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University Network
Member



**Network for Higher Education
in the Performing Arts**

Report of the ITI/UNESCO Network Special Connecting Event 2021

13 to 17 December 2021 - Online

With a special invitation to watch the presentations through one click 

www.iti-unesco-network.org

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To watching the event sessions, video performances, and so on, . just click on the sign. ↗



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Event Overview

The Special Connecting Event is designed for connecting the members of the ITI/UNESCO Network with each other and empowering the students of the Network member institutions.

To provide a platform for connecting the Network members from all around the globe, Connecting Sessions are offered from Day 1 to Day 4. 40+ member institutions of the ITI/UNESCO Network present their institution, activities, and projects in a visual form such as videos, PowerPoint presentations, etc. Additionally, there is a Q&A period during each Session.

To inspire the students with the spirit of artists, from Day 1 to Day 4, a dialogue with an artist is included. Each day, a distinguished performing artist visually shows his or her artistic work and is in dialogue with students and educators. Each Session is moderated by a student of a Network Member Institution.

On Day 5, 17 December, there are five Breakout Rooms for exploring special topics in the Breakout Session. A Member of the Network can enter one of the breakout rooms to explore the topic that is of the highest interest to him or her. In each room, Network members can share their viewpoints and may start to evolve a cooperative project within the Network. The five topics are Room 1: Social Theatre / Community Theatre, Room 2: Dramaturgy / Playwriting, Room 3: Interdisciplinarity, Room 4: Teaching Methods, Room 5: International Collaboration.

Goals of the Special Connecting Event 2021

- To strengthen communication and exchange among Network Members
- To create interactions between distinguished artists and students
- To increase connections between Network Members and Network Secretariat
- To build up solidarity within the Network

Opening Video





Opening Speech



Tobias Biancone

President of the ITI/UNESCO Network of Higher Education in the Performing Arts

Distinguished Members, distinguished Friends, distinguished Guests

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the Special Connecting Event of the ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts.

It is obvious that the pandemic is not yet over. It is with sorrow that I have become aware that many performances again cannot happen or are postponed, and that face-to-face education is limited again.

The performing arts community once more is suffering, and that concerns the education in stage skills as well. It looks like a black cloud is covering the performing arts world - its creators, its educators, its contributors, its participants. Where is the freedom to perform? The freedom to educate? Where is joy and interest of a person in the audience?

In this situation I ask myself what can the ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts do? What should this Network offer to overcome the barriers that the authorities and even common sense is imposing on all of us? How can this global network help its member institutions to be connected with the world, when its members often are bound to work on a local level? How can we increase the awareness of cultural diversity in education that exists on a global level? How can we do an essential step towards a better future for the education in the performing arts, now?

One of the answers is that we should use our communication skills and help to unite the members and friends of the ITI/ UNESCO Network. That is why we started to get in touch with our members and with outstanding artists, did a survey on themes that are of interest - and finally conceived this Special Connecting Event - online.

During the development, the event has become a joint initiative of the General Secretariat, the Board and the Members of the ITI/UNESCO Network and also the selected four artists - and many more people who are involved in this initiative.

We call it a Connecting Event, as the goal is to bring members and friends in communication with each other and to stimulate the work that has been done so far and inspire collaboration for the future.

Who is behind each of the member institutions? What are the activities of the member institutions? How do outstanding artist work in these difficult times? What burning, substantial topics need to be developed as a project?

These and other issues will be touched during the Special Connecting Event that have been developed under the guidance of the General Secretariat of the ITI/UNESCO Network and ITI worldwide.

I am inviting you to participate or watch – and above all to communicate with each other, communicate to the General Secretariat and be part of this movement that consists of people and institutions that are dedicated to education in the performing arts – and that are following the goals of mutual understanding and peace of UNESCO and the International Theatre Institute ITI.

And mutual understanding and peace is continuously extremely important for creating a world that is rich in culture, rich in a diverse education in the performing arts.

Thank you for being here. Thank you for your interest so far. I hope you appreciate what the General Secretariat and the Members of the ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts – and the artists – are presenting to you.

To watch the Opening Speech by Tobias Biancone, please click here: https://iti-unesco-network.org/connectingevent_opening.html



Special Connecting Event

13 to 17 December 2021 – Online

Schedule

(Subject to change.)

