

In Memoriam | Obituary for Natalia Isaeva



Photo by Natalia Isaeva, taken in December 2021

“Natalia Isaeva has passed away on January 13. A big loss for the many friends that she had all over the world. Born in Russia she has decided to live in Moscow and Paris where she was pursuing her rich life: as an artistic collaborator with her friend Anatoli Vasiliev, as a translator, as an author and as a highly estimated cultural personality.

Natacha (as she called herself) appeared at ITI events in 2008 when Anatoli Vasiliev became one of the first four World Theatre Ambassadors. Natacha astonished everyone with her brilliant simultaneous translation of Russian personalities, such as Anatoli Vasiliev, Jurij Alschitz, Katalin Lyubimova and many others. For me, it seemed that she could read other people’s thoughts ...

Aside from being able to speak Russian, English, French, Italian, German and Danish, she was able to translate works from Sanskrit.

But above all, what impressed me most, were the human values that Natacha Isaeva represented: Warmth, humour, a generous ability to help, a willingness to create a link between colleagues and friends. It was a pleasure to collaborate with her.

When the idea of honouring Yuri Lyubimov, the great Russian theatre and opera director, with creating the international Yuri Lyubimov Theatre Award, was developed, she was the central figure for linking the jury members. Nicely nudging, nicely guiding, and for sure always willing to translate from Russian to English and vice-versa. I will never forget when I was asked to announce the Award at the Bolshoi

Theatre in Moscow during a concert, created to commemorate the late Yuri Lyubimov's 100th birthday, she translated my gently provocative speech into Russian, in a way that made the audience laugh several times - and through that, the audience cheerfully listened to what I intended to say.



Natalia Isaeva was a Senior Professor of Oriental Studies at the Russian Academy of Science and was awarded the title of "Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Letter" of France.

A top professional and a charming personality have left us. Thank you for your continuous support of ITI. Thank you for your friendship. All your friends are missing you. I am sending a heartfelt farewell to you, Natacha." *Tobias Biancone*

Video:

There is a nice video available on Facebook: It shows Natacha at the event with her friends. To watch it, please [click here](#).