

JOE FRIGGIERI is Professor of Philosophy and member of Senate at the University of Malta. He holds doctorates from Milan and Oxford and is also a poet, playwright and theatre director. His publications include two books on the English philosopher J.L. Austin, three volumes of poetry, three collections of short stories, a number of plays, as well as *In-Nisgatal-Hsieb*, the first history of philosophy in Maltese. He has won several literary awards, including the National Literary Prize four times (1993, 1999, 2003 and 2008), and the Francis Ebejer prize for best original play and production (Caravaggio: L-Inkjesta, Manoel Theatre, 2007). He was made a Member of the Order of Merit (MOM) in December 2008.

Professor Friggieri is well-known among theatre audiences for his exciting and highly original productions of over forty plays, including seven of Shakespeare's best-loved works, and for his translations of Aristophanes, Molière, Ibsen, Chekhov, Pirandello, Ugo Betti, Ionesco and Arthur Miller. He has also directed four operas and written the libretto of Charles Camilleri's *Il-Weghda*, the first opera in the Maltese language, as well as the lyrics of three song cycles by the same composer.

Joe Friggieri was chairman of the Manoel Theatre (1990-93), member of the Broadcasting Authority (1993-96), editor of the arts journal *Arti* (1971-74) and of the monthly newspaper *Illum* (1975-80), chairman of the Malta Council for Culture and the Arts (2003-05), founder-editor of *Kultura 21*, as well as presenter and producer of cultural programmes on radio and television. He was guest research scholar and lecturer at the Universities of Venice, Amsterdam, St Andrews, Augsburg and Genova. He is president of the Philosophy Society, chairman of the Board of Theatre Studies and a regular contributor to political, social and cultural debate. In 2009 he was appointed Chairman of the Edward de Bono Institute for the Design and Development of Thinking.

His latest collection of short stories, *Hrejjeġ għal Zmienna (Tales for Our Times)*, written originally in Maltese, was translated into English and extensively reviewed by Professor David E. Cooper in the London *Times Literary Supplement* under the title "Crammed with Fine Dreams". Professor Cooper wrote: "Joe Friggieri conveys a gentle nostalgia for times not so very long past, and embellished by memories of a childhood that never quite was. What is recalled with a sense of loss are the days when people had the leisure to wonder at the mystery of simple things - the schoolboys, for example, whose imagination is stirred by their cardboard kaleidoscopes until a new teacher proscribes them as a waste of time."

These short stories have also been translated into French and published by Filprint (Malta) as *Contes de Notre Temps*.