Every Day Starts at 14h00 Paris Time

Time Zone : Paris Time | GMT+1

Day 1 Monday 13 December 14h00 – 17h40	Day 2 Tuesday 14 December 14h00 – 17h20	Day 3 Wednesday 15 December 14h00 – 17h20	Day 4 Thursday 16 December 14h00 – 17h20	Day 5 Friday 17 December 14h00 – 16h20
Opening	Connecting Sessions Network Members' Presentations			Breakout Sessions Social Theatre / Community Theatre Dramaturgy / Playwriting Interdisciplinarity Teaching Methods International Collaboration
Connecting Session			Open Space	
Dialogue with an Artist				

Dialogues with Artist

Monday 13 December	Tuesday 14 December	Wednesday 15 December	Thursday 16 December
Lemi PONIFASIO Samoa and New Zealand Choreographer, stage director, designer, artist, International Dance Day Message Author	Elli PAPAKONSTANTINO Greece Stage director, writer, visual artist, cultural manager	Stan LAI (LAI Shengchuan) China One of the leading playwright/directors in the Chinese speaking world	Gladys AGULHAS South Africa Dancer, choreographer, educator, International Dance Day Message Author

Watch this event on ITIUNESCONetwork



To participate, please email to secretariat@iti-unesco-network.org

Connecting Sessions / Network Members' Presentations

Members' Presentations are in alphabetical order by country. To watch just the presentation of a Member, please click on one of the Member's pictures.

For connecting all the current Network members in different regions, from Day 1 to Day 4, 13 to 16 December, there are Connecting Sessions for the presentation and exchange of members. During the event, 41 member institutions of the ITI/UNESCO Network present their institution in various forms and enhance their understanding of one another through the Q&A.



Bosnia and Herzegovina | Institute for Music, Theatre and Multimedia – iMTM Sarajevo



Armenia | Yerevan State Institute of Theatre and Cinematography (Yerevan)

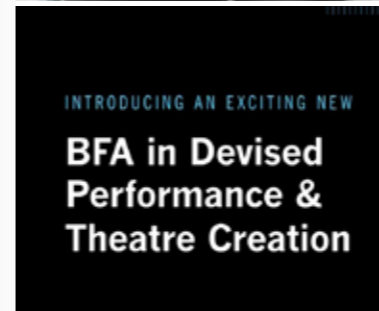


Brazil | NEEDRAM, Theatre Directing and Dramatic Writing Research Group, Federal University of Santa Catarina (Florianópolis)





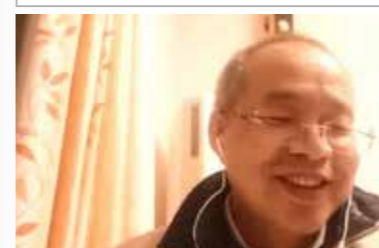
Azerbaijan | Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts (Baku)



Canada | University of Regina (Regina SK)



Burkina Faso | Superior School of Theatre Jean-Pierre Guingané – CFRAV (Ouagadougou)

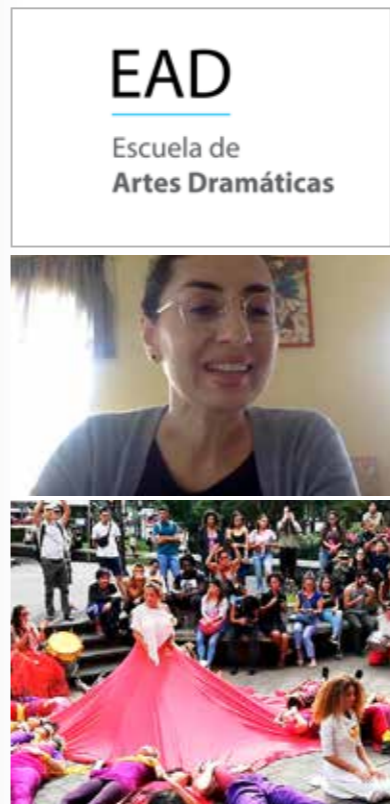


China | Shanghai Theatre Academy (Shanghai)

