

Wolfram Mehring

Studies in philosophy and literature (French and German) at the University of Paris, Sorbonne
Student of **Robert Minder** and **Etienne Decroux**

Adaptation of plays for German and French plays broadcasting.
Production of radio plays for **Radiodiffusion Française**.

1958 Founded the **Theatre de la Mandragore** and the
Centre International de Recherches Théâtrales - Paris (General manager)

LEONCE AND LENA (Büchner)
Production in German and French (Paris, Berlin, Munich, Hamburg)

Research topics:

- The individual and the marionette in German and French romanticism
- Differences and similarities between the German and French mentality
(Continuous work on this topic during the following years)

1959 **THE JAR PLAY** (Plautus)
Production and adaptation (Paris)

Research topics:

- Physical expression in acting
- The use of masks

1960/1961 **LEONCE AND LENA / THE JAR PLAY**
(European Tour: 64 cities)

OPERAS ELECTRONIQUES
Productions of experimental plays using concrete and electronic music by Almuro, Scheffer, Stockhausen

1962-1963 **MÉTAMORPHOSES 1** (Mehring)
Production of visual plays developed during rehearsals (Théâtre de Lutèce - Paris)

Research topics:

- Possible ways to freedom inside of contemporary social structures

Tour 1963 - Théâtre da la Mandragore
France, Germany and Spain

Actors from 14 different countries (Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America) join Wolfram Mehring. The international character of the Théâtre de la Mandragore becomes evident.

French Television Award
Award for the production of the year: THE JAR PLAY

Biennial Theatre Festival of Paris
Award for the best production

German Television
*Documentary on Mehring's method and his **concept of the "complete actor"***

EN SES METAMORPHOSES - UN SEUL ET MEME VISAGE

Publication of a photographic study on marks with make-up – (Published by PLON, Paris)

Photos: **Therese Le Prat** - Masks: **Grillon** - Performed by Wolfram Mehring

Centre International de Recherches Théâtrales moved to the **Théâtre du Vieux Colombier** (Paris)

Wolfram Mehring becomes director of the school for dramatic arts **Ecole du Vieux Colombier / Salle Raymond Losserand**

1964/1965

WOYZECK (Georg Büchner)

Production (Biennial Théâtre Festival, Paris)

FEUX ROUGES (Wolfram Mehring)

Production (Théâtre de Lutèce, Paris)

METAMORPHOSES II (Wolfram Mehring)

Production (Festival in Toulon)

THE JAR PLAY (Plautus)

Production (Théâtre Moderne, Paris)

Tour 1965 - Théâtre da la Mandragore

France, Germany and Belgium

1966-1970

Théâtre de la Mandragore in the **Théâtre du Vieux Colombier**

*Wolfram Mehring takes over the artistic direction, repertoire and management of the **Théâtre du Vieux Colombier**, Paris*

GERMAN EXPRESSIONISM

Production and artistic direction

WOYZECK (Büchner)

Production and adaptation

FROM MORN TO MIDNIGHT (Georg Kaiser)

Production and adaptation

THE JAR PLAY (Plautus)

Production

THE CAT (Ludwig Tieck / Wolfram Mehring)

Production and Adaptation

QUARTET (Wolfram Mehring)

Play about contemporary problems of communication

Production

LE COCTAIL DU DIABLE (Grabbe)

Production

MATINEES POÉTIQUES

Organization of matinees on German poetry

AMERICA HURRAH (v. Italie)

Production (Theatre Frankfurt am Main)

INTERCULTURAL EXPRESSION

Exploration of the universality of physical and vocal expression (Theatre studio)

L'ACTEUR TOTAL

The actor as performer of totality - Influence of Asian and African consciousness
(Theatre studio)

Tours 1968 - Théâtre da la Mandragore

France (Strasbourg, Rouen, Lille, Nice, Marseille, Arcachon, Aix-en-Provence, Lyon, Bordeaux, Dijon, Toulouse, Montpellier, Caen, Annecy), Germany, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Turkey, Greece, Austria, Egypt, Switzerland, Portugal, Lebanon (Tripoli Festival) Syria, Iraq

1969-1970

GEORG BÜCHNER (Wolfram Mehring)

Production (Théâtre de la Mandragore, Paris)

TOM PEINE (Foster)

Production (Frankfurt am Main City-Theatre)

Six month tour 1970 - Théâtre da la Mandragore

Japan, Korea, Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan

THEATRE WORKSHOP

(University of Tokyo)

