



Ion Caramitru during the UNITER Gala 2020

IN MEMORIAM ION CARAMITRU - 9 March 1942 – 5 September 2021

“ A unique personality of the contemporary art, culture and history has just left us. A man of great moral strength, an Artist endowed with an all-round gift, a powerful conscience of unique magnitude, who knew how to perceive time, fathom it and follow the right path. He knew how to fight for his ideals, how to reify and defend them, without receding from his principles. A seductive, irresistible, charismatic presence, displaying a noble, refined elegance. But above all, a MAN, a LEADER, a CONSTRUCTOR, a CREATOR with an astounding vision. Principled, brave, tenacious, he pursued his convictions at all costs, with no deviations. He possessed an unusual sense of the present and especially the future realities.

He wholeheartedly took part in the 1989 Revolution, hoping that the democratic ideals would finally be achieved. But very soon he felt the need to sheer away from the distorted forms they ended up in. And yet, he never ceased to take action under the new circumstances in order to yield a restructuring of the cultural institutions in favour of the artist and their creative spirit. Disciplined, rigorous, with a great capacity for hard work, and the knowledge and assiduity of a job done well, he prepared himself thoroughly for each endeavour he aimed at, analysing minutely even the tiniest detail. He knew the laws and had the whole picture of the European legislation, was skilled at conceiving, enforcing and adapting them to the Romanian realities. He envisaged the status of the artist, dwelling upon and succeeding in imposing it as a creator. In 1990 he founded the Romanian Association of Theatre Artists (UNITER), a craft association which has become a model for the artistic world. Through his personal activity as well as his collaborators', he bestowed an international prestige on it. He rolled up on the entire Romanian theatrical community his personal radiance as an artist and

a hand-picked representative of his craft. He was a competent, active, effective, first class Minister of Culture, totally devoted to the national interest. He was courageous and retentive. Convinced that the freedom of telling the truth was one of the very few gains of the Revolution, he never hesitated to discuss openly about the delicate matters, and incessantly urged the others to do the same. He possessed a remarkable inner strength with which he protected himself from attacks, replying neither to petty offences nor to cabals, feeling certain that they die out by their own barrenness, thwart, malevolence. He strongly believed in fairness and its triumph. He had faith in God and in the victory of good. He identified himself with the common interest and, although he was so disappointed at all the dysfunctions, squalor, wretchedness, dirty business, signs of declension and foulness, he never abandoned his own perseverance in going all the way with what he could accomplish. When he plighted his troth in something, he became involved with every fiber of his being and with his entire strength.

He was a brilliant actor, director, manager and supporter of the young artists. He always had a special openness for them, wishing to promote, exhort and guide them in aspiring to culture, mastery, professional thoroughness. In the same way as he was always thoughtful with the mature and aged actors, by offering them the opportunity of creating in accordance with their inner impulse and desire. He wished that the senior artists would have a decent living, unladen with the humility of poverty, oblivion, disdain. He strived that the theatre professionals should be respected according to their value and aspirations. Together with his team, he achieved unprecedented things for them.

Ion Caramitru' s passing away leaves an immense void whose proportions will be obvious in time. Only then will the amplitude of his personality, its unusual dimensions settle into shape. Only then will the real dimension of our loss be disclosed...

May God give him light, peace, rest, according to the beauty of his soul and to all his accomplishments!

And to us, the power to keep and carry them forward.”

Text by Doina Lupu, UNITER / Romanian Centre of ITI