

# The Polish Center of Wisconsin is Hosting An Evening of Poetry With Peter Burzyński

April 19, 2022 7:00 p.m.

## A Polish Poetry Talk with Peter Burzyński, PhD

### They Came to See a Poet: Tadeusz Różewicz and the Paradoxes of Poetry

Tadeusz Różewicz is a poet and playwright whose topics range from Holocaust survival to love, nature, poetry itself, and what it means to be a poet. As a survivor of the Second World War in Poland and a witness to the atrocities of the Holocaust, Różewicz was trying to define a new sort of poetry. This was his response to Theodor Adorno's famous assertion that it was "barbaric to write poetry after Auschwitz." As his career moved forward, Różewicz's stance on poetry, and writing poetry, was always in flux. When touching upon poetry and being a poet, Różewicz never gave his reader a classic sort of *ars poetica* but more of a glimpse into a small aspect of a poet or the nature of poetry.



SELECTED POEMS OF TADEUSZ RÓŻEWICZ

## SOBBING SUPERPOWER

TRANSLATED BY JOANNA TRZECIAK • FOREWORD BY EDWARD HIRSCH

### My Poetry

justifies nothing  
explains nothing  
renounces nothing  
encompasses no whole  
fulfills no hope

creates no new rules of the game  
takes no part in merriment  
has a defined space  
it must occupy

if it's not esoteric  
if it's not original  
if it doesn't awe  
apparently it's as it should be

it obeys its own imperative  
its own capabilities  
and limitations  
it loses against itself

it can neither take the place of  
nor be replaced by any other  
open to everyone  
devoid of mystery

it has many goals  
it will never achieve

Translated by Joanna Trzeciak

**Polish Center of Wisconsin (Veterans' Room)—April 19, 2022 7 PM**  
**6941 South 68<sup>th</sup> Street, Franklin, WI 53132**  
**<https://www.polishcenterofwisconsin.org>**