. Golovinskis. The house was equipped with six apartments. Kipras, the younger brother, was so famous and revered that the street was named after him while he was still alive. It is wonderful to walk around the rooms furnished with authentic furniture. The walls here are decorated with pictures gifted to the opera singer, who has played Romeo, Alfred, Faust, Almaviva, Othello and etc., for various occasions by different Lithuanian artists, and the documents and letters speak with the help of a mobile app. On the next floor, there is a small but detailed interactive exposition State Theatre. Music that Brings the Nation Together. It contains more than 200 exhibits from the museum's collection, dedicated to different State Theatre opera and ballet productions, conductors, singers, dancers, and musicians. As soon as you enter, you are greeted by the aroma of linden, and finally, a prompter addresses you from his box.

Across the street, you will find another house of the interwar elite, where the cream of the society gathered occasionally. The lady of the house, soprano Adelė Nezabitauskaitė-Galau nienė (1895–1962), played the role of Violeta in the first performance of *La Traviata*. Later she played the main roles in more than 25 cal operas in the theatre and had about 1,200 public performances in the opera and concert halls. Her husband Petras Galaunė (1890-1988) was the first director of the Ciurlionis Museum, a Lithuanian art historian and critic, a graphic artist, a pioneer of Lithuanian professional museology, and a leading figure in the art world. The department of the National M.K. Čiurlionis Art Museum, which fascinates with its architecture and authentic interiors, cherishes the memory of this couple and the "golden age."

"We recognised each other and had no choice but to be together," he once said about her. If set designer Liudas Truikys (1904-1987), who maintained that he was influenced by folk art, Čiurlionis, and Dobužinskis and created scenography for 27 plays, and US-born Marijona Rakauskaitė (1892–1975), State Theatre's dramatic soprano, lived today, the residents of Fryko Street, would often call the police due to the overnight partying of their bohemian neighbours. But the street sleeps quietly, and today only the fascinating memorial apartment cultural and artistic elite. By the way, it some times hosts concerts and other creative

25 JUOZAS VAIČKUS

While still studying in St. Petersburg, Juozas Vaičkus (1885–1935) organised the so-called Flying Theatre in 1905. In 1946 he founded the first Lithuanian Theatre Studio, trained the first professional Lithuanian actors: Ona Kurmytė, Teofilija Vaičiūnienė, Petras Kubertavičius, Juozas Staniulis. In 1919 the active work in the temporary capital began and the first performance - Hermann Sudermann's St. John's Fire - took place in Kaunas Theatre Palace on December 19, 1920. Later, due to disagreements, J. Vaičkus left the theatre and went to Hollywood to study film art. When he returned to Kaunas, he set up an acting studio, which was attended by over 100 students: performances were held there. However, the cinema occupied a special place in his heart, and he even founded a Lithuanian film production company Lietfilmas. He wanted to make feature films, but these projects were not destined to come true. Vaičkus managed to make several films about Maironis' funeral, Palanga, Lithuanian wedding, the work of his studio, and pantomime. The director lived in this house in Žaliakalnis in 1931–1935.

Petras Kubertavičius (1879-1964) came to Kaunas in 1919 with J. Vaičkus' Flying Theatre and played the leading roles in it. His wife Antanina (1896–1973) worked there as well and had a part in the legendary St. John's Fire. Kubertavičius was one of the main actors of the Kaunas Drama Theatre. In 1929 he played a legendary role in V. Krėvė's play Šarūnas, skillfully conveyed the characters of villagers in A. Vienuolis' Twilight, V. Krėvė's Son-in-law, J. Baltušis' Roosters are Crowing, etc. During his entire career, he portrayed about 200 roles and also did pedagogical and directorial work. Meanwhile, Antanina Vaičiūnienė performed about 300 roles in 50 years: Desdemona and Lady Macbeth in Shake speare's Othello and Macbeth, a queen in Schiller's Don Carlo, Anna Andreyevna in Gogol's Government Inspector, and others. She played Lady Milford from Schiller's Intrigue and Love for 30 years. The whole family lived in this house from 1925 till 1940 and Antanina - until 1973.

Antanas Sutkus (1892-1968) studied acting in Moscow. When he returned, he founded the National Theater, and later the satire theatre Vilkolakis and an acting school. In 1925 he became the head of the acting studio located in Kaunas Jewish Habima Theater: tauaht acting theory and improvisation. At the State Theatre, he staged such works as M. Petrauskas' Birutė, A. Rubinstein's Demon, etc. as well as dramas: J. Žemaitė and Petkevičaitė-Bitė's Litvomanai (1919), Krėvė-Mickevičius' Šarūnas (1924) K. Inčiūra's Vincas Kudirka (1934), Friedrich Schiller's William Tell (1935) and many others. With the advent of the radio and the public's demand for radio plays, he took this task upon himself. After the war, he contributed a lot to the restoration of theatre in Kaunas. Antanas Sutkus lived in this house after the war from 1958 till 1968.

