



Fonds

Press Release

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Prince Claus Fund for
Culture and Development

2007 Prince Claus Awards highlight the theme Culture and Conflict

Culture, for the Prince Claus Fund, is a basic human need. Culture has the power either to provoke or diminish conflict. This year the Prince Claus Awards honour artists and organisations that have worked to counteract the destructive power of conflict by opposing beauty to devastation, opening spaces and forms of dialogue, restoring respect for others and enhancing dignity and self-esteem.

The Prince Claus Fund is a platform for intercultural exchange. Working with individuals and organisations that are mainly located in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Fund organises activities and publications on contemporary themes in the field of culture and development. The Prince Claus Awards form part of this policy.

Prince Claus Fund
Hoge Nieuwstraat 30
2514 EL The Hague
The Netherlands

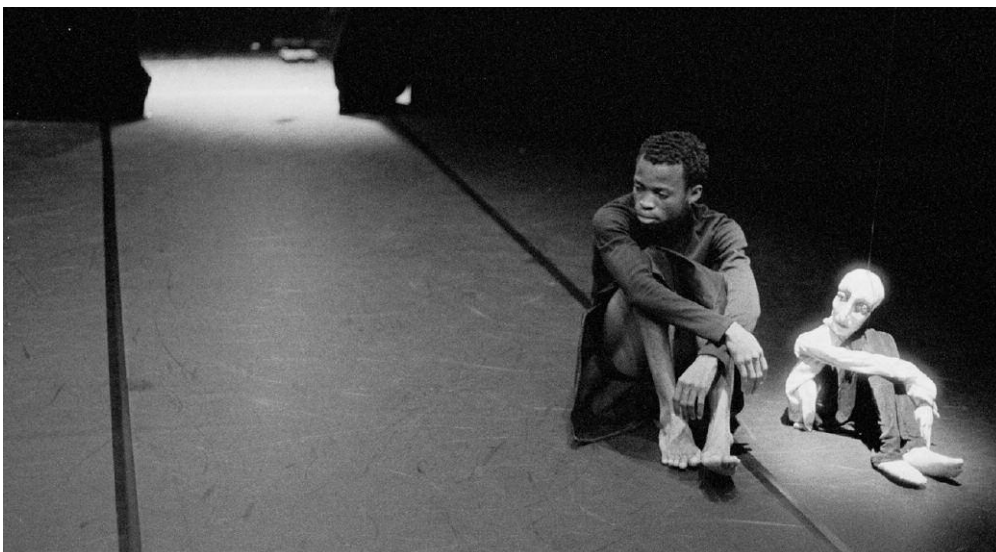
tel +31 (0)70.427.4303
fax +31 (0)70.427.4277
info@princeclausfund.nl
www.princeclausfund.org

2007 Principal Prince Claus Award to Congolese Choreographer, Faustin Linyekula

On Wednesday, 12 December 2007, Congolese choreographer Faustin Linyekula (1974, Ubundu, Democratic Republic of Congo) will be presented with this year's Principal Prince Claus Award of €100,000 in the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ in Amsterdam.

Faustin Linyekula (1974, Ubundu, DRC)

Describing himself as a storyteller, Faustin Linyekula uses movements, text, sound and images to communicate the complex experience of living in the violent conflict that has gripped his country for decades, and to help people examine and reconstruct their lives. Faustin also reflects on the painful history of the DRC in order to raise awareness, so that people don't forget as peace takes hold and fail to deal with the past. The Prince Claus Fund honours Faustin Linyekula for his outstanding choreography, his bold return to Congo, his innovative stimulation of culture despite instability and turbulence, and his commitment to the development of his country.



The ten Prince Claus Awards 2007 of € 25,000

Laureates working in the area of theatre

Patricia Ariza (1948, Colombia) is a director, actor, playwright and poet, and a leader in alternative and engaged theatre in Colombia, where an undeclared civil war has continued for nearly 40 years. Ariza is honoured particularly for her work with children, the elderly and local communities.

Augusto Boal (1931, Brazil) is a theatre-maker and cultural revolutionary who developed his own model of socially engaged theatre by devising new techniques which are used in different fields of human activities like education, mental health and popular culture as well as in prisons and municipalities. Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed has inspired people and theatre experts worldwide.

Laureates working in the area of the visual arts

Emily Jacir (1970, Palestine) is a visual artist who employs a variety of media including photography, installation, performance, video and sound to explore issues around conflict, including the experience of people in her homeland, Palestine, and around the world. Her work transcends national boundaries, resonating among many exiled communities and populations in conflict.

Harutyun Khachatryan (1955, Georgia/Armenia) is an Armenian filmmaker who began his career in a period when the Soviet Union collapsed and inter-ethnic tensions were leading to war with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh. His films depict Armenian history and true reality with an exceptionally moving visual and poetic voice. In 2004, Khachatryan founded Yerevan's Golden Apricot International Film Festival, forging links internationally and stimulating local development.

Ars Aevi (1992, Bosnia and Herzegovina) was founded by a group of intellectuals in 1992 as bombs were falling on Sarajevo. Their idea to create a museum of contemporary art that would be a symbol of belief in the future also exemplified their determination to restore the city as a crossroads of cultures and a place of tolerance.

Laureates working in the area of writing and media

The Sudanese Writers Union (1985, Sudan) one of the few platforms for intellectual debate in the country, reflects the multi-cultural identity of Sudan, bringing together men and women writers from different disciplines, schools of thought, and regional and ethnic backgrounds. The Union engages in candid dialogue on social and political issues and is a model of a successful, democratic cultural organisation.

Radio Isanganiro (2002, Burundi) is a private radio station founded by a group of Burundian journalists that has attracted an audience of more than four million listeners. By its method of deploying reporters in inter-ethnic pairs, striving, in contrast to much local media, for balance and avoiding sensationalism, Radio Isanganiro has helped change how Burundians think about themselves and others.

Godfrey Mwampembwa, alias Gado (1969, Tanzania) is the most widely syndicated cartoonist in East and Central Africa. His daily cartoon is the most popular attraction in the prominent Kenyan newspaper The Nation. Gado's courage inspires many journalists and the sharp analysis, stinging wit and humanity of his cartoons are contributing to democratisation and freedom of expression in East Africa.

Laureate working in the field of architecture & design

Oscar Hagerman (1936, Mexico) is an architect and designer committed to the use of design to improve the living conditions of marginalised people. For the past 35 years, Hagerman has collaborated with local indigenous communities in the development of beautiful and effective constructions (buildings and furniture) that incorporate their values and meet their needs.

Laureate working in the field of music

Hollis Liverpool, alias Chalkdust (1941, Trinidad and Tobago) is an outstanding calypso musician, composer and performer who has developed music as a voice for the disadvantaged, a playful and effective way to criticise power and comment on controversial issues. As a teacher, historian and writer, he has explored the roots of calypso and contributed significantly to cultural research in Trinidad.

For more information about the 2007 Prince Claus Award laureates, the selection committee, as well as the history and background to the awards, see our website:
www.princeclausfund.org

or contact:

The Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development
phone: +31 70 311.54.53 or +31 70 427.43.03
Ginger da Silva, g.dasilva@princeclausfund.nl
Lieke Vervoorn, l.vervoorn@princeclausfund.nl