**TNT Theatre**

The company was founded in 1980. Our first production was a manifesto piece: a commedia dell’arte life of the Russian director Meyerhold, who was murdered by Stalin. His ideas are still present in TNT’s work. The company received UK Arts Council (government ) funding for extensive tours of Britain for many years before shifting its focus to international touring. TNT’s initial productions were all self written and combined popular theatre forms with serious subjects. In 1983 we began integrating music into the productions on a complex level. In 1993 we began our collaboration ADG Europe and producer Grantly Marshall, expanding our repertoire to include classical texts and radical stage interpretations of novels. TNT toured internationally from its first year and now tours to over thirty countries a year on three continents in four languages. We believe that theatre itself is a language, and can be understood by all – especially in this digital age – where live art is so essential.

**TNT repertoire 2019/20:**

ROMEO & JULIET, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM, and OTHELLO by Shakespeare, A CHRISTMAS CAROL by Dickens a new French language version of NOTRE DAME DE PARIS adapted by Paul Stebbings (director Gaspard Legendre). The autumn season opens with a new production FREE MANDELA exploring the drama of South Africa’s modern history and it’s lessons for our divided world. This is followed by a revival of TNT’s FRANKENSTEIN – the Monster and the Myth , and a new production: CROOKED LETTER CROOKED LETTER based on the novel by Tom Franklin set in Mississippi. The Mississippi theme is continued in our new dramatisation of Twain’s TOM SAWYER which premiers in September. Meanwhile TNT’s TAMING OF THE SHREW will also be revived in Mandarin by the Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre, while in Costa Rica Teatro Espressivo revives CUENTA DE NAVIDAD (Dickens adapted by Paul Stebbings). All original texts are by Paul Stebbings and Phil Smith. TNT are represented in China by Milky Way productions Beijing and several other producers across three continents.

Our motto is taken from Meyerhold, who inspired our first production: “Tragedy with a smile on its lips”