Stasys Ušinskas (1905-1874), who returned to Lithuania after his studies in Paris, had organised a couple of exhibitions. Andrius Oleka-Žilinskas, the State Theatre director at the time (by the way, he was the first to apply the Stanislavsky method in Lithuanian theatre) soon became interested in the young artist's work and invited him to work in the theatre. where the set designer created scenography for drama, opera, and ballet performances. glass and scenography) at Kaunas Art School. In 1936 he founded a professional puppet theatre, and in 1938 presented the first sound puppet film in Lithuania The Fatty's Dream, which was awarded a gold medal and a diploma for scenographic sketches and dolls at the Paris Exhibition. The artist lived in this Art Deco house from 1961 till 1967. A memori al stone to Ušinskas was unveiled in Akmenėliai manor, near his native Pakruojis

Kazys Binkis (1893-1942), who went down in the history of Lithuanian dramaturgy with his play Young Forest (1937) about the life of school students, was a member of Keturveiin inkai (a group of Lithuanian avant-garde writers) with an eternal spring in his heart. Binkis didn't live long in Vydūnas Avenue. Nevertheless, not only his works went down in history but also the fact that he with his wife Soffia Binkienė (1909-1984) rescued Jewish people and were recognised as the Righteous

Petras Vaičiūnas (1905–1959), who started publishing his poems during his studies in St. Petersburg did not limit himself to this creative field. In Kaunas, he worked as an administrator and treasurer of the Drama Theatre and was a playwright and a member 20 plays. One of the - Patriots - was staged in 1996, 1954, and even in 2008. The memorial museum of this creator was established in lived in this house from 1930 till 1940.

Born in Russia and raised in Vilnius, the (1875–1957) is also known in Kaunas as a scenic designer. He created scenography for over 40 opera and drama performances, laying the foundations for national scenography. Dobužinskis had worked in the operas of Paris London Rome, Naples, Brussels, and later in the New York Metropolitan Opera. Of course, the artist did not limit himself to scenography, he also drew, painted, participated in the creation of the Lithuanian coat of arms, flag, orders, postage stamps, and also taught at the Kaunas Art School. We have a street named after him in the centre of Kaunas and the house he lived in from 1929 till 1939 is decorated with a memo-

Unė Babickaitė-Graičiūnienė (1897–1961) was one of the most famous Lithuanian actors of the interwar period, as well as one of the first female directors, who worked in Kaunas at Song and Stage Society after World War I as the head of the drama group. Her nickname Uné Baye is international for a reason. The actor gained a lot of experience and made contacts in the US, where, in the 1920s she acted in silent movies. She and her husband Vytautas Andrius Graičiūnas settled in Europe in 1928; the actor performed in the theatres of London and Paris and critics there called her a prima donna. When she returned to Kaunas, she became the head of the Riflemen's Union Theatre. The actor lived in this house with her husband until the exile in 1951. After that, when she returned one her own, she had to stay somewhere else in Žaliakalnis. By the way, Une Babickaitė-Graičiūnienė collected many exhibits for the Balys Sruoga Museum.

This writer legitimised the genres of tragedy (historical play Herkus Mantas) and tragicomedy (play Love, Jazz and the Devil) in Lithuanian dramaturgy, created a theatre of moral court and a unique type of drama that combines traditional and modern drama tendencies. Many of J. Grušas' works were staged at Kaunas Drama Theatre. Barbora Radvilaitė (1972) was recognised as the performance of the century. This house was designed by the writer himself in 1936. Today it is a department of Maironis Lithuanian Literature Museum.

(later Vytautas Magnus University), Balys Sruoga (1896 — 1947) founded an academic drama studio, published many articles in literature and theatre criticism in the press, and later became the head of the Department of Theatre Studies but did not abandon his creative work. In 1930 when a play competition on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of Vytautas the Great was announced (prize LTL 10,000), he wrote a play The Giant's Shade and, being sure of his luck, bought a car. Unfortunately, the prize went to someone else, and he carried the weight of the debt for the car, for a long time. During the war, Sruoga was taken to the Stutthof concentration camp. His most famous work Forest of the Gods was born from his experiences there; it was published only after the writer's death. The Sruoga family home was designed by Vladimiras Zubovas. A decade after B. Sruoga's death, Ramioji Street was given his name, and a decade after that, a memorial museum was founded. Today, it is a department of Maironis find out everything about the Forest of the Gods



