

## EUGENE LAVRENCHUK: CULTURE CONTRA CIVILIZATION



The VIIth edition of EXPERYMENT could crowover a few premières. One of them was an opera shown in Zbaszyn. We could have this opportunity thank to the artists from Polish Theatre from Moscow, who performed "The Decline of the West", inspired by a book of Oswald Spengler, called by many as a turn of the beginning of XXth century.

Eugene Lavrenchuk, the director of the event, decided to focus us on two headwords - "the decline of the west" and "myth". "The program that we showed – all three events (together with the lecture "Myth as a mean of world existence" and projection of



"Parallel vocals") could be called "The decline of the west" - says Lavrenchuk – The spectacle "The decline of the west" is basecly About the myth of European culture, or not exactly About the myth, more Inside the myth, because here we come into the structure of the music, paintings or poetry themselves." And actually, this multimedia creation, similar to the specific hybrid, showed us the spectrum of European artists – including painters,

like Wistler, Tuluz-Lotrek, Chagal, Malewicz or Degas, composers - Prokofiev, Verdi, Czajkowski, Mozart and poets like La Fontaine and Ezop. This spectacle reminded me of a necklace, where every scene was a jewel framed with a link between the previous and the next scene – a link formed with a spasmodic dance, in which actors lost themselves. The culture, served us in the opera in a crystallised form, dies, according to Spengler, in the moment of becoming civilization. It stops to exist itself, it becomes a myth, a legend that prowls around generations, declining with a glory of Europeans, who, by erecting the edifice of civilization, mured the culture deep inside. They return now as urbanised animals and if they are not exposed to glares of strangers they set their imagination free and join with each other in profligate, erotic dance, which symbolizes their coming back to the roots. There lasts only one question: Don't they reach to deep in their origin?



**Malwina Janik**