

## Biographies of Mentors and Presenters

### Atelier Mentors

#### Hugo De Greef

*General Director of Flagey Art Centre and Former Secretary General of EFA, Belgium*



Hugo De Greef is the General Director of Flagey Art Center (since 2007). Before assuming this post, De Greef was the Secretary General of the European Festivals Association EFA (2004-2008). These are the latest positions held by De Greef in what has been a distinguished career in the cultural sector.

To mention just a few highlights, he was the Founder and Director (1977-1997) of Kaaithheater (Brussels), a Co-Founder of IETM (Informal European Theatre Meeting), Co-Founder and Director of the Felix Meritis Foundation (Amsterdam),

as well as the Flemish Theatre monthly magazine Etcetera, the international publication *Theaterschrift* and the Festival of the Philosophy (Brussels), he was a Co-Founder of the organisation Vlaamse Theater Circuit (VTC) and its successor, the Vlaams Theater Instituut, a founding member and Vice-President of the Vereniging van Directies uit de Podiumkunsten (VDP ; Association of directors of the performing arts) as well as a founding member and administrator of the Vereniging Internationaal Cultureel Beleid (VICB) in Amsterdam and of the Theaterfestival. Furthermore, De Greef was the Artistic Advisor with the Festival of Flanders in 1998/1999, for two cultural capitals of Europe he was the Art Director for Brussels 2000 (January-May 1998) and the Intendant for Brugge 2002 (1998-2003).

Since January 2003, he has also been the President of PARTS, a dance school in Brussels founded by Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker.

[www.flagey.be](http://www.flagey.be)

#### Bernard Faivre d'Arcier

*Former Director, Avignon Festival and Chairman, Les Biennales de Lyon, France*



Bernard Faivre d'Arcier graduated from the Hautes Etudes Commerciales, the Sorbonne (Department of Literature), the Institute of Political Science and the National School of Administration in Paris.

From 1972 he is the head of the Cultural Development Department at the Ministry of Culture of France. He is the plenipotentiary of the Director of the National Audiovisual Institute, the plenipotentiary of the President of the National Centre of

Cinematography, the Director of the Avignon Festival (1979-1984 and 1993-2003), the Cultural Advisor of the Prime Minister of France (1984-1986), the founder and president of LA SEPT, the French subdivision of the Culture Channel ARTE, the plenipotentiary of the President of the National Assembly (1989), the organizer of events celebrating the bicentennial of the National Assembly (1989), the International consultant of the Houston, Rome and Tokyo festivals, President of the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture (UNESCO), Head of the Theatre Department at the Ministry of Culture of France (1989-1992), the Head of the National Theatre Centre (1993-1998), the founder of the European Theatre Network Theorem, the Head Commissioner of the Season of Hungarian Culture (2001, Magyart) and the Season of Polish culture (2003, Nova Polska) in France, Cultural consultant (BFA-Conseil) and Chairman of "Les Biennales de Lyon" (visual arts and dance) and "Metz en scène" (musical venue).

## Rose Fenton

*International Producer and Advisor, Co-Founder London International Festival of Theatre, United Kingdom*



Rose Fenton is an independent arts producer and advisor.

In 1980 Rose co-founded the London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT) with Lucy Neal, and was its Co-Director until 2005, growing LIFT from a turnover of £100,000 in 1981 to £2.5 million in 2005, through a range of public, private and international partnerships. LIFT was a biennial summer festival, producing, presenting and commissioning artists from around the world; exploring the international within London; forging connections between artists and Londoners across the city;

and between London and the world. In the 90's LIFT also pioneered a number of groundbreaking, long-term learning programmes involving artists, young people, educationalists and individuals from the business, public and voluntary sectors.

Since leaving LIFT in 2005 Rose has continued to work with artists and arts organizations internationally, developing and facilitating projects across Europe and the Middle East, including FIT - Festivals in Transition - an initiative by eight Festivals to develop the role of international theatre festivals within the cultural landscape of an evolving Europe.

Rose's recent arts policy advisory work includes a regional touring report for the Arts Council, East Midland and an Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy for the London Olympic Park post 2012.

