

Speech of Anatoli Vassiliev at Yuri Lyubimov International Theatre Award Ceremony 2018

My destiny consists of several episodes: the first series is before Lyubimov, the second is together with Lyubimov, and the third series is without Moscow. I was exiled from Moscow, and eventually I left it for good to start working abroad in 2006.

But I remember how I was beginning the second part of my life in the 80s, together with Yuri Petrovich Lyubimov. And thanks to Lyubimov, I stand here now on this stage, and thanks to Moscow, I finally grew stronger as a person.

I am grateful to those who acted towards me toughly and harshly, freeing me from the fetters of this heavy city.

Here we must have exceptional courage to live, the courage to work, the courage to rejoice. These are the qualities that I observed in Lyubimov, the qualities which I envied and tried to imitate. This man taught me not only the theatre, but the destiny inside the theatre - this is the most important thing of all.

Today, when I was preparing for this solemn ceremony, I watched the news and saw that the Prosecutor General's Office had transferred the case of Kirill Serebrennikov to the court. Today, October the 2nd, is the day of awarding the Lyubimov Prize, and we are all witnesses present at this final act. There is yet another person, Kirill, who lives this very destiny a man should go through in Russia, in Moscow. The man who chose his destiny for the sake of his creativity and is now experiencing all the cruelty that the Fatherland bestows on him.

Receiving this first Award, I am very happy that I somehow contacted, somehow shared this rainbow of fate with such an incredible person as Yuri Petrovich Lyubimov.

Anatoli Vassiliev

Translation from Russian (original) by Natalia Isaeva

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