

About Odin Teatret Archives

Odin Teatret Archives (OTA) were established in 2008 to safeguard the traces of Odin Teatret's life: various documents such as letters, photos, films, books, notes, diaries, newspaper cuttings, sound and video recordings. They preserve, classify and make accessible the materials produced during almost fifty years of activity.

These documents are **useful** since they focus on technical devices and creative strategies. They explain how individual paths and the group's collective path have unfolded through time, and how these paths have continually changed direction, yet retaining an inner coherence.

These documents are **important** because they reflect the life of a wider theatre world, and not just of a single theatre group. Odin Teatret has not only produced performances and films. It was a pioneer in elaborating an unorthodox apprenticeship - the training - and in studying the performers' technique in classical Asian theatres. The Odin organised practical and theoretical seminars and meetings with innovative practices, gave life to publishing houses with books and magazines, fashioned new genres such as the work demonstrations and the "barthers". It has invented strategies for survival and the making of alliances, new procedures to prepare actors with their own autonomous dramaturgy, alternative collaborative networks, atypical ways of thinking the theatre and the history of the theatre. Odin Teatret discovered new meeting points and ties with its spectators and found them in places distant from theatre buildings. It has favoured comparative studies and exchanges on the embodied knowledge of western and oriental actors within a "Eurasian" framework. From all these activities and its subsequent web of relationships, a theatrical environment grew up in the course of almost half a century. Odin Teatret is not just a model or a relevant point of reference for this environment. It is a catalyst.

OTA's purpose is to order and make decipherable all the preserved documents from which traces of this world emerge. This is the fundamental memory that must be transmitted, exorcising something more serious than forgetfulness: inaccurate memory. Many people have written essays and books about Odin Teatret and its net of connections and bonds. In order for these writings to acquire their full value, the coagulation of an **unprogrammed memory** is needed, one which is not smooth and shaped by interpretative memories. Documents do not have the completeness of a book. They share to some extent the mobility and the casualness of life, and they safeguard the particular energy of the unintentional memory, not yet "put into form". It is a kind of energy which springs from unexpected questions, born from the contradictory reality of the facts and not from interpretation.

Odin Teatret Archives were established by Francesca Romana Rietti, Ph.D. responsible for the archives and the library and Mirella Schino, University Professor general coordinator. The team is composed by: Claudio Coloberti, M.A., responsible for Odin Teatret Film (film maker, editor, restorer); Lluís Masgrau University Professor PH.D. in history of art (graduate course in theatre) at Barcelona university, and professor at Institut del Teatre (theatre college of Barcelona), responsible for Eugenio Barba's bibliography; Francesca Romana Rietti, Ph.D., responsible for the archives; Valentina Tibaldi, M.A., OTA

site manager, project manager, photo archiving and Chiara Crupi, Ph.D., film maker, editor, videodesigner (Odin Teatret Film).

The OTA also benefit from the work of a regular group of collaborators: Paula Isiegas M.A., Pierangelo Pompa M.A., Lucia Repašská M.A., Gabriella Sacco M.A. and Ana Woolf M.A.

It began with the creation of a Fonds Barba, including the materials kept personally by Eugenio Barba. Later followed a Fonds Odin, a Fonds Iben Nagel Rasmussen, and a Fonds Cristina Wistari Formaggia, as well as a data base for photos and the classification of all video materials.

A particular feature of Odin Teatret Archives is to be a **living archives**. On the one hand it systemises and makes available documents gathered during Odin Teatret's almost fifty years of activity as a theatre laboratory; and on the other it continues to conceive, generate, produce and compare new and old documents in a milieu which attracts young scholars and experienced historians, students, theoreticians and practitioners.

Among the current projects are the recording of "oral sources" about the actors' training and several examples of theatre in the community.