

CORRIERE DELLA SERA

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By Marisa Fumagalli

Awards *With the poet and the founder of the Théâtre du Soleil, acknowledgments also to Nussbaum and Roberto De Simone*

A Nonino 2015 marked France

Awarded Bonnefoy and Mnouchkine

Turning forty years old, the Nonino Prize – whose choices, in time, have consolidated the image of cultural breeding ground – hits the target once more. The pride of a Jury that is able to find leading figures in the international landscape, whose merits, however, go “further”. They enter the heart of contemporaneity so much that, sometimes, the acknowledgment obtained during the joyful ceremony at Ronchi di Percoto, among the stills of the distillery of a family from Friuli (whose farsightedness has given birth to this prize), anticipates the highest goals, like the Nobel.

Hitting the target, therefore. And so, how can't we be struck by the coincidence that two prizewinners out of four are French? And that their intellectual courses pursue the ideals of the Enlightenment and the comparison? In these tragic hours for liberal France (and for Europe) the biographies of Ariane Mnouchkine (born in 1939) director/manager of the Théâtre du Soleil, and of Yves Bonnefoy (1923), considered the most important living poet of France, respectively awarded with the Nonino prize 2015 and the International Nonino prize 2015, witness the noblest values of the western democratic civilization. Whereas, if we want to uphold the thesis of the latest, controversial novel by Michel Houellebecq (*Submission*, Flammarion and Bompiani in Italy), we would be at the threshold of a triumphant Islam «by democratic ways».

It is easy to anticipate that on January 31st next, during the awarding ceremony of the Nonino 2015 these themes will be dealt with. In the meanwhile, it is worth mentioning the motivations of the jury, in the choice of the winners. For Ms. Mnouchkine: «An icon of drama, in her staging, made of light and magic and full of emotions, there is a mixture of elements of our popular and ancient drama heritage together with Eastern suggestions; but especially her performances are fantastic journeys immersed in the spirit of civilization and deepest education, often focused on the “neglected”: the migrants, refugees and victims of political persecution. She has brought the ideals of European Enlightenment and tolerance in the world». For Bonnefoy: «His poetry is poetry of presence that dwells in the interrogatives raised by the world. Raising such questions and elevating them to the highest level, it enlightens the way and displays vast horizons to renew the vision of the world, the research and the comparison».

Besides the French, who are in the limelight after the recent events, here are the other two names. Martha C. Nussbaum (New York, 1947) is awarded the Nonino Prize 2015 / Master of our time: «One of the most influential philosophers of our time, she is a paladin of liberalism, laity and civil rights, a theorist of global justice and a defender of all living creatures». Roberto De Simone (Naples, 1933) is awarded the Nonino Risit d'Âur Prize Fortieth Year: «Born under the permanent

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topicality of rustic civilization, the Risit d'Âur Prize 2015 is awarded to Maestro Roberto De Simone who embodies its spirit. Refined and deep man of culture and letters, musicologist, composer and playwright, he has devoted his life to safeguard a unique cultural heritage as the one of the Neapolitan tradition which risked dying out».

The jury of the Nonino, presided by V.S. Naipaul (Nobel Laureate 2001) is composed by Adonis, John Banville, Ulderico Bernardi, Peter Brook, Luca Cendali, Antonio R. Damasio, Fabiola Gianotti, Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, James Lovelock, Claudio Magris, Norman Manea, Morando Morandini, Edgar Morin and Ermanno Olmi.

The Soul

Here above: Giannola Nonino, soul and heart of the prize that this year reaches the milestone of the fortieth edition.

Photo above: an image of a performance of the Théâtre du Soleil, directed by Ariane Mnouchkine. (Photos Corsera)

French author and director, Ariane Mnouchkine (Boulogne – Billancourt, 1939) is the winner of the Nonino Prize 2015.

The French poet Yves Bonnefoy (Tours 1923) has obtained the International Nonino prize 2015.

The American philosopher Martha C. Nussbaum is the winner of the Nonino «Master of our time».

Playwright and director, Roberto De Simone (Naples, 1933) is the winner of the Nonino Risit d'Âur Prize 40th Year.