

In Memoriam | Shaig Safarov (1955-2022) – A friend and eminent Azerbaijan Theatre Personality



Shaig Safarov - the great friend of ITI and many of its members passed away. For more than a decade Shaig Safarov continuously was promoting Azerbaijan culture and invited ITI members to festivals and the International Theatre Conference in Baku. ITI will always remember him for his kindness, his enthusiasm, his charm and also his dream to hold an ITI World Congress in the capital of Azerbaijan. May this dream one day become true. Dear Shaig, many, many ITI members – including myself, will miss you. Farewell, dear Shaig.” *Tobias Biancone, DG ITI*

Here are some more statements that the ITI Newsletter wants to share with you:

“The news about the death of Shaig Safarov was absolutely unexpected. We know each other for decades; we shared a professional background in the performing arts and met with each other in different international events in Azerbaijan and outside. When teaching in Baku, Shaig Safarov was the coordinator during which I experienced his great hospitality, his top professional skills and his enthusiasm to support theatre development in his country. He initiated the International Theatre Conference in Azerbaijan, bringing together professionals from all over the world. With his enthusiasm he was putting Baku and Azerbaijan on the map of the world – a huge investment for future generations (...) Rest in peace, dear Shaig.” *Dr Levan Khetaguri, Secretary-General of the Georgian Centre of ITI*

“We lost a well-known theatre figure, project manager of international theatre festivals in our country, professional, dignified, honest theatre lover Shaig Safarov, who carried the burden of influential events on his shoulders. Mr Shaig was one of the top intellectuals that I saw and knew. He also acts like he was not of this world. He has always been himself. His departure from this world is a great loss to Azerbaijani culture and art (...) I express my condolences to all his relatives, especially Shaig's wife, People's Artist Shukufa Yusupova. One of the bright, smiling and joking people of the world has passed away. Rest in peace, my dear mister Shaig!” *Ulviyye Heydarova*