

# Jolanda Rodio

## IN MEMORY



The avantgarde concert singer and voice pedagogue Jolanda Rodio died on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, 2000, at the age of eighty-six.

Jolanda certainly had a very rich and diverse life. During the Second World War she was an active member of the Danish resistance movement *Holger Danske*. At the same time she also co-founded the Birkerød Gliding Club.

She studied singing and musical education in Copenhagen, Paris, Siena, Zürich and Vienna. With the conductor Tamas Vetoe she established the Prisma Ensemble, which mainly performed modern music. She also taught singing and music herself, first privately, then in the Army and finally at the Conservatory in Århus. This did not prevent her from touring extensively in Europe and the Soviet Union.

International composers soon recognised Jolanda's work. She had more than forty compositions written especially for her. One of the composers she worked with was Karlheinz Stockhausen.

During her lifetime she was awarded many prizes and honours. The Dannebrogordenen was given to her by Queen Margrethe of Denmark in recognition of her musical insight and her promotion of modern music.

Later in life she moved to Switzerland where she founded Kulturmühle Lützelflüh. Here she gathered artists from all over the world, made exhibitions, organised events and courses. She also initiated and ran a special education in pedagogical theatre work with children.

Jolanda Rodio came to the Magdalena Festival in Norway, to give workshops and to talk about her working methods. In 1968 she had published an article in *Teatrets Teori og Teknikk*, and we found her words more than valid twenty years later.

She said: "When I am asked which paths can be followed by actors, singers and performers today to fulfil the requirements of new experimental theatre and modern opera, I answer without any doubt that it is important to work with the human being as such instead of only applying a technique or mechanically using virtuosity".

At the Magdalena Festival in describing her work methods she said that she wanted the participants to understand what problems they had and to have a sense of what she could do to help. She said: "I will not manipulate, I will open".

Jolanda spent the last years of her life in Ribe in Denmark. She worked and kept busy up until the end.

Jolanda's friends will gather at Kulturmühle Lützelflüh on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2001 to remember her.

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