

Dwarfs, the small bronze figurines, which are so easy to find in Wrocław, speak volumes about the Lower Silesian capital. They remind of significant moments from its history, document the events the city currently lives and breathes, while their presence supports many institutions and initiatives. But first of all they reflect the spirit of the Wrocław citizens. So as “full-size” Wrocław citizens, the dwarfs have their professions, ambitions, passions and plans... Each of them represents a different character and story. Together, they create a companionate dwarf community, which combines love to the city and the dream to make it known to the entire world! This is why each September is the time they organise the Wrocław Dwarf Festival – a colourful and fabulous fest with plenty of attractions. Join the walk following the traces of Oder Washerman, Little Sisyphs, Well-wisher and other dwarfs occupying the downtown. If you are careful, you will certainly meet many more of them, since Wrocław – from now on officially – is the world capital of dwarfs!

## 1 Oder Washerman

✉ ul. św. Jadwigi 3/4

The Oder Washerman (Pracz Odrzański) is one of the very first Wrocław dwarfs. It can be seen at the Włostowica Boulevard next to the Piaskowy Bridge, where – as many Wrocław citizens in the past – he washes his and his fellow dwarfs clothes. Though, by appearance, it would seem that as the washing whizz he lives a simple and predictable life. Nothing could be more misleading – Washerman is a hero, to whom the city owns a lot. In 1997, he was the first one to wise up that a great flood is coming and as the first one filled his cap with sand, giving the signal to erect flood embankments. And this is not the only dangerous situation faced by Washerman: this modest dwarf has been kidnapped many times. However, when kidnapped, he has always managed to set free and return to its place. How he has done it and how the kidnappers, who messed with Washerman, ended? Better not to know...



Oder Washerman Dwarf. Author: Tomasz Moczek

## 2 Professor Miodek Dwarf

✉ pl. biskupa Nankiera 15b

The world of Wrocław dwarfs has also its celebrities with commonly recognised and appreciated linguist, Professor Jan Miodek, being the true bigwig. This figurine can be found in front of the entrance to the Institute of Polish Philology of Wrocław University (opposite to the Market Hall). The Professor sits on

a chair, cheerful and cordially smiling as usual, with a heavy volume of “Ojczyzna Polszczyzna” (“Polish Language Homeland”) on his knees. He seems to encourage the passers-by to ask question with his specific gesture. Any doubts concerning the language? The Professor will judge!



Professor Miodek Dwarf. Author: Beata Zwolańska-Hotod

## 3 Telescopie

✉ ul. Piotra Skargi 1/3

The Telescopie Dwarf (Lunetyk), stands at the crossing of Piotra Skargi and Oławska Streets, next to the stair leading to the underground crossing. Judging by a huge telescope he is assembling to the trivet, his main interest is in star watching. Since a busy downtown illuminated with artificial light for the entire night is not a perfect place to watch the celestial bodies, a question appears – what does the Telescope actually look out for? Perhaps it is not about the stars in the sky, but the Wrocław celebrities?



Telescopie Dwarf. Author: Tomasz Moczek

## 4 Climbers

✉ ul. Oławska, pl. Solny, ul. Świdnicka

It is common knowledge that the Climbers (Stupniki) are divided into Oława, Solny and Świdnica ones. The live at the street light posts in the downtown. And although they must stand a strenuous position and maintain balance, which requires some complicated equilibristics, they seem to have a bunch of fun. You can see it from their happy bearded faces. However they do not sit on the street lights only for fun: they are suspected of having full-time jobs in the city monitoring service. Though we need to perk our heads to see the Climbers, they see us at a glance. Better not to play up within their sight...



Climbers Dwarfs. Author: Michał Osuch

## 5 Well-wisher

✉ Western side of the Market Square, next to the fountain

Well-wisher (Życzliwek) is one of the oldest and worthiest Wrocław dwarfs. He carries the sunflower, which emphasizes his cheerful nature, as its hallmark. Well-wisher is also one of the busiest dwarfs. He has his “office” next to the city hall and his duties include promoting kindness. And since we know that kindness is needed always and to all of us and that there can be never enough of kindness – the dwarf bend over backwards. It’s true! As the ambassador of kindness and representative of Wrocław, Well-wisher is present at the same time in different cities in the world; in Szczecin, Berlin, Kaunas, Vilnius, Washington, Hradec Kralove and Lviv, Breda, Dresden and Sopot, Bratislava and Warsaw, and even in the Mexican Guadalajara.

This does not mean however that the dwarf forgets about Wrocław. He is the patron of the Kindness Day, which we celebrate here every year on 21 November.



