

## **International Theatre Institute ITI**

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### **Richard Burton 1974**

"Hello, out there."

A simple phrase, which is the title of an American play by William Saroyan. A simple phrase which explains why theatre exists.

Theatre is created by those of us in who world that cannot subdue the impulse to say, 'Hello.'

Saroyan's play is about a conversation between a man in prison and a woman outside. Like that conversation, theatre is a process imprisoned by time which speaks outward to people. No matter how avant-garde, strange or familiar an event may be, it has a brief life of its own. Kings and workers, colonels and shopkeepers can watch one play together because it talks to all of them - for a little while.

Theatre is that moment in our lives when we, the entertainers are in charge of truth. It is truth disguised by a glittering cloak or a false beard.

I am an actor. Actors wear their mask in service of this hidden truth.

Throughout the world, whether it is a film for 50 million people, or a play for 50 people, all of the art and craft of theatre is to one purpose:

"Hello, out there."