Rose is on the boards of several arts organisations including Dance Umbrella, Eurowaves, Moti Roti, and Tipping Point, a project that brings together scientists and artists internationally in responding to the challenges of climate change. She is a graduate of the civic leadership programme, Common Purpose, and has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate from De Montfort University and an Honorary Fellowship from Dartington College of Arts. In 2005 Rose Fenton was awarded an OBE for Services to Drama.

[www.liftfest.org.uk](http://www.liftfest.org.uk)

## Nele Hertling

*Member of the strategy group of "A Soul for Europe", Germany*



Degree in German Philology and Theatre.

1963-1988 Research Associate at the Academy of Arts in Berlin (West). Artistic director of "Berlin - Cultural Capital of Europe, 1988". 1989-2003 Director of the Hebbel Theatre in Berlin, artistic director of the "Theater der Welt" festival (1999). 2003-2007 Head of the DAAD's Artists-in-Berlin programme. Since 2006, she has been Vice-President of the Academy of Arts.

[www.berlinerkonferenz.eu](http://www.berlinerkonferenz.eu)

## Atelier Presenters

### Robyn Archer

*Singer, Writer, Director, Artistic Director of Light In Winter Festival, Australia*



Robyn Archer is a singer, writer, director, artistic director and arts advocate. Her cabaret "Que-reste t'il" is at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival June 2009. Her play Architektin premiered in Adelaide last September and has interest in Australia/USA. She comes to Varna from Pittsburgh where she directed a Brecht cabaret she devised for the graduating class of Carnegie Mellon School of Drama.

Robyn is Artistic Director of the annual Light in Winter, which she created for Melbourne's Federation Square, mentor to Mildura Arts (in a remote Australian region), and is developing new festivals for Perth and Canberra. She is in global demand as a speaker – most recently New York January 2009, March 3rd the 10th Manning Clark Lecture at the Australian National Library (broadcast nationally), in May at the new Democracy Gallery (Canberra) and Sydney Writers' Festival, and prior to 2009 in Vancouver, London, Zurich, Prague, Seoul etc and throughout Australia.

A year ago Robyn was juror on the inaugural Danses Caribes, Havana, at the invitation of the French Government, and participant in the Australian Prime Minister's 2020 summit. Robyn has been Artistic Director of The National Festival of Australian Theatre, Adelaide and Melbourne Festivals, Ten Days on the Island (which she created for Tasmania) and for two years Liverpool European Capital of Culture.

Robyn is patron: Australian Art Orchestra, Brink Productions, Australian Script Centre, Arts Law Society, Institute of Postcolonial Studies and the Women's International Development Agency. She is Officer of the Order of Australia, Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France), Officer of the Order of the Crown (Belgium) and holds Honorary Degrees from Flinders and Sydney Universities.

**Contact information:** Full career details, photo gallery and music room can be found at the depArcher lounge [www.robynarcher.com.au](http://www.robynarcher.com.au).

### Darko Brlek

*EFA President and Managing and Artistic Director, Ljubljana Festival*



Artistic and Managing director of the Ljubljana Festival Darko Brlek graduated from the Ljubljana Music Academy in Slovenia and continued his studies at Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst Graz in Austria.

He was the first clarinetist of the Ljubljana Opera Orchestra, where he played for six years, and subsequently became general director of the Ljubljana Opera House (Slovenia). As a guest professor he taught at the Ljubljana Music Academy. In 1992 he became artistic director of the Ljubljana Festival and in 1995 he took over the managing of the Festival as well. In this time the Ljubljana Festival more than

doubled the number of performances and visitors. He enriched the Festival programme with several new concert cycles and other projects (musical workshops, artistic community).

In January 2000, the Ljubljana Festival took over the management of the Ljubljana castle - one of the most popular tourist attractions in Slovenia. Darko Brlek is very involved in its renovation and preparing the proper cultural programme at the Castle.

He is founder and first president of Cultural Chamber of Slovenia; currently he is the president of its Assembly. He founded Association of Slovenian Festivals. Between 1997 and 2005 he was a vice president of the European Festivals Association and in October 2005 he took the presidency of this distinguished

organisation combining more than 100 quality festivals and 11 national festivals associations in 38 European and non-European countries.

As a solo clarinetist he performs with various chamber ensembles and he is a founder and a member of the Trio Luwigana. As a solo clarinetist he has performed throughout Europe, United States, Mexico and Japan. As a musician he won several awards, among them are the Betteto Award (given by Society of Slovenian Musicians) and Župančič award, given by the City of Ljubljana for special cultural achievements.