Well-wisher Dwarf. Author: Marcin Łuczowski

## 6 Firemen

✉ ul. św. Mikołaja 1

Although the several hundred-long history of the St. Elisabeth Church was full of difficult moments, the greatest disaster stroke in 1976 – when massive fire burnt its interiors. Following this tragic event, the church has remained closed for more than two decades. When reopened after an expensive renovation, there was a need to take extraordinary precautions. This is why, in 2011, on the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of the Association of Voluntary Fire Brigades, the Firemen (Pożarki) have placed themselves under the church. These two brave dwarfs carefully watch the church day and night, checking whether there are no threats. They are ready to use the extinguisher, ladder or call for reinforcements at any moment. The church is finally safe...



Firemen Dwarfs. Author: Grzegorz Łagowski

## 7 Sleepyhead

✉ ul. św. Mikołaja 1

The world of dwarfs has its secrets which are unavailable to humans. The entrance to this world is located in a quite busy place in Wrocław – at the backyard of Hansel tenement. The gates to this underground world are guarded by Sleepyhead (Śpioch). There are rumours that he doesn’t really buckle down. Some say that he sleeps the whole days and gets up only when he hears a wooden spoon rapping a clay pot. This is a sign of an upcoming meal. Some could think – what kind of a guard is he? Perhaps it is better not to underestimate him. Has anyone ever heard about a man, who managed to brush past Sleepyhead, sneaked into the underground world and returned safe and sound? No? Now you see...



Sleepyhead Dwarf. Author: Tomasz Moczek

## 8 Wroclover

✉ ul. św. Mikołaja 1

Hardly sociable Sleepyhead is the neighbour of energetic Wroclover (Wroclovek) – the true icon of the city “dwarification”. He is the one, who convinced other dwarfs to come out, and the tourists and citizens of Wrocław – to make friends with them. Wroclover is the dwarf having his heart in his hand. Literally! And this heart has the engraved emblem of Wrocław. This is the gift he willingly offers to anyone who loves Wrocław – so as he does. Perhaps it will offer it to you? Check as you pass by the St. Elisabeth Church.



Wroclover Dwarf. Author: Beata Zwolańska-Hotod

## 9 Dollarie

✉ Rynek 48

The Dollarie (Dolaruś), the treasurer of the city’s riches, has its place on the northern side of the Market Square. Although, similarly to the Climbers, he has established his base on one of the street lamps, he seems like he was only stopping there for a while. Bent over, with windblown beard and outflung hands, in which he carries a bag full of foreign currency – he looks like he was supposed to fly away to one of tax havens. In fact, Dollarie rushes to invest the funds spent by the foreign tourists in the city in the best possible way.



Dollarie Dwarf. Author: Beata Zwolańska-Hotod

## 10 Little Sisyphs

✉ ul. Świdnicka 1

In terms of recognisability, Little Sisyphs (Syzyfki) are the absolute top of the tops of the Wrocław dwarfs. These two busy men are known to practically anyone, who crossed the Świdnicka Street – the main city boardwalk – just even once. Little Sisyphs are famous for their long-term purpose – they decided to push a heavy granite ball from the Świdnicka Street to some more appropriate place. And so, one of them stands behind the ball and pushes it forward. On the opposite side, the other one digs his heels in an attempt to push it backwards. Poor effects? Perhaps, but don’t spoil all the fun...



Little Sisyphs Dwarfs. Author: Tomasz Moczek

## 11 Solidarius

✉ ul. Świdnicka 5

If we have been forced, as the oppositionists in the 1980s, to deliver secret radio broadcasts – Solidarius dwarf (Solidariusz), known also as the Solidarity Radio Journalist, stays ready and prepared. All he needs to do is to plug in his radio with the “Fighting Solidarity” inscription. The figurine was placed in 2009, on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first broadcast from this site. This is a tribute to the radio journalists of the underground broadcasting stations of Wrocław.





Solidarius Dwarf. Author: Beata Zwolańska-Hotod

## 12 Suffragette

✉ ul. Świdnicka 8B

As the First World War ended in 1918, the reborn Republic of Poland, as one of the first countries in the world, has given the voting rights to women. Since that time, the Polish women could elect and be elected to the Parliament. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event was celebrated by Wrocław in its very own way: a new dwarf, or precisely a dwarf-woman – Suffragette (Sufrażystka) – appeared in the city. She carries a board in her hands that reminds that women have vote. In addition, the Suffragette carries an umbrella and won't hesitate to use it, if someone gets the idea of depriving women of their rights.



