

Preface

The XIIIth International Ibsen Conference was held in Tromsø on 18-23 June 2012, by the University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway, in cooperation with The Ibsen Centre of the University of Oslo and The International Ibsen Committee. With 160 registered participants and 120 papers presented, the conference was one of the biggest international Ibsen conferences that has been held, with participants from over 40 nations and from all continents.

The theme of the conference was "Ibsen and World Drama(s)". Keynote speakers were Martin Puchner, Harvard University, Boston, USA; Nuruddin Farah, author, Somalia/South Africa; Sun Jian, Fudan University, Shanghai; Narve Fulsås, UiT – The Arctic University of Norway. In addition there were two keynote panels: "Translating Ibsen" – Anne Lande Peters (Amsterdam, The Netherlands), Sherin Abdel Wahab (Cairo, Egypt), and Barbara Haveland (Copenhagen, Denmark) – and "Inaugural Artists Keynote Panel: Applied Ibsen on Four Continents", initiated and chaired by Julie Holledge – Sheema Kermani (performance artist, Pakistan), Richard Newton (artist, USA), Gerrit Timmers (theatre director and actor, The Netherlands), Melissa Eveleigh (artist, writer and director, Malawi-Zimbabwe-UK); Anwer Hussain Jafri (writer and director, Pakistan). This was the first artist panel ever at The International Ibsen Conference, and the aim was to strengthen the dialogue between practitioners/artists and theorists/scholars. The inaugural artists keynote panel was a great success, and it is our hope that it will prove to be the first of a series.

The 46 articles printed in this volume of *Nordlit* are a selection of the papers presented at the conference. Whereas the conference programme was loosely organized around subtopics related to the overall conference theme, we have here divided the articles in the following groups: Keynotes, Literature, Theatre, Film, Translation and Reception. Articles that are not peer-reviewed are marked with a * in the list of contents, including the Ibsen poem read at the banquet.

On behalf of the organizing committee I would like to thank all of the participants for their contribution in making the conference a success. The conference was sponsored by a number of institutions, and we would also like to thank all of these: UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, Centre for Ibsen Studies at the University of Oslo, The Research Council of Norway, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fritt Ord, Sparebank 1 and Nord-Norges Gavefond. Last but not least: On behalf of *Nordlit*, and as editor of this Ibsen volume, I would like to thank the Centre for Ibsen Studies for their generous help and financial support.

Tromsø January 2015 Lisbeth P. Wærp