**Contact information:** [www.ljubljanafestival.si](http://www.ljubljanafestival.si)

## Ágnes Havas

*Founder and General Director, Opera Competition and Festival with Mezzo Television, Hungary*

Ágnes Havas obtained her M.A. degree in English and French Literature at the Eötvös Lóránt University in 1992. Later she continued her studies in Sweden. After returning to Hungary, Ágnes Havas worked for the International Affairs Editorial at the Hungarian News Agency MTI, as well as for the Interconcert Art Agency. Ágnes Havas then became an associate of the French Institute in Budapest, where she worked for almost a decade as the initiator and organizer of music events. She founded her own producer company in 2003 with the aim of developing independent opera and theatre productions as well as co-productions.

Ágnes Havas' intention is to find collaborative partners for our theatres and opera houses in Europe as well as overseas; to give birth to new productions and to ensure that the reputation of these productions, as well as the reputation of the producing institutes and the participating creative artists reaches the international the national theatre and opera scene.

The production company, despite its early age of five years, already takes pride in its five own opera productions. Out of the five performances which were developed as international co-productions, two were fully financed by Armel.

Each of Armel's productions is characterized by a unique value and – as the feedbacks we have received thus far suggest – prestige: from contemporary Hungarian productions (Le Balcon by Péter Eötvös), to traditional grand operas (Attila by Verdi, Faust by Gounod, Bluebeard's Castle by Béla Bartók) to the first opening of a baroque composer, Charpentier's opera in the Palace of Versailles.

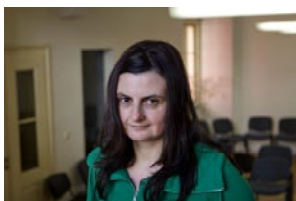
In addition to these significant art events, the first five years of Armel Production is featured by numerous other prestigious concerts, orchestra tours, local and foreign exhibitions and music recordings as well.

She founded the Opera Competition and Festival with Mezzo Television in 2007, of which she is General Director.

**Contact information:** [www.operacompetition.hu](http://www.operacompetition.hu)

## Tzvetelina Iossifova

*Co-Director, The Red House Centre for Culture and Debate, Bulgaria*



Founder and Director of the Red House Centre for Culture and Debate ([www.redhouse-sofia.org](http://www.redhouse-sofia.org)). Psychotherapist, Psychodrama-therapist, Director of and professor at the MA programme in Artistic Psycho-social Practices of the NBU ([www.nbu.bg](http://www.nbu.bg)).

Since April 2006 she is elected representative of the Family of NGOs working in the field of culture and arts in Bulgaria. Member of the Bulgarian Association

of Psychodrama and Group Therapy ([www.psychodrama-bg.org](http://www.psychodrama-bg.org)) and of the Bulgarian Association for psychotherapy (BAP) ([www.psychotherapy-bg.org](http://www.psychotherapy-bg.org)). Elected national delegate of BAP to the European Association for Psychotherapy ([www.europsyche.org](http://www.europsyche.org)).

Doctoral student in psychotherapy at Sigmund Freud University, Vienna (since 2007). specialization in psychotherapy at the same university. Studies theatre studies at NBU, holds a master degree in economics and management of industry from the University of National and World Economy. Visiting lecturer at National Academy for Fine Arts, National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts, Sofia University, etc. Founder and leader of various international and local initiatives as Transitional Spaces project, Art for Social Change, Summer Academy for Performing Arts – Sofia and others.

Publications in the field of arts, culture and psychotherapy.

**Contact information:** The Red House Centre for Culture & Debate, 15, Ljuben Karavelov Str., Sofia 1142, Bulgaria, [www.redhouse-sofia.org](http://www.redhouse-sofia.org)

## Gundega Laivina

*Programme Director, International Festivals of Contemporary Theatre Homo Novus, Latvia*



Although without particular educational background in the field, I have been working as a cultural manager for eight years now. Yet, I have received an excellent knowledge and experience during several international training programmes for arts managers I have completed. The main areas of my professional interest are music and performing arts and I am trying to be active in both as much as possible. I have also worked with film, visual arts and

literature. Now, for five years I am working at the New Theatre Institute of Latvia – small and flexible NGO which operates in the sphere of information, training, international collaboration and production. The “trademark” of the NTIL is the International Festival of Contemporary Theatre Homo Novus which we organise in Riga every second year. The creation of each festival’s conceptual framework and selection of its programme is one of my main responsibilities. Moreover, I am also doing fundraising, PR and marketing activities, administrative work, etc. For me, the artist and the spectator are the cornerstones of the successful theatre festival. I think that me as a festival’s artistic director should be responsible for the creation of a perfect base for the artist and the spectator to meet, for challenging their mutual communication via different encounters.

