



5th WORLD SUMMIT ON ARTS & CULTURE MELBOURNE 2011

3 – 6 October 2011



Jacques Martial

Since 2006, Jacques Martial is President of the Etablissement public du parc et de la grande halle de la Villette. He also is an actor, best known to the general public in French-speaking countries for his role in the popular TV series Navarro.

He started his career playing the first role of M. Gleason's film *Broken English*. At the same period, he founded the association "Rond-Point des Cultures" presenting a series of events based on other cultures and using artists from visible minorities.

He directed several plays in Paris (*Une Femme est un Diable* by Mérimée or *La Piaule* by Pascal Vrebos). His cinema career has seen him working with directors such as John Berry, Claire Devers, Samuel Fuller, Robert Kramer. On stage, he played James Saunders, Athol Fugart, Shakespeare, etc.

In the year 2000, he created his own theatre company, la Compagnie de la Comédie Noire, producing works such as Claudel's *L'échange*, *Notebook of a Return to My Native Land* by Aimé Césaire and José Pliya's *Cannibales*, presented in 2011 at the Avignon Off Festival.

In parallel to his artistic career, Jacques Martial is a well-known figure in the fight against racism and social exclusion of all sorts – including the French concept of *communitarian imprisonment*.

It is why in 1998 he became spokesman of the Collectif Egalité, a militant group whose objective is to alert politicians and decision-makers about the need for a greater visibility and promotion of visible minorities particularly in the cultural world.

Following the 2005 riots in the Paris suburbs and at the request of Collectif Devoir de Mémoire (The Duty to Remember Collective), Jacques Martial's voice was chosen to encourage suburban youth to enroll to vote.