The cemetery that was established just before World War II is an eternal resting place for many deserving Lithuanians. Personalities of various theatre eras are buried here: Konstantinas Glinskis, Kazys Binkis, Adelė Nezabitauskaitė-Galaunienė, Algimantas Masiulis, Mikas Petrauskas, Gražina Robertas Vaidotas, Antanina Vainiūnaitė-Kubertavičienė, Antanas Sutkus, Leonardas Zelčius, Danutė Juronytė. On special occasions, tours are organised in the cemetery during which, the tombs of legends and monuments created by the most famous sculptors are visited Visitors also pay tribute to the memory of representatives of the theatre and other fields of art on the occasion of personal anniversaries. This cemetery is the Kaunas version of the Père Lachaise cemetery

EIGULIAI CEMETERY

Eiguliai village cemetery was established around 1880. It is a pantheon of Lithuanian circus artists (Francas Černiauskas, Pranas Gudauskas, Massimiliano Truzzi, Konstantinas Feroni, Mykolas Vilenčikas, Antanas Pilkauskas, Jonas Ramanauskas, Vladislava Variakojienė (Stankutė), Jadvyga Ramanauskienė (Stankutė) and others are buried here), as well as Juozas Vaičkus, the pioneer of Lithuanian theatre.

The curtain rises, the audience quiets down, all the spotlights and eyes are directed at it — the stage of a professional theatre in Kaunas, celebrating its 100th anniversary. It has enveloped the whole city with its stories, colourful personalities, and modern experiments inspired by classical muses. From the City garden, where the State Theatre emerged back in the 19th-century and where the drama and opera made their debut, the first stars of the Lithuanian stage lit up, ballet and even modern dance schools were formed, to Zanavykai market in Zaliakalnis or Dainava, Šilainiai, Vilijampolė microdistricts, where the new forms of performing arts involve the entire communities. And then back to the Drama Theatre stage that withstands even the most complex directorial statements or to the "black box" of the Chamber Theatre, open to the most youthful visions. Kaunas streets, squares, buildings, and everything in between are one big stage, and this route that invites you to enjoy everything that fills it all year round is perfect proof of that. Partners: National Kaunas Drama Theatre

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While working at the University of Lithuania



















EVENTS

- Lithuanian Theatre Spring Festival SPRING
- ★ Theatre Week and Fortūnos Awards MARCH
- Educational festival for children and youth Dive into the Theatre MAY
- ★ International Puppet Theatre
 Festival Smiling Dolls and Children
 MAY
- International Circus Festival Cirkuliacija
 JUNE
- Operetta in Kaunas Castle Festival JULY
- International Performing Arts Festival
 ConTempo
 AUGUST
- **★** Youth Theatre Festival Starting Point SEPTEMBER
- ★ Theatre festival House no. X SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER
- **★**AURA International Dance Festival SEPTEMBER OCTOBER
- ★ International Theatre Festival Stage 10×10



MORE KAUNASTIC ROUTES

Wondering what to do next? Great news – we've been publishing illustrated maps since 2015. Here are some of the themed routes available in English:

Welcome to Kaunas Modernist's Guide Wallographer's Notes The Litvak Landscape The Litvaks of Slobodka The Sugihara Route Gastro Guide The Ethnic Trail Kid-Sized Kaunas The City of Champions
Culture Shock
Double Weekend
A Hanseatic Merchant's story
Kaunas in Film

For free publications, visit the Kaunas IN tourist information center (Rotušės a. 15, Kaunas), or locations labeled with the "Tourism Information Friendly" or visit.kaunas.lt

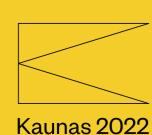
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European Capital of Culture

Jewish Theatre

During the interwar period and before that, Kaunas was a multicultural city. Many talented people of various nationalities lived, created, and worked here. Jewish Theatre is an U important section in the development of Lithuanian theatre, but so far it has been a little-studied part of our cultural history. Suppose you want to look into it and get to know the personalities better. In that case, we recommend a monograph Jewish Theatre in Interwar Lithuania (Żydų teatras tarpukario Lietuvoje, VDU, 2017) by theatre scholar Ina Pukelytė. And while walking, notice the location of the People's House marked on this map. Around 1920, the troupe of the Kaunas Jewish Theatre formed based on the Vilnius Jewish Folk The atre, which left the occupied capital, and started to perform here, in the hall of 400 seats. Another romantic stop, alive only in written stories and press archives, is a luxurious Miramaras hall opened on E. Ožeškienės Street in the 1920s, which later served as a Jewish minority theatre. In general, around 1937, there were as many as four Jewish troupes in Kaunas, two of which were professional. By the way, the personality of Gabrielius Lanas, a printer and culture supporter, is very interesting. His printing house operated in Maironio St. next to where the archive is currently located. It printed posters not only for the Jewish Theatre but also for many other events for free! In addition, he was the owner of the Kaunas City Summer Theatre. He even brought Enrico Caruso, among other world-famous performers, to Kaunas. Maybe a commemorative sign should appear for this theatre entrepreneur in Kaunas as well?