Social anthropology is another field of my interest. Currently, I am completing my MA in social anthropology. The theme of my MA thesis is also related to theatre, exploring use of anthropological methods in contemporary theatre and focusing particularly on two companies: New Riga Theatre and Rimini Protokoll.

**Contact information:** New Theatre Institute of Latvia - 11.novembra krastmala 35-201 - Riga, LV 1050 - Tel: +37167228477 - Mobile: +37126516665 - [gundega@theatre.lv](mailto:gundega@theatre.lv) - [www.theatre.lv](http://www.theatre.lv)

## Jonathan Mills

*Director and Chief Executive, Edinburgh International Festival, United Kingdom*



Jonathan Mills took up the post of Festival Director and Chief Executive of the Edinburgh International Festival in October 2006.

Until recently he was the Vice-Chancellor’s (Professorial) Fellow at the University of Melbourne, Director

of the Alfred Deakin Lectures and an Artistic Advisor to the new Melbourne Recital Centre & Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, which is scheduled to open in 2009.

One of Australia's most experienced festival directors his previous posts have included Artistic Director of the Melbourne International Arts Festival, the Melbourne Federation Festival, the Melbourne Millennium Eve celebrations and the Brisbane Biennial International Music Festival.

As a composer he is regularly commissioned in Australia and increasingly in Europe and the UK. His composition Sandakan Threnody for solo tenor, choir and orchestra won the Prix Italia in 2005.

He graduated in music from the University of Sydney where he specialised in composition with Peter Sculthorpe. In addition to his work as a composer Jonathan Mills holds a Masters in Architecture specialising in Acoustic Design.

**Contact information:** [director@eif.co.uk](mailto:director@eif.co.uk) - Tel: 0044 131 473 2032 - [www.eif.co.uk](http://www.eif.co.uk)

## Kristina Rady

*Programming Director, Sziget Festival, Hungary/France*

Director of programming of different festivals (A Scène ouverte, Les Vieilles Charrues, Festival Novart et Musiques de Nuit - France, Sziget Festival - Hungary) commissioner for contemporary music, co-creator of S/Z productions (multidisciplinary artistic projects).

**Contact information:** [www.szigetfestival.com](http://www.szigetfestival.com) and [www.s-sur-z.com](http://www.s-sur-z.com)

## Mark Russell

*Director, Under the Radar Festival at the Public Theatre, United States of America*



Mr. Russell works with the Public Theater in New York City as an Associate Artistic Director. Russell devised and produced the Under the Radar Theater Festival in collaboration with the Association of Performing Arts Presenters premiering at St. Ann's Warehouse in January 2005. The festival moved to the Public Theater in 2006. In 2007 UTR expanded to a two weekend format and it continues on as a core part of the Public Theater's season today. Russell was the great Artistic Director for the Portland (Oregon) Institute for Contemporary

Art - Time Based Arts Festival for 2006, 2007, and 2008.

Mr. Russell is currently pursuing writing, teaching and independent curatorial projects as well as his duties at the Public. From 1983-2004, Russell was the Executive Artistic Director of Performance Space 122 (P.S. 122).

**Contact information:** The Public Theater - 425 Lafayette Street - New York, NY 10003 - USA - Tel: 001 212-539-8761 - [mrussell@publictheater.org](mailto:mrussell@publictheater.org) - [www.publictheater.org](http://www.publictheater.org)

## Marie-Agnès Sevestre

Director, Festival des Francophonies en Limousin, France



1986-1996: General Secretary of Théâtre Ouvert (National Dramatic Centre of creation), of "Théâtrales" editions, and of the National Dramatic Centre of Corbeil-Essonnes ("Théâtre du Campagnol").

