



БЛАГОТВОРИТЕЛЬНЫЙ ФОНД
РАЗВИТИЯ ТЕАТРАЛЬНОГО ИСКУССТВА
Ю.П. ЛЮБИМОВА

Yuri Lyubimov International Theatre Award 2019 for Tadashi SUZUKI

The International Theatre Institute (ITI), the world's largest organization for the performing arts and the Yuri Lyubimov Foundation, a foundation that is dedicated to inform theatre students and professionals about the achievements of the legendary actor, stage director, have created the *Yuri Lyubimov International Theatre Award* to honour great theatre personalities for their unbreakable passion and continuous dedication for the theatrical arts and for the work they are contributing to the development of theatre and for sharing their experience with professionals and students all over the world.

Yuri Lyubimov's highest expectations and his love for details are and always will be an inspiration for other artists. When confronted with a situation that did not allow him to present his work in the country where he had already reached a status of a legendary personality, he did not give in and continued to work abroad and was inspiring colleague artists and audiences with state-of-the arts performances all over the world. Relentlessly and without compromise he presented what he believed in.

To be a prophet in one own's country probably never was the goal of any inspiring personality. This is true for Yuri Lyubimov and it is true for Tadashi Suzuki, the 2019 Awardee of the Yuri Lyubimov International Theatre Award.

It is no coincidence that Lyubimov and Suzuki had a common interest for theatre and were united in common projects such as the Theatre Olympics. On the founding documents of this cultural Olympics one will discover the signature of Theodoros Terzopoulos, the stage director that initiated this event and – united in spirit - also the ones of Yuri Lyubimov and Tadashi Suzuki.

For theatre professionals and audiences alike Tadashi Suzuki is living "lighthouse" whose work has shed a light on the theatrical arts on a global scale and influenced and inspired theatre professionals and theatre educators.

His work on stage produced by the SCOT, the Suzuki Company of Toga, have moved, stirred and enthused audiences worldwide. The signature he is giving to a performance is unique. His plays have his own aesthetic and are embedded in his unforgettable stage setting. Tadashi is definitely a personality that has a vision for what has to happen on a stage and how it needs to be structured. Moreover, he is a person who has a vision of how one should bring theatre to the audiences as he created the Toga Festival - Japan's first international theatre festival. Moreover, he is the leading member of Theatre Olympics, co-founded the BeSoTo Festival and has been the chairman of the Japan Performing Arts Foundation. All these strong efforts were surpassed by developing the world's probably largest but for sure unique performing arts space in Toga surrounded by the green wilderness, a facility dedicated to theatre which includes six venues, rehearsal rooms, lodgings, restaurants and so on.

Moreover, in his efforts of improving the abilities of actresses and actors, he developed the Suzuki method of acting. A method to make actors more aware of his natural expressiveness which allow him to commit more fully to the physical and emotional requirements of acting.

And this is what Yuri Lyubimov wrote in his notes about Tadashi Suzuki:

"Suzuki surprises me first of all with his accuracy, — specific accuracy in everything concerning the time and space of his work. In fact, something like that demands the highest possible concentration of energy - and it's simply incredible that he continues to throw it all at the spectator for one and a half or two hours in sounds, in the all the accuracy of transitions and in the peculiarity of the mise-en-scène, is simply amazing! His wonderful school requires special attention and concentration. The thoroughness, selected training, and the originality of the method make the master unique, and his school gives hope for the development of modern theatre in our troubled world."

All this proves that Tadashi Suzuki is a personality who has visions and is able to personality that make his visions to become a reality. For the jury the Yuri Lyubimov Award - Tobias Biancone, Anatoli Vassiliev, Katalin Lyubimova and Natalia Isaeva - these aspects as well as he was a friend of Yuri Lyubimov was the reason for honouring him with the 2019 Yuri Lyubimov Award.

For the jury of the Yuri Lyubimov Award, Saint Petersburg, 16 November 2019:



Tobias Biancone
Director General ITI
International Theatre Institute ITI