



Zentrum Bundesrepublik Deutschland des Internationalen Theaterinstituts e.V.

Federal Republic of Germany Centre of the ITI • Centre de la République fédérale d'Allemagne de l'IT

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Dear friends of the ITI, dear fellow artists worldwide,

The unprecedented human catastrophe we are experiencing today deprives many artists all around the world of their livelihoods. Many were working under precarious conditions before and now do even more so.

Nevertheless, we should remain courageous and confident.

Our strength is telling stories - stories of people, stories of great events that affect humanity as a whole, well really the whole world community.

Hopefully, at some point in the future the Corona virus itself will be history. It can then be turned into a story that artists are able to tell.

That is our strength. The arts have the power to restore in people the freedom that seemed temporarily lost. In the stranglehold of the virus, the world community has lost its freedom.

But: through the artists we can win this freedom back at some point - that is an important quality of art. Telling stories creates freedom, enables distance and detachment, and in the best case even makes it possible to laugh about the past horror. I wish us all this laughter.

I'm sure it will come. In the 14th century there was a great plague epidemic in Europe. At that time some people in Italy went to a country house outside the city of Florence. In this self-quarantine, despite mass deaths, they told each other stories for nights on end - especially reckless stories. Giovanni Boccaccio managed to create distance to death. His work "Decamerone" has since become a part of world literature, created due to the plague in Italy.

Art and theatre will survive through the power of telling stories.

Greetings on World Theatre Day!

Joachim Lux
President ITI Germany