

The Road to Freedom

A dull crowd on the stage tightly fold the names of Soviet republics on their chests. Moving around they murmur: „ We are the Soviet Union“. There appears a red flag in the middle of the crowd. It is smashed.

3 countries – Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia emerge from the crowd.

„I want to be just Lithuania“

„I want to be just Latvia “

„I want to be just Estonia“.

Unfortunately the dull crowd submerge them. And murmur:

„ We are the Soviet Union“.

They all move around in a circle and all of a sudden all stay stiff. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia emerge again. Freedom signal is heard (gong or a radio call sign). People move on the stage. Small flags are being distributed.

On the screen we see „23rd August 1989“. A foreign reporter is running around with a camera. There are people hurrying somewhere. A man and a woman stand out of the crowd.

A WOMAN. Let's leave Vilnius. There are quite a lot of people here. Maybe there are no people on the roads elsewhere!

A MAN. You are right! What if people's chain would break somewhere?

A reporter comes:

A REPORTER. Tell me please, where you are hurrying?

A MAN and A WOMAN. To the Baltic Way.

A REPORTER. Why are you standing on „The Baltic Way? “

A MAN. Because we want Gorbachiov and people worldwide to see that we, Lithuanians, strive for freedom and independence. We want to show our desire to be free in a peaceful demonstration!

A WOMAN. And would you like to be occupied?

A REPORTER. I can hardly imagine it, but you had lived together for 50 years. And why today you join your forces on the Baltic Way?

A MAN. You know, this is the day when 50 years ago Hitler and Stalin divided us between themselves. It is time now! We must remind the world about us – here we are! It is high time to start a singing revolution...

THE CROWD. Yes! It's time! It's time to remind that we exist! Baltic states are rising.

On the screen – the views from the Baltic Way formed by the people's chain (people stood on “Via Baltica” highway with joined hands from Vilnius to Tallinn.

The song “Bunda jau Baltija” (“The Baltic is already awaking”)

The actors on the stage stand in a column of the Baltic Way – at the beginning in 3 different groups, then they form a single column.

“We have never been so great
We have never felt so free

Freedom flowed through our hands
From me to you it poured
From you to me it streamed.
The river of freedom! We all drank from it .Unable to satisfy our thirst.”

Radio call sign. The announcement of Independence Act. March 11th. The crowd imitate the promotion (dispersal) of information.

“Attention, attention, please! All Lithuanian radio stations as well as European ones are broadcasting....

A child, dressed in white, appears.

A CHILD:“What is freedom?” (Silence)

Freedom is a flag hidden during times of darkness when enemy is approaching...
Freedom is the child’s life yell when the Universe opens for him!
Freedom is like an old fairy man bringing us prophetic news.
Freedom is Easter or Whitsuntide bell resounding our childhood.
Freedom is the smell of Mother’s home-made bread with maple leaves or sweet-flags (sweet calamus)...

Freedom is rustling trees along the roads where you into a man grow...

A CHILD: “When I articulate the word FREEDOM –
My heart joyfully beats
A word encourages another word
And the idea of FREEDOM grows.”

People gather around the child.

Radio call sign. On the screen : March 11th 1990. A passage from the March 11th Act . The flag is going down. The coat of arms is brought down (knocked?). The crowd are applauding.

A song “FREEDOM”. On the screen – Lithuania’s views, landmarks or a short film about “Sajudis “ movement.

On the screen ‘1991 January 13’. Gun shots are heard. On the stage – lights, smoke and fire. A reporter appears.

A REPORTER. What are the news? Are there any people injured or killed? What are the parliament members doing?

A MAN. Vytautas Landzbergis is trying to contact Moscow, (with) Gorbachev. What is he doing? His tanks are crushing our people!

A REPORTER. Couldn’t Gorbachev stop it indeed!?

A MAN. Nobody manages to reach Gorby – he is “sleeping” in Moscow. They say he is in deep sleep that he can’t pick up a receiver.

A REPORTER (WOMAN). Why are we calling to Moscow? Why not to Western world?

A REPORTER [runs in]. I need an apparatus urgently. I have filmed a person dying.

A MAN. Where?

A REPORTER. By the TV tower.

A MAN. Let’s develop a film quickly!

A REPORTER. Oh, yes! You will see people under tank caterpillars!

A MAN. How have you managed to film it?

A REPORTER. A drunk Russian was pushing me purposely and said “Draw away!” Also soldiers were attacking me! I headed for the crowd to keep my camera safe. And here they are – terrible sights – a live horrible proof!

A MAN. Oh my dear! People under tank caterpillars! The caterpillars are bloody. Oh my God – people are pushing a tank!

A REPORTER. Contact Paris! Hurry up! Let the world see what is happening in Lithuania!

A MAN. Moscow is blocking the line! We can’t keep in touch with Paris or Berlin without Moscow.

A REPORTER. Why do they block us? Who is doing it?

A MAN. They say, the boss is out, he will be only in the morning!

A REPORTER. Eh! Everything is in vain: my risk, my fuss!

[*The telephone rings.*] London.

[*The voice is heard.*] What is the news? Is it true that ...?

A REPORTER. Don’t break the line. We are sending you the current scenes. It is vitally important!

A MAN. Yes! We have sent it! We have won! We came into contact with people of the world without you, a sleeping boss in Moscow!

A REPORTER. People of the world – listen! 13 people – freedom defenders, have just been killed and crushed by tanks. And this happens at the end of the 20th century in Independent Lithuania!

A minute of silence. A mournful, solemn music is being played. On the screen – the photos of dead people – their names, age...

The day with eyes wide open
The nation risen from the grave –
Oh my Lord, let her speak out
Let her words sound noble.
Call her, call her to get straight!
Let freedom sound like essence!
Here we are. So many of us.
Those who were, and those who are.
On the screen 2010