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Luis Fernando Verissimo receives Cultural Center Award from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul

The chronicle is the first awarded by the University with a distinction destined to personalities who stand out for their artistic oeuvre

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"So that I am not targeted as laconic, I'll try to say a little more. I can only thank you all, without mentioning names so I don't forget anyone. Thank you all!" With these words, Luis Fernando Verissimo thanked the audience that crowded the Ipê Auditorium and the Figueira Space in the Cultural Center to pay a fair tribute to one of the greatest chroniclers in the history of Brazil, with a production that involved rehearsals, dramaturgy, music, cartoons etc.

Luis Fernando received, on November 12th, the 1st Cultural Center Award of UFRGS from the hands of the UFRGS' Vice-President, Jane Tutikian.

The celebration was attended by several artists and guests. Ras Vicente, on the piano, and the trumpeter Luiz Fernando Rocha played several compositions in Verissimo's favorite style: jazz. Rocha was also a well-known figure in the writer's artistic life: he was a member of the group Jazz 6, of which Luis Fernando took part for many years with his alto sax.

At the end of the performance of the talented duo, which thrilled the audience, the ceremony continued at the Ipê Auditorium, where the flutist Pedrinho Figueiredo invited with a soprano sax solo those present to enter the venue. Already lined up on the wooden benches arranged on the auditorium stage, the actors Anderson Vieira, Mirna Spritzer and Ilana Kaplan, alongside the filmmaker Jorge Furtado, read several texts written by Luis Fernando Verissimo and chosen by Professor Giba Assis Brasil.

Amid the laughter provoked by the duo Ilana and Anderson in reading the dialogue of the chronicle O Lixo (The Trash), Mirna got prepared to read another famous text by Verissimo: O Ovo (The Egg). The comparison between sex and the delight that is to wet the rice with the yolk of the fried egg, after eating all the white to leave the best for the end, drew laughter and led the honoree to open a discreet smile. The selected texts covered most of the writer's career from 1973 to 2019. The chronicle entitled Simples (Simple) and a text about the Brazilian military dictatorship were also read and provided the public with unforgettable moments. Everyone could remember their first connections with the work of Luis Fernando Verissimo.

The night of tributes ended with the delivery of the sculpture made by visual artist Mauro Fuke, specially commissioned for the occasion. The work made of wood was based on the forest species that name the rooms of the Cultural Center. The Cultural Center Award of UFRGS was presented by the vice-rector and raised to the public to be shown by Luis Fernando's son, Pedro Verissimo. In her speech, Vice-President Jane Tutikian stressed the honor of being awarding the 1st. Cultural Center Award from UFRGS to one of the greatest writers in the country. She recalled that the author's vocation for the daily chronicle had already been insinuated as early as in his adolescence, when Luis Fernando, alongside his sister Clarissa, created an unusual newspaper that circulated in the Verissimo's family environment.

About the Cultural Center Award granted by UFRGS

Created in 2019 under the administration of the director of the Cultural Center Claudia Boettcher, the Cultural Center Award seeks to reward distinguished artists for their significant artistic and cultural contributions to our country. It is an award that seeks to bring to the university environment the fair tribute to people who contributed to society in a unique way, reaching broad diverse audiences, pretty much like the case of agents linked to culture. The prize-sculpture is based on wood and alludes to the species of trees native to Brazil whose names designate all the rooms of the Cultural Center of UFRGS.

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Image by: Anna Ortega/DDC-UFRGS

