

## Obituary



### Rathna Pushpa Kumari

Rathna Pushpa Kumari, our ITI colleague from Sri Lanka, passed away on May 27, 2023, at the age of 61, after a lengthy illness. Rathna was passionate about theatre and offering opportunities to the youth of her country.

She began as a radio announcer in 1982, and during the 90s, was a beloved TV news anchor for the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Cooperation. As a member of the Institute of Sinhala Culture (Sudarshi), Ms. Pushpa Kumari was also a senior counsellor in Psychology, developing a Children's Skills Development Program. She was a motivational speaker and specialist in human empowerment. She leaves her husband, a son, daughter and two grandchildren.

Rathna was an active member of the International Playwrights' Forum (IPF) for many years. In 2017, she was elected to the position of Vice President of our forum at the 35th ITI World Congress in Segovia, Spain.

In the same year, Rathna organized a Textual Performance and Dramaturgy Workshop (March 22 - 27) in cooperation with the International Theatre Institute (ITI), International Playwrights' Forum (IPF), the National Theater Institute in Sri Lanka (Cooperating Member of ITI), Women Playwrights International Philippines, National Commission for Culture and the Arts (Philippines). Dessa Quesada-Palm (theatre artist, Philippines) and Ulrike Syha (playwright, dramaturg, Germany) were invited to conduct the workshop.

A second workshop edition followed in 2018 (March 22 - 27) with the facilitators Ulrike Syha, Ursula Werdenberg (author, dramaturg, Switzerland) and Talia Pura (actress, playwright, USA).

Rathna dedicated herself to this educational and cultural exchange with great commitment.

Attending the IPF Board Meeting at the Analogia Festival in Athens, in September, of 2019, she met some of our colleagues for the last time.

She was looking forward to joining us at the ITI World Congress in Fujairah, but her severe illness prevented her from attending.

We cherished her very much. She will stay in our mind and our hearts.

In silent memory,

Ursula Werdenberg, General Secretary (IPF), Talia Pura, Board Member (IPF)