

# THE “INSTITUT DEL TEATRE”



THE «INSTITUT DEL TEATRE» IN BARCELONA.

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DURING ITS EIGHTY YEARS OF HISTORY, THE INSTITUT DEL TEATRE HAS BECOME ONE OF CATALAN DRAMA'S FINEST INSTITUTIONS. TEACHING HAS ALWAYS BEEN AT THE HEART OF ITS ACTIVITIES, WITH CLASSES DISTRIBUTED BETWEEN THE SCHOOL OF DRAMATIC ART AND THE SCHOOL OF DANCE AND CHOREOGRAPHY. THE INSTITUTE ALSO CARRIES OUT OTHER ACTIVITIES THROUGH ITS RESEARCH CENTRE AND ITS IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS SERVICE.

JOAN CASTELLS THEATRICAL DIRECTOR AND LECTURER AT THE INSTITUT DEL TEATRE



VÍCTOR O ELS NENS AL PODER BY ROGER VITRAC. PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP, 1993.

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**T**he Barcelona Corporation's Institut del Teatre is a training college, research centre and promoter of the performing arts in Catalonia. Created in 1913 by the playwright and theatrical director Adrià Gual, during its eighty years of history it has become one of Catalan drama's finest institutions. Although it has delegations in the towns of Terrassa and Vic, its headquarters are based in the city of Barcelona, where it has brought together many of the best professionals in

the various fields of the performing arts. The objectives of the Institut del Teatre are to offer a high level of teaching to young people interested in acting and dancing, provide a repository for documents concerning Catalan theatrical events, publicize all aspects of the world of the stage and act as a link with the performing arts all over the world and especially in Europe.

*Teaching activity*

Throughout its existence teaching has

been at the heart of the activities of the Institut del Teatre, which is now recognized as the official college of dramatic art and dance in Catalonia. As laid down in the recent Law of the Educational System (3-10-1990), its courses lead to a college qualification homologated throughout Spain and to all effects the equivalent of a university degree.

The courses at the Institut del Teatre are divided between two departments. The Escola d'Art Dramàtic is responsi-





POST TERTIUM DIEM. PUPPET WORKSHOP, 1992.

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ble for the training of future professionals and researchers in different fields of the theatre, and pupils can specialize in one of three fields: acting, stage directing and scenography. The school offers a total of 196 places for the four years the courses normally last. As well as these specialities, students can perfect a variety of techniques through a system of optional subjects: voice, singing, writing for the theatre, mime, puppets, etc.

The Escola de Dansa i Coreografia teaches dance at two levels. One provides professional training for dancers in the specialities of Classical Dance, Contemporary Dance and Spanish Dance. This level offers seven-year courses for a total of 212 students. In the future, there will be a second level devoted to advanced courses in choreography and the teaching of dance.

As well as its official syllabus, the Institut del Teatre complements its teaching work with a series of activities such as short courses, seminars, lectures, etc., directed both at students and at graduates and professionals. Of particular interest is the programme of courses providing further training for active profes-

sionals in the different modern techniques in each field. One aspect of this work are the International Summer Courses directed at students and young professionals in the performing arts from all over the world and organised with the help of Catalan companies that have made a name for themselves on an international level: **Joglars, Comediants, La Fura dels Baus**, etc. Well over

a hundred professionals are involved in these activities.

#### *The Centre for Investigation, Documentation and Diffusion*

The Institut del Teatre plays an active role in the Catalan theatre world through its publications, research programmes, dissemination activities, etc. In this way it carries out the functions which historically, and since 1913, it has always assumed. For this reason the structure of the Institut del Teatre is complemented with the Centre for Investigation, Documentation and Diffusion. This centre is housed in the Palau Güell, in Barcelona, an exceptional building by Gaudí, and is centred around the public reference library, which is the third in Europe in its speciality. It contains more than 120,000 works, including 5,000 manuscripts, and is visited by specialists from all over the world, with a total of more than 3,000 consultations. The library also contains an archive with an extensive collection of documents and other items: engravings, posters, designs for costumes, programmes, correspondence, toy theatres, masks, etc., which







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L'HORA DE LES NOIES BY LILIAN HELMAN, PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP, 1992.

make it the most important source for the historiography of the Catalan theatre.

As regards the diffusion of the performing arts the Institut del Teatre plays a leading role in a number of activities. As well as organising regular exhibitions, it holds a biennial International Puppet Festival; Study Sessions on Theatre Translation; a Symposium on the History of the Theatre in collaboration with the University of Barcelona; as an organisation dependent on the Barcelona Corporation it has the job of organising the National Theatre and Dance Awards in collaboration with the Department of Culture of the Generalitat de Catalunya, and since 1991 it has been responsible for the artistic direction of the International Theatre Festival of Sitges, the oldest-established festival of its kind in Spain.

But as regards diffusion the Publications Service is of special importance, publishing more than twenty titles a year, which help to make up for the shortage in books on the theatre in Catalan reflecting on the different fields of learning in the performing arts. These publications are grouped in seven

collections and cover everything from theoretical texts to plays by classical and contemporary authors.

The Institut del Teatre has two halls for staging productions before the public; for one part of the year they function as theatres open to the city with a professional programme, and for another part of the year they are used for the public presentation of work connected with



the college's teaching activity, especially the students' degree shows.

#### *International presence*

The Institut del Teatre has important links with international organisations. At present it is a member of SIBMAS (Société Internationale des Bibliothèques et des Musées des Arts du Spectacle), FIRT (Federación Internacional para la Recherche Theatrale), UNIMA (Unión Internacional de la Marionette), WECT (World Encyclopaedia of Contemporary Theatre) and ITI (International Theatre Institute).

The Institut del Teatre is also a member of the European Network of Theatre Documentation Centres, formed in September 1989 on the occasion of the European encounter of theatre documentation centres. The object of the network is to collect and make available to professionals as much information as possible on the theatre both in Europe and around the world.

In the field of dance an agreement has been drawn up between the Barcelona Corporation and the Vaganova School in Saint Petersburg, allowing student exchanges between the two schools. ■