

## In Memoriam: Zbigniew Cynkutis

Word has reached us that Zbigniew Cynkutis, for twenty-three years a leading actor with Jerzy Grotowski's Laboratory Theatre of Wrocław, Poland, died in an automobile accident in Poland on 9 January 1987. Those who attended the Latin American theatre festival and conference at Kansas in Spring 1982 (*Contextos y Perspectivas*) may recall the paratheatrical event, *120 Minutes of Activity*, Cynkutis and Robert Findlay (Department of Theatre and Media Arts) conducted with a number of festival and conference participants.

Among the significant performances with Grotowski's group for which Cynkutis will be remembered were the roles of Faustus in Grotowski's version of Marlowe's *Tragical History of Doctor Faustus*, Muléy in the adaptation of Calderón's *The Constant Prince*, and Lazarus in *Apocalypse cum figuris* (based on the Bible, Eliot, Dostoyevski, and Simone Weil).

After spending over two years in the United States both at Kansas and at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, Cynkutis returned to Poland after the Laboratory Theatre had dissolved in August 1984. Taking over the building and archives of the Laboratory Theatre, Cynkutis founded the Second Studio of Wrocław. Over the past two years his group had developed productions based on Seneca's *Phaedra*, Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*, and the biblical *Song of Songs*. At the time of his death, Cynkutis was forty-eight. He is survived by his wife Jolanta and two daughters, Magdalena and Ania.

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