

BARRADAS, Mário (b. 7 Aug. 1931- d. 19 Nov. 2009)

Mário Barradas made his début as an actor in 1948 in a play by Gil Vicente and as a director in 1954. A Law graduate, he obtained his Diploma in Theatre Production from the Strasbourg National Theatre Higher College of Dramatic Arts in 1972. In the area of teaching and training he was Head of the Lisbon National Conservatory (1972-74) and of the Actors' Training School (1975) of the Centro Cultural de Évora (Évora *Cultural Centre*) (CCE). In that same year he founded the CCE professional company, with its base in Évora (Alentejo) and supporting the implementation of a policy of decentralisation of theatre in Portugal, similar to the French model set up after 1945. Developed within the new cultural and political changes taking place after the 25th of April 1974, the project undergoes a transformation in 1990, adopting its present name of Cendrev - Centro Dramático de Évora [Évora *Dramatic Arts Centre*]. He was also the editor of the *Adágio* magazine published by Cendrev (1990-2010) which promoted discussion of ideas regarding changes in the national dramatic arts policy in Portugal, advocating, above all, the concepts of “théâtre populaire” and “theatre in the public service” promulgated by Jean Vilar. Most of his dramatic work was as a director, having been awarded a prize in 1974 for his Portuguese production of *Grosse Schmährede an der Stadtmauer* by Tankred Dorst. In a great part of Mario Barradas' own, personal repertory, he made choices of an ideological and aesthetic nature, which is a mark of a realist theatre with Brechtian roots, concentrating on the actual text, with prominence given to the greats, Shakespeare and Gil Vicente.

[283 words]

Bibliography:

Mário Barradas, “Documentos”, *Adágio*, nº15/16, Julho-Dezembro, 1995, pp.17-35

CENDREV, *Mário Barradas, um homem no teatro*, Évora, 2006.

Luis Varela, “Mário Barradas, um homem de teatro e de escola”, *Barradas, um homem no teatro*, Cendrev, 2006, pp.31-38.

Christine Zurbach, “CENDREV, 1975-2005: Thirty Years of Theatrical Decentralization”, *Western European Stages*, Special Issue Theatre in Portugal, vol. 18, Nr.1, 2006, pp.23-30.

C. Zurbach / J.A. Ferreira, “Mário Barradas: para um retrato do criador teatral”, *Sinais de cena*, nº13, Junho, 2010, pp.17-28.

Written by: Christine Zurbach (University of Évora)