1996-2005: Director of "L'Hippodrome, scène nationale de Douai" (creation of "Les Météores Festival", international festival of French languages).

Director of Festival des Francophonies en Limousin since January 2006:

creations, co-productions with foreign and French companies, commissions of scripts, training programmes, generally created in collaboration with other events in Europe ("KunstenFestival des Arts" in Brussels, Avignon Festival), or beyond Europe ("Festival de Trans-Amériques" in Montréal, "Festival du Théâtre des Réalités" in Bamako, Yeleen Festival in Bobo-Dioulasso, "Journées théâtrales de Carthage" à Tunis...).

Regularly collaborates with French Culture Centres abroad. Participated successively to different lecture committee (Théâtrales, France Culture, Centre national du Livre, ETC Caraïbes). Currently leads the Lecture Committee of the "Francophonies en Limousin". Vice-president of SYNDEAC (main trade-union of director of cultural structures in France).

**Contact information:** [www.lesfrancophonies.com](http://www.lesfrancophonies.com)

## Galin Stoev

Stage Director, Company Fingerprint, Belgium/Bulgaria



Galin Stoev was born in 1969 in Varna, Bulgaria.

A graduate of the National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts in Sofia, he has worked since 1991 as a stage director and actor in his native country and in France, Germany, Russia, Argentina, Canada etc.

His directing credits for the National Theatre in Sofia include Yukio Mishima's *Madame de Sade*, Bertolt Brecht's *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, and Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* (winner of the Askeer award for Best Production, 2001).

Other projects include Ionesco's *Killing Game* for the Ljubljana Municipal Theatre in Slovenia; *Le Jeu de l'amour et du hasard* (after Marivaux) for the Varna Drama Theatre; *Antigone in Technoland* (after Sophocles) for the Macedonian National Theatre in Skopje, also staged as part of the 1999 Berlin Festspiele's "New Generation East".

In 2007 two of his productions - *Genese2* and *Oxygen* (both by Ivan Viripaev) were presented in the official selection of Avignon theatre festival.

Since 2003 Galin works in Brussels where he established his own company - Fingerprint. Since 2006 he collaborates with the troupe of Comédie-Française where he created *La Festa* by Spiro Scimone (2007), *Douce vengeance* by Hanokh Levin (2008) and *l'illusion comique* by Corneille (2008).

His latest work in Sofia - "Small play for children's room" by Yana Borissova won last year's Askeer in two categories - Best play and Best director. In May he opens *Levin-Sketch* based on H. Levin in BAFF theatre in Antwerp.

**Contact information:** [www.galinstoev.com](http://www.galinstoev.com)

Pictue from Anoeck Luyten

## Tom Stromberg

*Director of Impulse Festival, Theatre producer, Head of w.i.w. AKADEMIE Brandenburg, Germany*



Tom Stromberg (born 1960) produces theatre together with stage directors such as Jan Bosse, Jérôme Bel, Laurent Chétouane, Stefan Pucher, Falk Richter and Anna Bergmann, and actors and musicians like Jan Plewka ("Jan Plewka singt Rio Reiser", also released on DVD) and Felix Knopp ("My darkest star – a trip along Depeche Mode") as well as the international puppet theatre "Das Helmi". Together with Matthias von Hartz, he directs the festival "Impulse" – the festival of the German speaking Off Theatre. In 2005, together with Antje Landshoff-Ellermann and Peter Zadek, he founded the theatre production company wasihrwollt PRODUCTIONS as well as the w.i.w. AKADEMIE

Brandenburg for the next generation of young theatre talents. He is lecturer at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich where he is teaching in the framework of the advanced training programme on Theatre and Music Management.

From 1986 to 1996, Tom Stromberg was first dramaturge and later director of the Theater am Turm (TAT) in Frankfurt. From 1996 to 2000, he was director of the culture and event programme of EXPO 2000 in Hannover and in 1997 curator of the theatre programme of documenta X, "Theaterskizzen", in Kassel. From 2000 to 2005, he was director of Deutsches Schauspielhaus in Hamburg (which was awarded "Theatre of the Year" in 2005).

Today, Tom Stromberg lives and works in Berlin and in Streckenthin/Brandenburg.

**Contact information:** [www.tom-stromberg.de](http://www.tom-stromberg.de)