

For Carlos During

For the International Theatre Institute (ITI) and the former Committee for Cultural Identity and Development (CIDC), with its newly formed Committees - the Network for Indigenous Cultures Heritage and Migration, the Theatre in Conflict Zones Network, and Theatre for Social Change - the loss of Carlos During means losing a devoted artist, who was active in the Mexican Centre of ITI since the early 90s. Born in Argentina, he worked as an actor and director. As an acclaimed progressive Latin American documentary-maker, he was well known beyond the borders of his native land.

Through his social and cultural project "Hacienda Mundaca", based on Isla Mujeres off the coast of Cancun, Mexico became his second home. The project aimed to unite the many layers and horizons of the history of this island and its inhabitants with a new kind of tourism – a big socio-cultural "mise-en-scène" that he created well ahead of his time. There you could find the solar altar from the pre-Mayan period, the story of the Mayas and their extinction, and remnants from the time of the Spanish Conquistadors, who first landed in nearby Yucatán and built a small chapel in the jungle. The island was also the hideout for the famous Mundaca, who created a multi-ethnic pirate commune with his Hacienda as the focal point in coexistence with the resident fishermen's culture.

I first met Carlos on the island at the official recognition of the ITI-UNESCO project by former General Secretary Perinetti, shortly after the beginning of the new millennium, and we shared a close brotherly friendship from that point onwards. CIDC was always enriched by his work. Full of idealism and highly enthusiastic, Carlos engaged in the movement for the rights of Mayan culture in Mexico and Belize. Returning to Argentina, his interests and artistic work continued to focus on the protection of indigenous people and local theatre.

We deeply regret the loss of our friend, a generous man and devoted artist.

Salud, Carlos!

Alexander Stillmark and your friends from ITI/CIDC