Suffragette Dwarf. Author: Beata Zwolańska-Hotod

## 13 Unicefie

✉ ul. Świdnicka 19

The characters like this dwarf, as well as the organisation he represents, make this world a better place. Several years ago, when the military conflict behind our eastern frontier has escalated, thousands of Ukrainian children were forced to leave their homes and find shelter in other countries. Many of them reached Wrocław, followed by UNICEF help, and Unicefie dwarf with his big heart and backpack full of gifts: food, toys, school supplies and clothes. It was because of him (most probably) that UNICEF has funded the construction of the new playgrounds, schools, kindergartens and nurseries in Wrocław. Although the crisis in the city was defused, there are still many children in the world that need support. Luckily, Unicefie, so as Well-wisher, can be in many places at the same time.



Unicefie Dwarf. Author: Beata Zwolańska-Hotod

## 14 Abruzzus

✉ ul. Świdnicka 33

This dwarf is the ambassador of the Italian region of Abruzzo covering the area from the Apennines to Adriatic Sea. He brought the climate of Italy to Wrocław; Abruzzus (Abruzjusz) stands at the grill and prepares arrosticini that is mutton shashliks, for which his region is famous. Who knows, perhaps he will sip a glass of Montepulciano d'Abruzzo wine from his homeland? The dwarf wants to tempt you to visit his native region, which offers more than only fine cuisine. It is full of medieval historical objects, spacious national parks, mountains and sandy beaches close at hand. Eager to visit Abruzzo?



Abruzzus Dwarf. Author: Beata Zwolańska-Hotod

## 15 Opera Singer and Ballerina

✉ ul. Świdnicka 35

The Opera Singer (Śpiewak Operowy) stands at the main entrance to the Wrocław Opera building. Toggled out in tails, he sings an aria with inspiration, turned towards his companion, the Pirouetting Ballerina (Tancerka Balerina). At the same time the Opera Singer watchfully looks at the audience passing by. Are they true connoisseurs of art? Are they able to appreciate the mastery of the artists? The archetypes of these dwarfs are the ballet dancer Christina Janusz and tenor Paweł Walankiewicz from the Wrocław Opera.



Opera Singer and Ballerina Dwarfs. Authors: Piotr Makata, Marta Mirynowska

## 16 Booklover

✉ pl. Teatralny 5

The most widely-read dwarf in the city, Booklover (Bibliofil), nestled at the Mediateka. As always, he is lost in his book. We cannot be sure what is the exact content of this giant book the dwarf reads, but it is for sure very wise. This is why he is considered a wise-man among the dwarf fellowship and garners general admiration. There are very few colleagues who suspect that this worthy Booklover sneaks into the Mediateka every night to get his hands on the other books. How long one can read the same old story?

Booklover proves one obvious truth – the reading in Wrocław is in perfect form and shape.



Booklover Dwarf. Author: Paweł Osóbka

## 17 Water Dwarfs

✉ pl. Teatralny 4

A group of dwarfs occupying a fountain next to the Puppet Theatre seems to look slightly different from the other dwarfs. Their clothes differ (large hats instead of traditional dwarf caps) and they are more mysterious, like the outlanders from a distant land... What they actually do? Willow (Wierzbownik) sitting at the heart of the fountain seems to be lost in a book, however insecurely peeks at the Booklover sitting at the Mediateka. Has Booklover ever guessed that Willow accidentally damaged the book he borrowed from him? Umbreller (Parasolnik) and Water Catcher (Zbierający Wodę) contemplate the reality nearby, while the Bird Feeder (Karmiący Ptaki) and Ship Launcher (Puszczający Stateczki) do their usual stuff.



Water Dwarfs. Author: Paweł Pawlak

## 18 OddGuy

✉ ul. Wierzbowa 15

It would have seemed that the dwarf named OddGuy (OddLudek) must shun any company. In reality, the non-typical name of this dwarf comes from the name of a charity organisation – the Odd Fellows Friendly Society. The dwarf, famous for its philanthropy, sits at the Promenada Staromiejska opposite to the Copernicus monument. The seat of the Polish Odd Fellows branch office is located nearby at the Kottatja Street. OddGuy carries a chain composed of three cells in his hands. These cells form the logo of the international organisation of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.



OddGuy. Author: Beata Zwolańska-Hotod



### Key:

🏛 Museum 🎭 Theatre 🚗 Indoor car park ⛪ Historic church 📍 Punkt widokowy 🌳 Playground  
💧 Fountain 🚻 Public toilets 🛍 Shopping centre  
✉ Post office

📍 Tourist information points

✉ ul. Graniczna 190 ☎ +48 519 509 336  
✉ ul. Piłsudskiego 105 ☎ +48 519 509 337  
✉ Rynek 14 ☎ +48 71 344 31 11

Emergency number ☎ 112

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THE DWARF SIDE OF  
WROCLAW

