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## **THE STUDENTS CAN TEST THEIR LANGUAGE ON THE STAGE**

(The picture: **The standing young man is encouraging his friend at the disco to pick up the girl sitting next to him.**)

**Brno** \* Some students of Brno *gymnasiums* are presently testing their knowledge of a foreign language. It was made possible thanks to the professional theatre company THEVO from Nurnberg and thanks to the Domino Theater & Domino Project agency. “The THEVO theatre focuses on students between 13 and 19 years of age, while the topics of their productions are taken from the area of social problems and needs,” said Nika M. Stepankova from the Domino agency. “The company uses the forum theatre method, so the audience can make up and/or change the performance; they can even act in some episodes together with the actors.”

Yesterday at the Labyrinth Studio, five actors from the theatre company focused on teenage relationships: making one’s acquaintance with another person, the beginning of sex life, judging the relationships among one’s friends, etc. Everything was taking place in their native language, German. After performing their play once, the actors performed the same play for the second time, however, this time with the opportunity for the students to stop the plot and make some changes based on their ideas and wishes. Then the students had to take part in the changed version of the plot. And of course, everything was performed in German.

“The audience have to have a good command of the language because they need to communicate with the actors,” said Stepankova.

Being a bit shy first, the students later took the advantage of the offered opportunity. Thanks to the audience’s ideas the plot was changing and turning into some unbelievable situations. “This is a very unique event in this country,” said Stepankova. About three hundred students from Brno will attend four performances. There will also be a seminar for drama teachers on Thursday at the Labyrinth Studio; the seminar will be led by Klaus Maier, the director of the THEVO theatre company.