

NORDISK TEATERLABORATORIUM

Odin Teatret ■ Odin Teatret Film ■ Odin Teatrets Forlag

ISTA, International School of Theatre Anthropology ■ CTLS, Centre for Theatre Laboratory Studies

The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland

Pan Adam Halamski

Richelius Allé 12

2900 Hellerup

Denmark



Holstebro 23.9.2009

Dear Pan Halamski

I want to thank Pan Minister Radoslaw Sikorski and you for the honour you bestow on me by awarding me the Diploma for an outstanding contribution to the promotion of Poland in the World. I am touched and proud. But also surprised because it is I who should thank your country and its people for what I have become. Therefore I am profoundly sorry not to be able to be present on 22 October at Belweder in Warsaw since I will be in Portugal for reasons of work.

In the period 1961-64 I did my theatrical apprenticeship in your country, and for me these were years of extraordinary artistic, professional and human discovery. I feel that my theatrical roots are Polish and several theatre scholars have emphasised this in describing the activity of my Odin Teatret. A forty-year-long friendship and collaboration bound me to Jerzy Grotowski whom I met when he was a young anonymous theatre director in Opole leading the Teatr 13 Rzedów together with Ludwik Flaszen. My theatre has regularly performed in many Polish towns and established exchanges and lasting links with Polish artists, theatres and various institutions. The latest collaboration involves the Grotowski Institute in Wroclaw and TARF from Malta University. It concerns the creation of ICARUS PUBLISHING ENTERPRISE, an international publishing house that edits and presents in English experiences and research connected with theatre as a laboratory.

As you can see, my ties with Polish culture and creative milieu are ongoing. I am grateful to my Polish friends who gave me so much, and I hope that also in future I may give back all that which I received.

Once again, please thank Pan Minister Sikorski. To you my serdeczne pozdrowienia.

Sincerely Yours

Eugenio Barba