

## **International Theatre Institute ITI**

**World Organization for the Performing Arts**

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### **Mikhail Tsarev 1984**

I would like to express to you my most cordial greeting on this day of celebration for us all. World Theatre Day commemorates an ancient art, which is still very much alive. By its very nature, the art of drama possesses the ability to awaken and develop what is human in the man and to enhance his capacity to build a more beautiful and better life.

Nothing can equal our art in the power it has to act on our hearts and minds. Each evening we appear on stage to bring, each in his own language, words of truth and peace, of justice and of beauty, to thousands of spectators from every corner of our planet.

In the world we inhabit today, such action requires courage and responsibility.

We are aware that we are celebrating World Theatre Day at a time when there is much concern for the future of humanity; the nuclear threat has become greater in Europe and a military catastrophe could threaten universal peace.

Let us place all our efforts, our art, in the service of the struggle for peace, to bring the arms race to a halt, to reduce and then abolish nuclear weapons.

All those who work in the theatre in my country, and the Soviet people as a whole, aspire to this goal which has no higher or more noble equivalent.

Let us strengthen the faith of those who know that the fate of our planet rests in their hands. Let us use theatre with passion to establish the harmony between peoples that is created between the spectator and the actor.

An expression of beauty, and truly on the scale of man, theatre must surely be the art of communication. Let us be worthy of it, of the humanism that pervades it. The future of theatrical culture, of its place in our changing world, depends on it. The 20th Congress of the ITI made this appeal to all theatre people.

I know that you will understand my anxiety for the future of humanity and the fate of our art. I know also that thanks to our talent, to our energy, theatre will let its voice be heard, with its concern for man and its desire of peace, for the good of humanity and life on earth. With confidence in the future and my respects.