9TH THEATRE OLYMPICS

Owing to the global development of the system of information and communication, people everywhere can now feel and know closely about other than their own cultures. Compared with the olden times when people experienced everything on the spot and thus nurtured wisdom required for coexistence with other human beings, our world is permeated by something completely new, a change which enables us to know and understand things without actually ‘being there’. The change has been brought about by means of thorough exploitation of ‘non-animal’ energy (electricity, oil, nuclear power etc.) and is necessarily going to increase in the future.

It is, however, dangerous to trust this ‘non-animal’ energy too much, which claims to connect people with each other with maximum speed. For it can lead to the forgetting or weakening of the rich possibilities of ‘animal’ energy stored up in the bodies of human individuals. Human cultures have bloomed and borne fruits through the refined uses of ‘animal’ energy. It is precisely in this way that performing arts, such as theatre, dance, and opera, have become a heritage of humankind irreplaceable by such media as television or film.

The same applies to sports. Both performing arts and sports provide the ground for better understanding of and deeper caring for human beings by means of bringing people together to the very spot where they are taking place. No matter how enormous and necessary the system of communication by ‘non-animal’ energy may become for our actual life, it would be suicidal for humankind to forget or ignore the values embodied by performing arts and sports.

Needless to say, the way people train, refine, and enjoy the ‘animal’ energy varies from nation to nation, from place to place. But it is those very differences that preserve and assert the
cultural identities and raisons-d'être of each nation. The greater the amount of ‘non-animal’ energy, which tends to reduce our lives to uniformity, the greater the contribution which performing arts are expected to make to the quality of human life in the future. The significance of cultural projects in these technological days lies in the fact they help to make possible shared experiences of similarities and differences inherent in various nations.

It is the belief of the International Committee of the Theatre Olympics that, as we enter the 21st century, the powerful existence of performing arts must prove a sign of profound encouragement and hope for truly global communication.

Tadashi Suzuki
Artistic Director

OVERVIEW OF THE 9TH THEATRE OLYMPICS
Co-hosted by Japan and Russia

Japan Program
Artistic Director: Suzuki Tadashi
Hosting Sites:
Toga: TOGA ART PARK of Toyama Prefecture
Kurobe: Unazuki International Hall “Selene”
Maezawa Garden Amphitheatre (Open Air Stage)

August 23 (Fri) – September 23 (Mon), 2019

Russia Program
Artistic Director: Valery Fokin
Hosting Site: St. Petersburg

June – November, 2019
THEATRE OLYMPICS CHARTER

1. This entity shall be entitled *Theatre Olympics*, and sub-titled Crossing Millennia, which implies the cross-fertilization of the past with the future.

2. An international committee shall be formed. This committee is responsible for planning and management of all activities undertaken by Theatre Olympics.

   The members of the committee are:
   - Theodoros Terzopoulos (Chairman/Greece)
   - Nuria Espert (Spain)
   - Antunes Filho (Brazil)
   - Tony Harrison (England)
   - Yuri Lyubimov (Russia)
   - Heiner Müller (Germany)
   - Tadashi Suzuki (Japan)
   - Robert Wilson (USA)

3. The members of the committee shall not only be responsible for expressing opinions in the planning stages, but shall also work interactively, thus making this organization unique.

4. In principle the committee shall meet once a year.

5. Additional members of the committee, recommended by one of the existing members, must gain a two-thirds approval.

6. The committee shall be chaired by Theodoros Terzopoulos.

7. The administrative headquarters of Theatre Olympics shall be located in Athens, Greece.

8. The first several Theatre Olympics events shall be held, in principle, in the countries of the committee members. The committee member whose country hosts the Theatre Olympics event shall be responsible for its artistic direction. This host committee member shall plan the theme and programming for the Theatre Olympics event and submit his or her proposal to the committee for approval.
9. In each host country, a national committee shall be formed to meet that country's respective needs so that the success of the Theatre Olympics event is ensured. This national supportive committee shall consist of prominent figures in that country's cultural life.

10. An official logo shall be used in each of the Theatre Olympics' activities.

11. The content of the Theatre Olympics event:

   a. Every few years a Theatre Olympics event shall be held, presenting high level productions as well as symposiums and workshops.

   b. In addition to the above, ongoing projects including conception, production, and education programs shall be held in various places.

   c. The preservation and documentation of historical work in the performing arts. Although texts remain as writing, a system needs to be created by which directorial work and actual productions can be preserved.

   d. Creation of an international network of theatre artists.

   e. Training and encouragement of younger artists.

June 18, 1994 Athens, Greece
THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THEATRE OLYMPICS INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Theodoros Terzopoulos
1947~, Greece
A director, a representative of Attis Theatre, a founding member of the International Institute of the Mediterranean Theatre, and a former member of the board of the North Greece National Theatre. As a director, he has worked all over the world. As an artistic director, he worked at the Delphi International Theatre Festival and the Mediterranean Sea Theatre Festival. As a theatre organizer, he plays an important role in Europe.