1971-1972

YVONNE (Gombrovic)

Production (Frankfurt am Main City-Theatre)

THE TUTOR (Lenz)

Production (Théâtre de la Mandragore, Paris)

JOAQUIN MURIETA (Neruda)

Production (Düsseldorf City-Theatre)

THE CAT (Tieck / Mehring)

Production in Hindi-Urdu (Company Deshanta, New Delhi, India)

TALE FOR 24 HOURS

Science-fiction plays for German Television

Production

ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA (Shakespeare)

Production (Düsseldorf City-Theatre)

DIRECTING WORKSHOP

Together with directors from Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, etc. (Simla, Himalaya, India)

1973

THE RULE AND THE EXCEPTION (Brecht)

Production (Théâtre de la Mandragore, Paris)

FORCES (Wolfram Mehring)

Production (Théâtre de la Mandragore, Paris)

LORENZACCIO (Musset/Bussoti)

Production (State Opera Hamburg)

African tour 1973 – Théâtre de la Mandragore

Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zaire, Cameroon, Nigeria, Madagascar, Ghana, Togo

THE MAGICAL DIMENSION OF THEATRE

Lectures and Workshop

Japan: Toho University, Tokyo

Korea: National University Seoul, Tongso University, Ewha University; Sorabol University

Cooperation with Asian and African ensembles

1974

BLOOD WEDDING (Lorca)

Production (State theatre Wiesbaden Theatre festival)

OTELLO (Verdi)

Production (National Opera of Korea Seoul)

LIBERATIONS (Mehring)

Production (Théâtre de la Mandragore, Paris)

Tour 1974 - Théâtre da la Mandragore

Germany, Italy, Yugoslavia, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland

BODY - VOICE – SPACE

Workshop leading to a Theatre production

(National Theatre Khartoum, Sudan;

I.N.A. Kinshasa, Zaire;

Mandragore Tokyo, Japan;

Bangkok, Thailand)

1975

ACTING AS A PROCESS OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Workshop leading to a theatre production

(Conservatoire National de Montréal, Canada)

TWELFTH-NIGHT; OR, WHAT YOU WILL (Shakespeare)

Production (Nürnberg Theatre)

Critics Award

RASHOMON (Akutagawa)

Production (Theatre festival, State theatre Wiesbaden)

CARMEN (Bizet)

Production (National Opera of Korea, Seoul)

LA MORT DE BÜCHNER (Mehring)

Production (Conservatoire National de Montréal)

NON-VERBAL EXPRESSION IN ACTING

Workshop (Japan: Tokyo, Nagoya, and Kyoto – France: Paris)

1976

DANTON'S DEATH (Büchner)

Production (Nürnberg Theatre)

WOYZECK (Büchner)

Production in Arabic (State Theatre Khartoum Sudan)

THE CREATIVE POTENTIAL OF THE EUROPEAN ACTOR

Workshop, studio, lectures (Showbourg – Rotterdam)

Publication of the final lecture in Dutch and German theatres

CHUKCHOK

A Thai Theatre Experiment on the tenth incarnation of Buddha

Production (Chiang Mai, Bangkok)

THE DRAMATIC CONFLICT IN EUROPEAN, ASIAN, AND AFRICAN THEATRE

Workshop (Paris, Tokyo, Cairo, Khartoum)

1977

LE CAPITAINE FRACASSE (Théophile Gautier)

Production (State Theatre Darmstadt)

IL TROVATORE (Verdi)

Production (National Theatre Mannheim)

THE GREEK TRAGEDY - ORIGIN OF EUROPEAN THEATRE

Workshop leading to a production (Théâtre de la Mandragore, Paris)

IDENTIFICATION AND DISTANCE

(Actors Studio; Academy of Fine Arts, Rio de Janeiro)

1978

LES CAPRICES DE MARIANNE (Musset)

Production (Darmstadt State Theatre)

ANTIGONE (Sophocles)

Production (Théâtre de la Mandragore, Paris)

THE BIRDS (Aristophanes)

Production (Theatre festival Moers)

ANTIGONE (Sophocles)

Production (State theatre Darmstadt)

Tour 1978 - Théâtre da la Mandragore

Tanzania, Sudan, Kenya, Upper Volta, Ivory Coast, Togo, Nigeria, Cameroon, Zaire, Senegal

1979

KING OEDIPUS (Sophocles)

Production (Freiburg City Theatre)

FUENTE OVEJUNA (Lope de Vega)

