

International Theatre Institute ITI

World Organization for the Performing Arts

UNESCO, 1 Rue Miollis, FR-75732 Paris Cedex 15

info@iti-worldwide.org / www.iti-worldwide.org



Helene Weigel 1967

The theatre and its sister arts cannot aim high enough in their responsibility towards society. Our effectiveness is great, and transcends national boundaries. We invite people to our theatre to present to them an image of reality in an entertaining, wise and agreeable form, thus enabling them to recognize reality. We, the people of the theatre, try with our work to make our planet at last fit to live: and that still means above all, that we must create a theatre for a peaceful present and a friendly future, in which man is a helpmate to man. In 1967 we send this message to all the theatres in the world. It demands a decision for an art for which Brecht envisaged the following alternatives:

"Art too must make a decision in this era of decisions. It can become the instrument of the few who play the part of the fates, and who demand a belief which must be supremely bind, or it can align itself with the multitudes and lay their destiny in their own hands. Art can deliver up mankind to intoxication, illusions and miracles. Art can increase ignorance, or it can increase knowledge. Art can appeal to the forces which show their strength in destruction; or to the forces which show their strength by helping."