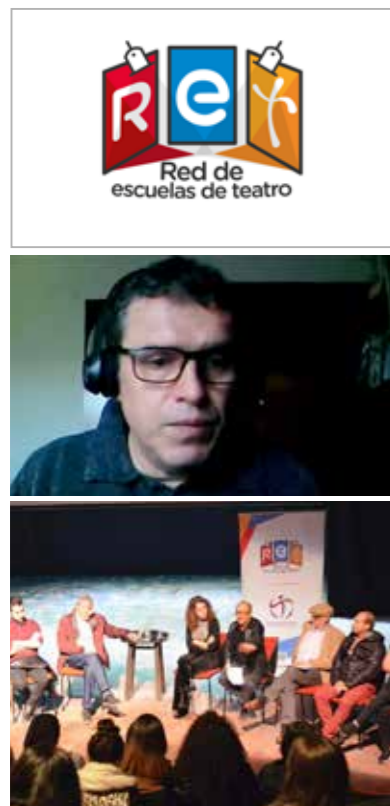




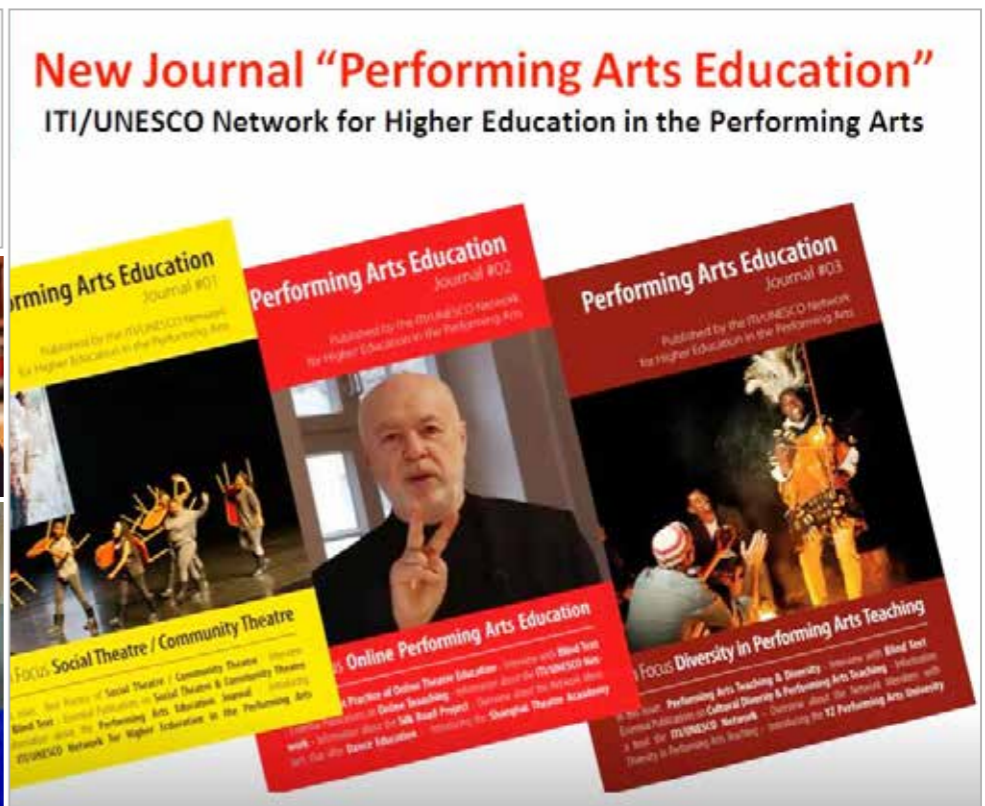
China | The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (Hong Kong)



Costa Rica | University of Costa Rica (San José)



Colombia | Red de Escuelas de Teatro - RET (Bogota)