Production (Dortmund City Theatre)

MUTSIMA (Congolese myth)

Production (Theatre of Locombe, Kinshasa, Zaire)

MACBETH (Shakespeare)

Production (Darmstadt State Theatre)

BODY - VOICE - SPACE

Workshop for actors (Zürich Theatre)

THE ACTOR AS A MEDIUM

Classes and workshop (Steirischer Herbst, Graz, Austria)

1980-1981

LA MORT DE BÜCHNER (Mehring)

(State theatre Neuss; City theatre Kiel)

ESCALATIONS (Mehring)

Play about the escalation of violence

Production (Théâtre de la Mandragore, Paris)

Tour 1981 - Théâtre da la Mandragore

Casablanca, Rabat, Abers, Tunis, Cairo, Alexandria, Amman, Aleppo, Damascus

1982

LIFE IN PARIS (Offenbach)
Production (Nürnberg Opera)

CONFLICT SITUATIONS

Workshop leading to a production (Théâtre de la Mandragore, Paris; Seoul, Korea)

EUGENE ONEGIN (Tchaikovsky)
Production (Nürnberg City Theatre)

1983-1984

TERMINAL (Mehring)
Play about aging and death in modern society
Production (Théâtre de la Mandragore, Paris)
Tour : Northern Africa, Middle East, Gulf states, Switzerland, Germany

CARMEN (Bizet)
Production (Nürnberg City Theatre)

MARTHA (Flotow)
Production (Bavarian National Opera, Theater am Gärtnerplatz, München)

ATTILA (Verdi)
Production (City Theatre Münster)

NON-VERBAL FORMS OF EXPRESSION
Workshop for actors (National Museum of Colombo, Sri Lanka)

THE DRAMATIC CONFLICT
Workshop for actors (Algiers State Theatre, Algeria)

SCENICAL COMMUNICATION
Teaching assignment (Academy of Performing Arts, Frankfurt am Main)

1985-1986

DIE KANNIBALEN (Tabori)
Production (State Theatre Esslingen)

OUTSIDER SITUATIONS (Rules and exceptions)
Workshop leading to a production (Goethe Institute of Bombay, India)

THE WIZARD OF OZ (Baum)
Production (City theatre Münster)

MOTIVATIONS - ORIGINS
Teaching assignment (Academy of Performing Arts, Frankfurt am Main)

STAGE RITUALS
Workshop (Theatre studio, Goethe Institute, Institut National des Arts and National Ballet of Kinshasa)

1986-1987

TURANDOT (Schiller)
Production (Esslingen State Theatre)

THE RULE AND THE EXCEPTION (Brecht)
Production in English (Theatre Encounter Asia - Europe National Centre for Performing Arts Bombay)

CEASING DESIRE
Workshop leading to a production (Théâtre de la Mandragore, Paris)

- REVENGE OF THE ACTOR** (Minoru Miki)
Japanese Opera
Production (Münster City Theatre)
- 1988-1989 **LES CANNIBALES** (Tabori)
Production (Théâtre National de Chaillot, Paris)
- LEA** (Dulk)
Production (State Theatre of Württemberg, Esslingen – Stuttgart)
- THE WINTER'S TALE** (Shakespeare)
Production (Saarbrücken State Theatre)
- DESIRE - YEARNING**
Workshop (Actors' studio – München State theatre)
- DANTON'S DEATH** (Büchner)
Production (State Theatre of Württemberg, Esslingen – Stuttgart)
- AMAL AND THE KING' S LETTER** (Tagore)
Production
(Co-Production: Residenztheater München, Munich; Theatre of Chur, Switzerland)
- LADY MACBETH OF MZENSK** (Opera by Shostakovich)
Production (Freiburg City Theatre)
- THE WIZARD OF OZ** (Baum)
Production (Freiburg City Theatre)
- LA DAME DE BAYREUTH**
Production (Théâtre de Paris)
- 1990 **TWELFTH-NIGHT; OR, WHAT YOU WILL** (Shakespeare)
Production (Saarbrücken State Theatre)
- TALES OF HOFFMANN** (Offenbach)
Production (Freiburg City Theatre)
- EUROPEAN AND ASIAN STRUCTURES IN THEATRE**
Workshop (Osaka / Hiroshima, Japan)
- THE TROJAN WOMEN** (Euripides)
Production and Project: Women in antique theatre (Karlsruhe State Theatre)
- BRECHT IN FRANCE AND GERMANY**
Lecture (Centre Pompidou, Paris)
- A CRANE IN THE SNOW** (Mehring)
Play based on a Japanese legend
Production (Freiburg City Theatre)
- 1991 **ADA** (Minoru Miki)
Kabuki-Opera
Production (Japanese Opera Foundation, Metropolitan Theatre Tokyo)
- KASPAR** (Handke)
Production (City Theatre Freiburg)

