

## **International Theatre Institute ITI**

**World Organization for the Performing Arts**

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### **Lars Af Malmberg 1982**

Throughout their existence human beings have been fascinated by the scenic image. All peoples have felt the need to watch human conflicts, human weakness, compassion and human love performed by their fellows in the form of theatre. The scenic image was a security valve and helped man understand the paradoxes of life. It contributed to giving men and man understand the paradoxes of life. It contributed to giving men and women a better knowledge of themselves and provided them with a possibility of looking objectively upon their lives.

Each country, each nation, each people have found their own scenic images. To be aware and to be proud of the identity of one's own people is essential for the spiritual well-being of man. Only by feeling himself part of an organic whole can man reach the necessary harmony between his private self and the surrounding world. Cultural identity expressed through art, which theatre art is an integral part, is the cornerstone of humanity's spiritual heritage.

A theatrical culture, however, cannot develop to the full without influences from other cultures. Only through the fertilizing exchange of knowledge and practice can it flourish and reach its true potential. To provide the possibilities for such exchange is the aim of the International Theatre Institute, ITI, working in close collaboration with UNESCO. The ITI is not commercial, it is an artistic community guided by the conviction that peaceful communication between theatre people of all countries signifies human progress, and affords a protection against attitudes of hostility.

It is one of the absurdities of the world today that at the moment of danger and serious threat to all humanity, idealistic, non-profit and non-violent international co-operation such as the ITI promotes is severely curtailed by lack of financial resources. Since most governments do not seem to fully understand the importance of such work, theatre artists are now appealing to their audiences all over the world, inviting them to assist in reinforcing the ITI network as a pressure group for international cultural solidarity and for human spiritual progress.

The XIX<sup>th</sup> ITI Congress has given numerous examples of ITI actions, both desired and necessary, that cannot be implemented for financial reasons. Among these are: research in the field of indigenous theatre traditions, development of the theatre of ethnic minorities; supervision of the freedom of expression of theatre artists; promotion of experimentation in the field of music theatre; publication of a 20th century theatre encyclopedia; contemporary trends in the art of dancing in the seventies; furthering theatre development in developing countries; establishment of regional ITI bureaus in all continents.

Your help today will give us the possibility to improve the cultural conditions of tomorrow.