

## **The Message of Anatoli Vassiliev for Tadashi Suzuki Yuri Lyubimov International Theatre Award 2019**

**Dear Tadashi !**

Thirty years have passed since the première of your magnificent performance *Dionysus* was presented to the Moscow public on the stage of the *Taganka* Theatre.

The genius of the Japanese scene entered Moscow and though at that time he was still virtually unknown to the Russian public, Tadashi Suzuki entered Moscow like a warrior, like a true samurai — he entered and conquered it! You know, Moscow burned with the fire of love for you and the flames still continue to blaze.

Was it possible in those days, thirty years ago, that one could dream: thirty years later yet another genius, the founder of the *Taganka* Theatre would symbolically return to you! Would return through the *International Theatre Award* bearing the name of Yuri Petrovich Lyubimov.

Everything is shaped and moved by stars and nothing is ever lost in space, in cosmos! In those days you played your *Dionysus*, and then, somewhat later, *Dionysus of Taganka* Theatre was himself forced to go into exile. It seems that exile happens much too often in Russian theatre history. And now you are firmly connected with him, but he is again exiled, gone from this earth. He is exiled, he is not with us any longer, it's true, — and yet, I am somehow sure he has his permanent refuge, he is forever accepted in heaven. That it is certainly true!

Congratulations on that symbolic coming together, symbolic meeting of the two geniuses of theatre!

My warmest hugs to you!

**Anatoli Vassiliev**

Translated from the Russian Original by Natalia Isaeva