THE GAME OF LOVE AND CHANCE (Marivaux)
Production (Schwetzingen Festival)

IDOMENEO (Mozart)
Production (Freiburg City Theatre)

DAGHAR (Tagore)
Production (Rabindranath Tagore Festival, Calcutta, India)

FIRE DANCE (Mehring)
An American Indian Tale – Project against racism
Production (Freiburg City Theatre)

1992

LYSISTRATA (Aristophanes)
Production – Project: Women in ancient theatre (Karlsruhe State Theatre)

DER FREISCHÜTZ (K. M. Weber)
Production (Trier Theatre)

THE FIERY ANGEL (Prokofiev)
Production (Freiburg City Theatre)

THE ACTORS CREATIVE POTENTIAL
Workshop in preparation for an international centre of dramatic arts (Malta)

AYMINEH - THE YOUNG SHEPHERDESS (Mehring)
Production - Continuation of the project against racism (Freiburg City Theatre)

The Project against racism was finished 1992 with nearly 100000 spectators in Freiburg. It was resumed in 1993 with a new program at the Karlsruhe State Theatre

1993-1994

ELECTRA (Sophocles)
Production - Project: Women in ancient theatre (Karlsruhe State Theatre)

LA MUETTE DE PORTICI (Auber)
Production (Karlsruhe State Theatre)

EUGENE ONEGIN (Tchaikovsky)
Production (National Opera of Korea, Seoul)

THE FORCE OF DESTINY(Verdi)
Production (Wiesbaden State Theatre)

PARADIES DER KATZEN (Mehring)
Production - Asian tale - Project against racism and xenophobia (Karlsruhe State Theatre)

WINTERBALLADE (Hauptmann / Meyerowitz)
Opera-Production (Trier Theatre)

LA DUENA (Roberto Gerhard)
Opera-Production (Bielefeld City - Theatre)

DIE KLUGE (Carl Orff)
Production (Karlsruhe State Theatre)

L'HEURE ESPAGNOLE (Ravel)
Production (State Theatre Karlsruhe)

BODY - VOICE – SPACE

Workshop (Paris – Malta)

THE GIPSY CARAVAN (Mehring)

Production (Karlsruhe State Theatre)

1995-1996

MADAME BUTTERFLY (Puccini)

Production (Wiesbaden State Theatre)

BODY-VOICE-SPACE (Mehring)

Workshop Production (Korean Television-Seoul)

THE MALTESE CROSS (Camilleri/Inglott)

Opera Production -European Co-Production (Valletta, Malta)

1997

AIDA (Verdi)

Production (Wiesbaden State Theatre)

REINEKE FUCHS (Mehring, after the epic poem by Goethe)

Production (Düsseldorf-Neuss Theatre)

FREISCHÜTZ (Weber)

Production (Dortmund State Theatre)

RITUAL AND INITIATION THEATRE

Workshop (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

1998

LA VOIX HUMAINE (Poulenc)

Production (Theatre Linz, Austria)

LES MAMELLES DE TIRESIAS (Poulenc)

Production (Theatre Linz, Austria)

REINEKE FUCHS (Mehring, after the epic poem by Goethe)

Production (Calcutta Theatre, India)

FAUST (Gounod)

Production (German National Theatre Weimar)

1999-2002

Opera director of the Kassel State Theatre (Documenta-City)

1999

LA DAMNATION DE FAUST (Berlioz)

Production (Deutsches Nationaltheater Weimar)

MACBETH (Verdi)

Production (Kassel State Theater)

HÄNSEL UND GRETEL (Humperdinck)

Production (Bielefeld City-Theatre)

2000

I CAPOULETI E I MONTECCHI (Bellini)

Production (Kassel State Theatre)

DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NÜRNBERG (Wagner)

Production – Richard Wagner Festival (City-Theatre of Nürnberg)

OTELLO (Verdi)

Production (National Theatre Weimar)