Suzuki Tadashi
1939~, Japan
A director, founder of the Suzuki Company of Toga (SCOT). He organized the first international theatre festival in Japan, the Toga Festival, in 1982. He presented his works in many countries and co-produced many co-works with famous artists. His acting method, the Suzuki Method of Actor Training, has been adopted in many countries. His modern interpretation of classics such as Greek tragedies and his unique pieces based on his actor training have influenced theatrical artists around the world.

Robert Wilson
1941~, U.S.A
A director. His works, synthesizing performing arts, music, art, and architecture, have shocked world audiences. Working as a visual artist on one side, he also founded the Watermill Center, NY, to encourage international collaboration among artists. He leads the world with his art practice that embraces many different genres of art.

Nuria Espert
1935~, Spain
A renowned director and actress of contemporary Spanish theatre. She gained international fame as a director of Yerma, written by Federico Garcia Lorca. In addition to leading her own theatre company, she has worked in Spain’s National Theatre, directed operas, and presented her pieces in many different countries.
Antunes Filho
1929~, Brazil
He is a representative of Grupo di Teatro Macunaima. As a top Brazilian
director, he has been working in America and in European countries. In
addition to creating his own works in Brazil, he has also contributed to the
development of South American theatre by introducing foreign performing
arts and by educating younger artists.

Tony Harrison
1937~, UK
A prominent English poet, playwright, and director. Most of his plays
became a part of the repertory of England’s National Theatre. His many
works are about Greek tragedies, and he raises pointed criticism about the
role of classics in modern society.

Yuri Lyubimov
1917~2014, Russia
In 1964, he founded the Taganka Theatre in Moscow, now known as the
world’s center for contemporary theatre. As a permanent director, he
presented shocking pieces on the stage of the Taganka Theatre. He fled from
his country in 1984 and returned to the Taganka Theatre in 1989. During his
exiled period, he directed many plays and operas in Europe. His works have
greatly influenced to world theatre.

Heiner Muller
1929~1995, Germany
A playwright and director. He is described as one of the most important
playwrights of the 20th century. He worked as an artistic director at the
Berliner Ensemble, founded by Bertolt Brecht. Although his works based on
Greek tragedies and Shakespeare were banned in his own country East
Germany for a long time, they were still performed at many festivals over
the world.
## History of the Theatre Olympics

### 1st (1995)
- **Country**: Greece
- **City**: Delphi, Athens and Epidaurus
- **Theme**: Tragedy
- **Period**: August 19th - 27th, 1995
- **Artistic Director**: Theodoros Terzopoulos
- **No. of Participating Countries/Works**: 9 works from 7 countries

### 2nd (1999)
- **Country**: Japan
- **City**: Shizuoka
- **Theme**: Creating Hope
- **Period**: April 16th - June 13th, 1999
- **Artistic Director**: Suzuki Tadashi
- **No. of Participating Countries/Works**: 42 works from 20 countries

### 3rd (2001)
- **Country**: Russia
- **City**: Moscow
- **Theme**: Theatre for the People
- **Period**: April 21st - June 29th, 2001
- **Artistic Director**: Yuri Lyubimov
- **No. of Participating Countries/Works**: 97 works from 32 countries

### 4th (2006)
- **Country**: Turkey
- **City**: Istanbul
- **Theme**: Beyond the Borders
- **Period**: May 11th - June 6th, 2006
- **Artistic Director**: Theodoros Terzopoulos
- **No. of Participating Countries/Works**: 38 works from 13 countries
| 5th (2010) |  
|------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Country    | Korea                                            |
| City       | Seoul                                            |
| Theme      | Sarang: Love and Humanity                        |
| Period     | September 24th-November 7th, 2010                |
| Artistic Director | Choi Chy-rim                                    |
| No. of Participating Countries/Works | 48 works from 13 countries |

| 6th (2014) |  
|------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Country    | China                                            |
| City       | Beijing                                          |
| Theme      | Dream                                            |
| Period     | November 1st-December 25th, 2014                  |
| Artistic Director | Liu Libin                                    |
| No. of Participating Countries/Works | 46 works from 22 countries |

| 7th (2016) |  
|------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Country    | Poland                                           |
| City       | Wroclaw                                          |
| Theme      | The World as a Place for Truth                   |
| Period     | October 14th-November 13th, 2016                  |
| Artistic Director | Jaroslaw Fret                                   |
| No. of Participating Countries/Works | 86 works from 14 countries |

| 8th (2018) |  
|------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Country    | India                                            |
| City       | New Delhi and other 16 cities                    |
| Theme      | Flag of Friendship                               |
| Period     | February 17th-April 8th, 2018                    |
| Artistic Director | Ratan Thiyam                                   |
| No. of Participating Countries/Works | 465 works from 35 countries |