

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



Amadou Mahtar M'Bow 1983

Theatre is one of the oldest forms of art that men have practiced; it is also one that has reflected most intimately the evolution of ideas in most societies, the cries of their conscience and the sensibility of their heart.

In the same way as a plant that takes root in the soil, theatre only lives in the public and for its public. It is an art more than any other of presence, of contact, of direct communication. This immediate link between the creator, the actor and the spectator is the privilege, but also the fragility of theatre at a time when new modes of expression are emerging and different forms of entertainment, such as cinema and television, enter into competition. It is therefore necessary that all be done to safeguard the specific vocation of theatre by renewing its means of action and by bringing its languages up-to-date.

In all continents, men of the theatre are confronted with the same demand to show their spirit of inventiveness and to coordinate their talents to create new theatre forms through which they may translate the doubts and the hopes, the sorrows and the joys of men and women in the present time.

In an era where the interdependence of our destinies is constantly increasing, the solidarity of the nations of the world becomes one of the conditions of survival of the human race. In their quest for peace, justice and brotherhood, men try to mobilize all means available to contribute to understanding and mutual appreciation of different people and different cultures.

In this respect theatre occupies a privileged role; it is the place where the most intimate harmony is to be found between the values which inspire the creators and those in which the different publics the world over recognize themselves. That is why UNESCO offers and will continue to offer to all those who work in and for the theatre its most active and warmest support.