



JEAN GUY LECAT - Biography

Peter Brook calls him „Monsieur Space“: Jean Guy Lecat, in a period of 25 years, designed worldwide approximately 200 performance spaces for Brook, as well as many others in cooperation with international theatre makers and architects. Space designer, developer of architecture, stage designer, theater maker, Lecat devotes himself fully to the transformation of space for performance. He is untiring in his exploration of the interaction of theater and architecture, design and performance, space and storytelling.

Jean Guy Lecat has worked as stage manager, machinist, flying machinist, props man, set constructor, set designer, photographer, scenic painter, lighting designer, sound designer, costume designer, technical director, theatre-consultant.

In 1965, after having been a fitter model maker, then draughtsman, in Thomson-Houston's factories, J.G. Lecat completed 6 months of training at the Television Studios Les Buttes Chaumont. At that time, he met Claude Perset, a set designer and theatre-architect. In 1966 he left the factory and became his assistant; he drew with him several theatres and festival's spaces, amongst them the famous Théâtre d'Orsay (Théâtre du Rond Point today).

From this date he passed through every technical and artistic job in theatre including being an actor, and started to work on various projects with many many directors and architects around the world - always keeping one foot on architecture and the other one on theatre stage.

From 1976 to 2000 technical director and space designer for Peter Brook, Jean-Guy Lecat was charged particularly with research, transformation or creation of more than 200 spaces throughout the world. Some of them still exist: Harvey-Majestic Theatre and La MaMa in New York, The tramway in Glasgow, The Gaswaerk in Copenhagen, The Mercat de les Flore in Barcelona, Carrière Boulbon in Avignon, T.N.S in Strasburg, Bockenheimer Depot in Frankfurt etc...

He left Peter Brook Company in 2000, and continued to take part in the creation or transformation of spaces at the side of directors and architects. Concurrently he began to share his experiments and discoveries by offering workshops about space around the world, for young professionals or students, theatre makers, architects, artists, set- and light designer. He is also working on the project to create a "Theatre School of Techniques and Spaces" in Lisbon and Moscow.

Jean Guy Lecat's work

Spaces/ Theatres built or transformed

About 200 spaces around the world for Peter Brook:

The Cloister of Carmes, the Boulbon's and Les Taillades's Quarry in Avignon; Théâtre d'Orsay in Paris; Warehouses Lainé in Bordeaux ; BAM Majestic Harvey, La MaMa Theatre and Beaumont Theatre Lincoln Centre in New York; The Tram (tramway) in Glasgow; Teatro Azul in Lisbon, Mercat de les Flores in Barcelona; Covento do Beato in Lisbon; Gasvaerk in Copenhagen (Gas Container); Bockenheimer Depot in Frankfurt; The Petroupolis Quarry in Athens; Antsey Hill Quarry in Perth and Boya Quarry in Adelaide-Australia; Odeon Theatre in Pompeii, Anfiteatro Romano in Calgary-Sardinia; King Palace in Rabat Morocco; The National Theatre in Strasbourg; Festivals : Paris (Festival of Marais), Carcassonne, Berlin, Vienna, Roma, Beograd, Venice, Gordes, Angers, Amsterdam, La Baule , Avignon, Montpellier, les Etés de la Danse Paris etc

Others:

- "Theatre for a New Audience" architect Frank O. Gehry and Hug Hardy in New York.
- Project for the new « The Other Space Theatre / Royal Shakespeare Company».
- "Teatro Azul de Almada" architects M. G. Dias and partners in Lisbon.
- Program for the transformation of "Teatro Trindade" in Lisbon.
- "Théâtre Ouvert" new space, architect Andrew Todd in Paris.
- "Tindved" an old factory turn to theatre spaces and theatres school' in Verdal Norway.
- "Naves del Antiguo Matadero" slaughter house turn to theatre in Madrid.
- "The New Young Vic" architect Steve Tompkins in London. (Winner of the RIBA London building of the year Award).
- "The Roundhouse" transformation of an old train depot to a theatre, architects J. McAslan and Partners in London.
- "The Unicorn Theatre" in London.
- "The Abbey Theatre" architects John Keogan in Dublin.
- "The Empty Space" new small theatre in Dublin.
- Construction of a "Street Theatre Space" for a Portuguese company, opening in 2005.
- "Les 3 Baudets" architect Anthony Bechu in Paris.
- Fitting out for "Alvin Ailey" dance festival inside of an 17th century building in Paris.
- "El Funaro-Teatro Blue" Transformation of an old 17th century carpentry into a theatre in Pistoia Italy.
 - In last PQ07, construction of a temporary theatre in cardboard-boxes and fiberglass over scaffolding Prague.
- Transformation of theatre in St Petersburg.
- Transformation of an old building to opera school in Moscow.
- Transformation of the Mercat de les Flores in Barcelona.
- Program to transform ArCub Theatre, and program to transform an old caravanserai in Bucharest.

