

International Theatre Institute ITI

World Organization for the Performing Arts

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Dmitry Shostakovich 1970

On this 9th World Theatre Day I address those who love art and feel responsible for its future.

In our time, people's artistic tastes and requirements have grown immensely and have become more varied. And we, the artistic intelligentsia, must do our utmost to satisfy man's thirst for knowledge and his aspiration for the beautiful.

The meaning of life and the mission of an artist is precisely to give joy, to enrich people spiritually and to awaken higher sentiments in them.

The humanistic principles of moral and lofty ethics, peace and friendship among nations must be realistically implemented on theatre stages of our planet, and to achieve this we need these ideas and principles to become an innermost requirement and essence of the artists themselves.

The 20th century has brought nearer a radiant future, and much depends on us-the artistic intelligentsia of the world-to accelerate the march of times.