- BORIS GODUNOW** (Mussorgsky)
Production (Kassel State Theatre)
- 2001 **BODY-VOICE-SPACE** (Mehring)
Workshop (National-Theater and School of Drama, New Delhi, India)
- CENERENTOLA** (Rossini)
Production (Bielefeld City-Theatre)
- LOHENGRIN** (Wagner)
Production (Kassel State Theatre)
- A CRANE IN THE SNOW** (Mehring)
Play based on a Japanese legend
Production (Kassel State Theatre)
- 2002 **WERTHER** (Massenet)
Production (Kassel State Theatre)
- MODERN AND CLASSICAL THEATRE**
Workshop in occasion of the "Documenta" Festival (Kassel State Theatre)
- FIRE DANSE** (Mehring)
Production (Kassel State Theatre)
- 2003 **CENERENTOLA** (Rossini)
Production (Heidelberg City-Theatre)
- THE NIGHT OF CASSANDRA** (Vandamme)
Production (Théâtre Poème Brussels, Belgium)
- AYMINEH** (Mehring)
Production (Kassel State Theatre)
- 2004 **CARMEN** (Bizet)
Production (Kassel State Theatre)
- WEST-SIDE-STORY** (Bernstein)
Production (Kassel State Theatre)
- 2005 **FREISCHÜTZ** (Weber)
Production (National Opera of Korea, Seoul)
- MIGNON** (Thomas)
Production (Heidelberg, City Theatre)
- DIE SCHNEEKÖNIGIN** (Mehring/Anderson)
Production (Münster City Theatre)
- 2006 **UR-FAUST** (Goethe)
Production (Konstanz City Theatre)
- LA TRAVIATA** (Verdi)
Production (National Opera of Korea, Seoul)
- 2007 **OEDIPUS** (Sophokles)
Production (Münster City Theatre)

OEDIPUS ON KOLONOS (Sophokles)
Production (Münster City Theatre)

2008 **L'ISOLA DISABITATA** (Haydn)
Production (Bienne-Biel City-Opera, Switzerland)

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR (Donizetti)
Production (National Opera of Korea, Seoul)
Daegu - International Festival of Korea Award (1st prize): "Best production of the year"

2009 **THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN** (Janáček)
Production (Münster City Theatre)

THE MISUNDERSTANDING (Camus)
Production (Konstanz Theater)

THE VISIT (Dürrenmatt)
Production (Münster City Theatre)

2010 **COSÌ FAN TUTTE** (Mozart)
Production (Bienne-Biel City-Opera, Switzerland)

2011 **IPHIGENIE AUF TAURIS** (Goethe)
Production (Münster City Theatre)

Publications

- MASQUES BRULES (Burned Masks)
Aphorisms on movement and the principle of change, authenticity and communication (Editions du Félin, Paris)
- DU RITE AU THEATRE
(C.N.R.S. Paris)
- LE THEATRE SACRE
(*Question de*, Paris)
- L'ACTEUR DU NON – EMPLOI
(*Paris-Théâtre*)
- RECHERCHES SCENIQUES DE LA MANDRAGORE
(*Paris-Théâtre*)
- DIE VERMARKTUNG DES GEISTES
(*ZeitMitSchrift* — Bollmann-Verlag Düsseldorf)
- EIN KRANICH IM SCHNEE [A Crane in the Snow] (Play)
(*S. Fischer-Verlag*, Frankfurt am Main, Theater & Medien)
- FEUERTANZ [Firedance] (Play)
(*S. Fischer-Verlag*, Frankfurt am Main, Theater & Medien)
- AYMINEH (Play)
(*S. Fischer-Verlag*, Frankfurt am Main, Theater & Medien)
- IM PARADIES DER KATZEN (Play)
(*S. Fischer-Verlag*, Frankfurt am Main, Theater & Medien)
- DER ZIGEUNERWAGEN [the Gipsy Caravan] (Play)
(*S. Fischer-Verlag*, Frankfurt am Main, Theater & Medien)
- DIE SCHNEEKÖNIGIN (Play)
(*S. Fischer-Verlag*, Frankfurt am Main, Theater & Medien)
- THEATERREZEPTION IN FRANKREICH UND DEUTSCHLAND
(Piper-Verlag, Munich)
- BÜCHNERS STERBEN (Play)
(*S. Fischer-Verlag*, Frankfurt am Main, Theater & Medien)
- REINEKE FUCHS (Play after the epic poem by Goethe)
(*S. Fischer-Verlag*, Frankfurt am Main, Theater & Medien)
- PARISER INSZENIERUNGEN - „PRÄGUNGEN“ „Bollmann-Verlag“ - Düsseldorf