



**30 ianuarie 2017**  
**ZIUA LUI I.L. CARAGIALE / ZIUA UNATC**

**DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA**



**Mats EK**

Born in 1945 in Malmö, Sweden, he was brought up in an artistic family. His mother, Birgit Cullberg, who studied at Kurt Joos' school, alongside with Pina Bausch, is considered one of the founders of modern dance in Sweden. His father, Anders Ek, a well-known film and drama actor, was a close collaborator of Ingmar Bergman. Mats has a twin sister, Malin, who is an actress, and a younger brother, Niklas, also a dancer.

Mats EK entered relatively late in the world of dance, at 17. For the beginning, he was taught at the Stockholm Academy of Ballet. And then he left dance for 10 years to study theatre at the Marieborg College in Norrköping. After graduation, for several years he worked as director at the Puppet Theatre and the Royal Dramatic Theatre in Stockholm. Only in 1973, he joins his mother's troupe, The Cullberg Ballet, as choreographer and, subsequently, as artistic director (1981-1993). His most famous works – reinterpreted version of the famous classical ballets in the circumstances of the twentieth century – were created during this period: "Giselle", "Carmen", "Swan Lake".

His revamping creations of old, classical ballets is what brought the Swedish choreographer to international fame and made the world-wide critics to declare that his talent and intelligence goes beyond dance. That's why he was also invited to direct opera and drama. His works were produced by renowned artistic companies: Paris Opéra, Stuttgart Ballet, Netherland Dance Theatre, Zürich Opera, Royal Swedish Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, Metropolitan Opera, Bolshoi Theatre. His activity has been rewarded with important prizes, such as: Emmy Award (for TV-ballet "Carmen"), Dance Magazine Award, Prize "Benois de la Danse", Olivier Award for Dance, "Europa" Théâtre Prix .

Like any artist, Mats EK has a muse. Almost all leading parts in his ballets were created for Ana Laguna, an outstanding dancer and his wife. Apart from her, he has worked with many talented artists, but Sylvie Guillem and Mikhail Baryshnikov have a special place among them.

Mats EK has given more than 50 years to arts and when he turned 70, in 2015, he said in a moving farewell speech, that he wants "to go through a new experience: to do nothing."