Set design

- "Himalaya ballet", lighting director R. Tremblay.
- L'Iliade by Homère with Kathakali Company directed by R. Tremblay in Singapore.
- "Der Theatermacher" (O Fazedor de Teatro), by T. Bernhard, director J. Benite (Best play of the year in Portugal).
- "Othello" by W. Shakespeare, director J. Benite (Best play of the year in Portugal).
- "Titus Andronicus" by W. Shakespeare, director S. Cartmell. (Winner of the best play of the year in Dublin).
- "Quarto Minguante" by R. Francisco directed by J. Benite.
- "Macbeth" by W. Shakespeare, director S. Cartmell.
- "Timon of Athens" by Shakespeare/F.Sena, directed by J. Benite.

- "Carmen" opera by G. Bizet director A. Bourseillé.
- "Woyzeck" opera by A. Berg, Director A. Bourseillé.
- "Vienna Waltz" opera by Offenbach.
- "Teresa" opera by Marius Constant directed by M. Constant.
- "Mahagonny" opera by B. Brecht and K. Wehl directed by M. Gas. ((Won the MAX Award - Best Musical Show of the year in Spain)
- "Tre Intermezzi" opera by Cimarosa-Capua-Cherubini, Directed by S. Mazzonis di Palafera.
- "Le Mariage secret" opera by Cimarosa Directed S. Mazzonis di Palafera.
- "The Clemens of Titus" opera by W.A. Mozart. Directed J. Benite.
- "Il Barbiere di Siviglia" opera by Rossini directed by S. Mazzonis di Palafera.
- "The Mother" by Bertolt Brecht, directed by Joaquim Benite.
- "Tuning" by Rodrigo Francisco

Set /costume design

"The Caucasian Chalk Circle" by B. Brecht, director Oriol Broggi.

Set, costume and light design

- "Miss Julie" by A. Strindberg, (and lighting) director J.C. Corazza
- "The Longer Kiss", (and lighting) by J. Halle, director L. Vik
- "Collected Stories" (Vidas Publicadas) by D. Margulies (and lighting) directed by M. Haufrecht
- "Mary's Story" by Brassai, (and lighting), directed by M. Bénichou.
- "Teatrofocus company" Play directed by Mario Trigo.
- "La Périchole" opera by Offenbach, director A. Bourseillé.
- "Paula Spencer" La femme qui se connaît dans les portes by é.
- "O Vendedor de Elogios" by Michel Simonot directed by Michel Simonot.
- "Uma Visita Inoportuna" by Copi, directed by Philippe Boulet.

Direction, set and costume design

"Oedipus" by Sophocles. direction by Jean-Guy Lecat

Cooperation with the following Theatre Makers

Jean-Louis Barrault, Roger Blin, Jean-Marie Serreau, La MaMa ETC, Peter Brook CICT company, J.Vilar, (Avignon Festival), A.Bourseiller, M.Guillaud, L.Attoun, G. and L.Wilson, G.Retoré, Jean Deschamps, W.Merhing's Théâtre de la Mandragore, B.Jenny's Théâtre du Vieux Colombier, J.Lavelli, C.Dasté, J.Seiler, A.Vitez, Jérôme Deschamps, J.L.Thamin, M.Constant, G.Garran, P.L.Pitzi, F.Marthouret, M.Benichou, S. Lorenzi, W. Litch, R.Forman, J.Savari's Magic Circus, Copi, J.Szajna, Tom O'Horgan, C.Carlson, O.Krejca, G.Marini, T.Kantor, K.M.Gruber, D.Warner, D.Donnellan, J. Benite (Lisbonne), L.Ronconi, J.P.Vincent, T.Suzuki, A.Serban, P.Boulez, La MaMa of New York, J. Beck and The Living Theatre, S.Becket, J.L.Barrault, R.Blin and P.Brook.

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'Un spectacle. Un public. Un seul espace. / One Show. One Audience. One Single Space.'
By Jean Guy Lecat
(International Organization of Scenographers, Theatre Architects and Technicians)

'The Open Space' By A.Todd & Jean Guy Lecat (faber and faber)