

Pressemeddelelse:

Merete Hegner Award went this year to the artistic director of Festival of Wonder Ulla Dengsøe



At the opening ceremony of the Festival of Wonder d. November 9th, Tine Eibye from Randers Egnsteater surprised the artistic director, Ulla Dengsøe, after her opening speech by awarding the Merete Hegner to her. Tine Eibye was the last year's recipient of the prize, consisting of a statue of Charli Rivel.

When actor Merete Hegner had 25 years anniversary at Aarhus Theater in 2006, a prize was established in her name. The prize consists of a small clown that represents famous Charlie Rivel and is a kind of artistic character that is assigned to an epic in drama / theater or similar artistic work.

Tine Eibye says:

Dear Ulla – dear all guests celebrating this great Festival of Wonder. My name is Tine Eibye, producer at Randers Egnsteater – and I have been allowed to take a few minutes of your time. A few, but important minutes, since I have a prize to award. A prize

given to you, Ulla Dengsøe, for your unique and exceptional work realizing this fantastic international puppetry festival. A festival for grownups, for children in all ages, for ... people.

It is an important and respected professional artistic festival for the municipality of Silkeborg, but it is also a unique festival in a national and international context.

I could use hours to praise the importance of this festivals ability to present specular and innovative puppet performances to a large audience. But Ulla, today I am here to salute you! You, as the unique artistic director, you are. You as an amazing woman, making dreams come through. For you – and for all of us! This prize is named after a great actress, Merete Hegner. When she celebrated her 25th anniversary as an

actress, at Aarhus Theatre – this prize was ordained. And every year it is given to a very special artistic woman, making a difference, in the Danish theater landscape.

So it was easy to decide, that the prize should go to you! You are unique. You are uncompromising, when it comes to curating the best – only the very best – of theatre, for your AND Silkeborgs Festival of Wonder! Every year, you and Poul travel all over the world to visit festivals and to do the very important networking. So we, here in Denmark, can experience the very, very best of Puppet Theatre. In so many highly professional expressions.

Ulla, you are a member of a lot of committees and you have won several awards – you and the Festival of Wonder. But this prize, Hegner Prisen 2017, is **not** for the festival – it is **only** for you, Ulla! Because you are a wise, professional, artistic, visionary woman. You are a loving person and a gifted artistic director. This prize has been given for several years, often to theater executives, such as Sarah Topsøe and Gitta Malling. This year it is for you, Ulla! Thank you! You are amazing!