**Theatre Olympics roundup**

Spanning 31 days from 14 October to 13 November, the Wrocław 2016 Theatre Olympics had six sections:

* the **Main Section** (14 October – 13 November 2016) with 42 performances of 17 shows from Belgium, China, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Poland, Russia, USA and Italy, directed by Eugenio Barba, Peter Brook, Romeo Castellucci, Pippo Delbono, Jan Fabre, Valery Fokin, Heiner Goebbels, Liu Libin, Krystian Lupa, Eimuntas Nekrošius, Tadashi Suzuki, Theodoros Terzopoulos and Robert Wilson
* the **Grotowski Institute’s Programme** (15 October – 11 November) with 15 performances of 8 shows from Greece, Iran, Japan, Poland and Italy
* **Lower Silesian Theatre Platform** (15–19 October 2016) with 37 shows by companies representing dramatic theatre, musical, children’s theatre, movement, mime, classical forms and experimental theatre
* **More than Theatre** (22–27 October) with 12 performances of 6 shows from the Czech Republic, France, Germany and Poland
* **Dziady Recycling Festival** (27 October – 4 November) with 3 shows, 4 exhibitions, 2 ritual ceremonies, 12 films, 1 conformance, 4 discussions, 1 lecture, 1 concert and 7 remixes
* **Eastern Line** (7–13 November) with 21 performances of 11 shows from the Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, Poland, Slovakia and Serbia

The festival featured a total of 159 different events from 18 countries: 81 different theatre and performance works (137 performances), 7 remixes, 1 work demonstration, 19 public conversations, 7 discussions, 2 lectures, 4 concerts, 14 films, 2 ritual ceremonies, 1 installation, 7 exhibitions, 1 symposium, 1 seminar and 11 workshops. The Theatre Olympics hosted artists from Belgium, West Bengal, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, France, Greece, Haiti, Iran, Japan, Germany, Poland, Russia, USA, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey and Italy.

The motto of the 7th edition of Theatre Olympics were the words ‘The World as a Place of Truth’, a paraphrase of the title of Jerzy Grotowski’s speech *The World Should be a Place of Truth* given during a conference in Moscow in 1976. In his speech, Grotowski contended that ‘We enter the world to pass through it. We are tested by the world, and the world is a place of truth. In any case, the world should be a place of truth.’ He conjured an image of human beings engaging with the world and – through taking action, undergoing trials and experimenting – discovering the truth about themselves and the world. Such attitude, however, according to Grotowski, is not a given, but rather a task that everyone is faced with. In times of rapid change and clashing radical worldviews, it has the capacity of revealing the truth in both the corporal and the spiritual, in aesthetics and ethics, in the personal and the political. These and other ideas that drive the work of the artists invited to the Main Section of the Theatre Olympics were addressed in *The Truth and Nothing but the Truth* series which included talks in which directors spoke about their artistic credos, and conversations with researchers, co-creators and artists from Poland and abroad. Participants included Eugenio Barba, Romeo Castellucci, Pippo Delbono, Valery Fokin, Heiner Goebbels, Jarosław Fret, Krystian Lupa, Eimuntas Nekrošius, Tadashi Suzuki and Theodoros Terzopoulos. A publication is planned to sum up the series of conversations.

Theodoros Terzopoulos, who was a special guest in Wrocław where he presented two productions, *Prometheus Bound* and *Amor*, is the Chairman of the International Committee of Theatre Olympics. Jarosław Fret is the Artistic Director of the Wrocław 2016 Theatre Olympics. The Wrocław edition was organised by the Grotowski Institute as part of the European Capital of Culture Wrocław 2016.

Date: 15 November 2016

More information: www.theatreolympics2016.pl/en, en.grotowski-institute.art.pl