



**International Theatre Summer School within the project
“Stars and acrobats-forms of theatre between Turkey and the EU”**

Summer School, Kultur University, Istanbul, Turkey, 23 June -15 July 2012

Trainer Profiles

Fabio Tolledi-Summer School Artistic Director

Born in Italy (1962). Director, playwright, poet and sociologist (University of Salento), director of Astragali Teatro since 1991. He has conducted training and coordinated joint theatre collaborations at national and trans-national level. He has led international theatre workshops and residencies in the Mediterranean area and in European countries (Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Kosovo, Albania, Greece, Cyprus, Malta, France, Spain), as artistic director and coordinator in many trans-national projects. He is the President of the Italian Centre of ITI and Vice-President of the Cultural Identity and Development Committee of ITI. His publications on theatre are edited in Italy and abroad.

Sema Kuray- Artistic Director’s Assistant

Born in Turkey. She graduated from Pierre Loti High-school in Istanbul with an International Baccalaureate. She graduated in acting at the Cours Florent – one of the most eminent cinema and theatre schools in France. She has interpreted various roles in theatre and cinema both in Turkey and Europe.

Refik Erduran

Born in Turkey (1928). Playwright, theatre professor, journalist, writer recognized in the worldwide cultural field. He works also for cinema and TV. He has won several national and international prizes for his activity of playwright. His work is mentioned in several World Encyclopaedias of performing arts. Since many years he directs the Turkish Centre of the International Theatre Institute in Istanbul, developing international projects and enhancing the promotion of national cultural activities.

Ayşe Emel Mesci

Born in Turkey. Director, actress. After receiving ballet and theatre education in the Istanbul Municipal Conservatoire, she was accepted at the Istanbul Municipal Theatre as a professional actress. In 1980 she left Turkey, to work in Europe, where she directed plays in France, the Netherlands and Germany. As an actress she also worked in several plays in Turkey and Europe. She is currently a tenured stage director of the Ankara State Theatre. She has been a regular contributor to the Culture and Arts section of the daily *Cumhuriyet* newspaper since 1999. Her book *Dream Time in Theatre* was published in 2006.

Zafer Kayaokay

Born in Turkey (1960). Director. He completed his theatrical studies at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London. He has directed many plays in Adana, Izmir, Bursa and Ankara for the State Theatre. He has also directed and acted in several plays in private theatres in Turkey. Among his teaching experience count Ankara Hacettepe University, Diyarbakır Dicle University, Konya Selçuk University, Antalya Akdeniz University, Isparta Süleyman Demirel University and Istanbul Kültür University. He is also the founder and art director at the Antalya National Theatre.

Nedim Saban

Born in Turkey (1967). Director, he began his path in the culture sector working as journalist, blogger, writer and art critic. He has also worked as producer for sitcoms and consultant for TV8, participating in several talk-shows on radio and TV. In the field of theatre he is founder of Tiyatrokare Theatre and has directed several theatre plays from modern and classic repertoire. He has been director of different organizations such as the Municipal Theatre of İstanbul and the Children's Theatre of Maine. He has also directed plays for children.

Emin Şenyar

Born in Turkey (1961). Karagöz master. He worked as an assistant to Metin Özlen, who was recognized as the best Karagöz artist by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism in 1974, and learned the art of Karagöz from the master. He has performed Karagöz plays all around Turkey and abroad, and has given courses and seminars in many universities and high schools. He has also performed Karagöz on television, in feature films and television advertisements. He has taken part in the Youth Days of the İstanbul City Theatre, the Berlin Turkish Day's Festival, the Shadow Plays Festival in Patras (Greece) and he has been present in many festivals in European countries.

Victor Jacono

Born in Malta (1978). Performer, researcher. He is completing his Ph.D. in theatre studies at the University of Rome, with a thesis on knowledge processes and action, relating the performer's pedagogy, complexity theories and cognitive neuroscience. A member of the joint European Master in the Science of Performative Creativity academic team since 2007, he has trained with the Maltese theatre scholar and director-pedagogue John J. Schranz, working with Groups for Human Encounters as performer and pedagogue. Participating in various international academic and performance projects, he has addressed conferences, seminars and held workshops in performer pedagogy.

Astragali Teatro's staff**Lenia Gadaleta**

Born in Italy (1973). Actress, trainer. Since 1992 she works at Astràgali Teatro as an actress, trainer and children educator in art and theatre. As theatre expert she has deepened the art of Qi Gong with the Chinese master Li Xiao Ming, combining Qi Gong techniques with actor practices. She has directed many laboratorial projects at national and transnational level and participates at international meetings and encounters with masters of theatre of the Euro-Mediterranean area.

Serena Stifani

Born in Italy (1981). Actress, trainer. Since 1999 she works at Astràgali Teatro as an actress and trainer. She is an expert in pre-acrobatics and bio-mechanic techniques. She has conducted several international workshops with actors and actresses from different Euro-Mediterranean countries. She has also worked with experts coming from India and Sri Lanka. She is responsible for the editing activities of Astràgali Teatro.

Antonio Palumbo

Born in Italy (1980). Actor, trainer, poet. He has been part of the team of Astràgali Teatro since 2001. He is an expert in martial arts, in particular Ju Jitsu techniques, conjugating them with the art of the actor. He is a trainer in several international theatre workshops and an actor in all Astràgali performances and international co-productions with Euro-Mediterranean performers.

Gaetano Fianza

Born in Italy (1980). Actor, trainer, musician. Specialized in music studies, he is skilled in musical education applied to theatre. He has developed many workshops with children and young people to sensitize on the unconventional use of music combined with theatre work. Since 2005 he works at Astràgali Teatro investigating the role of music in theatre, mixing different traditions of the Euro-Mediterranean area.