

PRESS RELEASE

IIM 2017 PRIZE FOR EDUCATIONAL TRANSMISSION



2017 being the year of the thirtieth anniversary of the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts de la Marionnette, the Institut International de la Marionnette wished to put emphasis on education by presenting the IIM Prize for Educational Transmission.

This prize honours a personality in the world of puppetry who strives or has strived to train young generations of puppeteer artists and to transmit his or her techniques and way of working by developing and implementing appropriate educational methods. It is awarded by an international jury composed of artists, scenic directors, academics and educators.

Great shadow theatre master Luc Amoros designed the trophy. It is a reproduction of the *Püberg* character, avatar of Punch and Karagöz, created by the artist over thirty years ago.

During a ceremony held through the patronage of Boris Ravignon, Mayor of Charleville-Mézières and President of the Ardenne Métropole, and Mr Raymond Weber, President of the Institut International de la Marionnette, on 22 September, 2017, this Prize was awarded to Hadas Ophrat.

HADAS OPHRAT (Israel)



Few artists can claim to have profoundly altered the landscape of modern puppetry on an international level. Even fewer are those capable of combining their artistic strength with an out-of-the-ordinary pedagogical vision: Hadas Ophrat is one of these. One year before ESNAM came into being in Charleville-Mézières, in 1986 Hadas Ophrat was able to provide Jerusalem with the first school to associate performing and visual arts. The School of Visual Theatre of Jerusalem is today a breeding ground for young protean talents recognized all over the world.

By awarding him with the IIM Prize for the IIM Prize for Educational Transmission today, the Institut International de la Marionnette wishes to pay tribute to a pioneer figure having set precedents in various manners by constantly supporting the emergence of young talent and new forms through the numerous institutions he has founded.

- Co-founder of the Train Theater in 1981
- Founder of the School of Visual Theater (1986), which he directed until 1993
- Founder and artistic director of the Jerusalem International Puppet Theater Festival (1986-1993)
- Founder of the Hazira - Performance Art Arena - in Jerusalem
- Founder of the Lewinsky Garden library for asylum seekers and migrant communities in Tel Aviv
- Founding President of UNIMA Israel (International Union of Puppets)

His career history illustrates the richness of this artistic personality and extraordinary thinker:

Hadas Ophrat studied literature and philosophy at Tel Aviv University (1972-1975). He then practiced Bunraku and Noh theatre in Osaka, Japan (1984-1986). He completed his graduate studies (MSc.) at the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, the Technion Institute of Technology, Haifa (2016). His field of research is artistic intervention as a tool for urban renewal.

He has directed, designed and realized dozens of artistic and theatrical works. His performances and installations have been shown at numerous artistic events, solo and group exhibitions of contemporary art in Israel and in Europe, including at the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris (1984), where he presented *Le siècle de Kafka*.

He was awarded the Israeli Minister of Culture's Artistic Excellence Award (2008) and the Israeli Performing Arts Award (2016).

Protean artist, polygraph, researcher and philosopher, he has also displayed his talent in several publications:

- two books of poetry: *Selected Poems* (1973) and *Threshold* (1976)
- three books on performative issues and the scenic arts: *Ever Never* (2004), *Conversations with a Puppet* – on contemporary puppetry (2008), *Too Much Reality* – on the art of performance (2012), a DVD of documented performances (2005)
- essays and catalogues of his major exhibitions



Jury for the Prize for Educational Transmission

Raymond WEBER, President of the Institut International de la Marionnette (France)

Marthe ADAM, Founder of the DESS in contemporary puppet theatre at the UQAM (Canada)

Patrick BOUTIGNY, THEMAA advocate / Association Latitude Marionnettes (France)

Dr Carole GUIDICELLI, Lecturer at the ENSAD - Maison Louis Jouvet, Montpellier (France)

Fabrizio MONTECCHI, Artistic Director of the Teatro Gioco Vita and Educator (Italy)

Irina NICULESCU, Scenic Director and Educator (USA)

Joëlle NOGUES, Artistic Director of Odradek-Compagnie Pupella-Noguès (France)

ALSO NOMINATED FOR THE PRIZE FOR EDUCATIONAL TRANSMISSION

MARTHE ADAM (Canada)

Founder of the DESS in contemporary puppet theatre at the UQAM (Canada)

For over 40 years Marthe ADAM has been an audacious educator and curious about all puppet traditions and every method she discovers for the transmission of knowledge and know-how, whether it be in India, Sri Lanka or Europe, or with Alain Recoing, Alain Le Bon, Jean-Loup Temporal and later with Josef Krofta.

In Quebec, she studied with Micheline Legendre and Félix Mirbt at a time when no training existed other than what was offered in workshops. She continued to get an education by performing in over forty shows taking on diverse kinds of technique. She has signed over twenty stage productions.

In the late 1970s, she conducted courses and workshops focused on puppeteering. In 1984, she enhanced the teaching curriculum of the school for higher education in theatre at the Université du Québec in Montreal with classes on object theatre, acting and performing with puppets, staging and interdisciplinary creation.

In 1991, she completed her Master's degree in theatre on a comparison between the work of the traditional puppeteer and that of the contemporary puppeteer.

In 2005 and in collaboration with professor Michel Fréchette, she created the DESS in puppet theatre at the Université du Québec in Montreal. This two-year Master's level course is the only one of its kind in Canada. She then developed an ambitious and demanding vision of training by inviting Canadian and international puppet theatre masters, including Fabrizio Montecchi, Frank Soehnle, Claire Heggen, Stephen Mottram, Irina Niculescu, Gavin Glover, Nicole Mossoux, André Laliberté, Duda Paiva and Yaël Rasooly. In 2014, she left her post at the school for higher education in theatre in Montreal. She currently designs stage machines for the Cirque du Soleil where she trains artists in the art of manipulation.

In addition, she is now preparing a book for publication on Canadian puppet theatre.

FRANÇOIS LAZARO (France)

Stage director, actor, author, educator

Artistic director of Clastic Théâtre and of the Laboratoire Clastic

Since the 1970s he has been developing work in theatrical creation utilizing dummies, mannequins, puppets, objects, materials and dolls: a theatre of the body for the character outside of oneself, the poetics of the living and the inert, entwined.

Parallel to creation and to being on tour, transmission of knowledge holds an important place in his approach. From 1996 to 2016, François Lazaro held a theatre practice workshop dedicated to puppet performance at the Institut d'Études Théâtrales de l'Université Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle and collaborated with the Université d'Artois. He was director of studies at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts de la Marionnette in Charleville-Mézières from 2001 to 2003. He collaborates with the INECAT (art and therapy). He teaches in France and abroad and regularly contributes to research work. Within his company, he created a laboratory for young creation that has today become a reference, the Laboratoire Clastic. He carries out mentored residencies for numerous students and young companies.

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