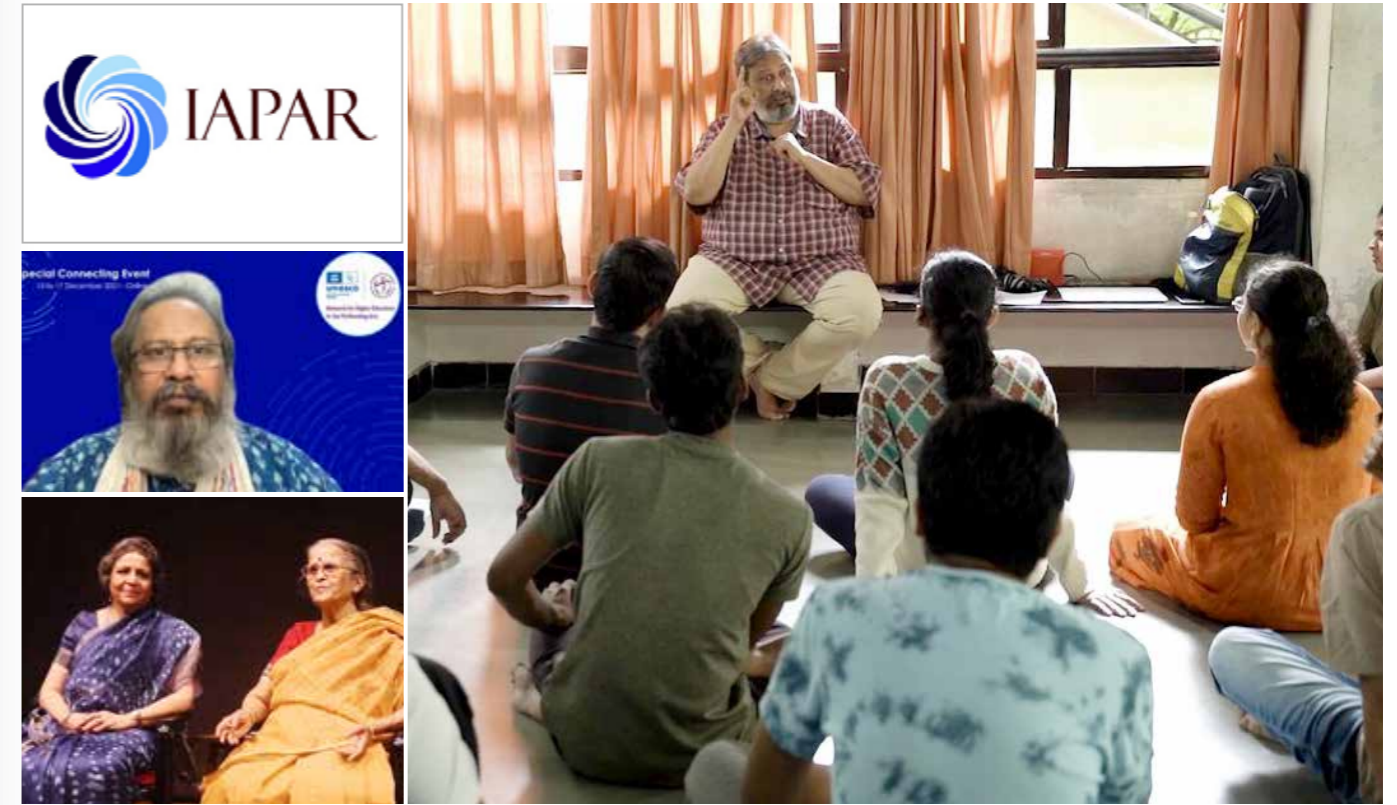


Georgia | Arts Research Institute of Georgia (Tbilisi)





Germany | World Theatre Training Institute AKT-ZENT/ITI (Berlin)



India | International Association for Performing Arts and Research – IAPAR (Pune)



Greece | Ethnomusicology and Cultural Anthropology Laboratory of National and Kapodistrian, University of Athens (Athens)



India | Applied Theatre India Foundation ATIF (Karve Nagar, Pune)





Italy | Scuola Luca Ronconi, Piccolo Teatro di Milano (Milano)



Italy | Associazione Civica Accademia d'Arte Drammatica Nico Pepe (Udine)



Italy | University del Salento (Lecce)



Montenegro | Faculty of Dramatic Arts – University of Montenegro (Cetinje)





Morocco | University of Hassan II (Casablanca)



Poland | Grotowski Institute (Wroclaw)



Philippines | Ateneo de Manila University (Manila)



Portugal | Escola Superior de Teatro e Cinema (Lisbon)





Romania | Lucian Blaga University (Sibiu)



Russia | Institute of Theatrical Arts (Moscow)



Russia | Graduate School of Performing Arts (Moscow)



Singapore | LASALLE College of the Arts (Singapore)





Slovenia | Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film & Television (Ljubljana)



South Korea | Sungshin Women's University (Seoul)



South Korea | International Museum's Theatre Institute (Seoul)

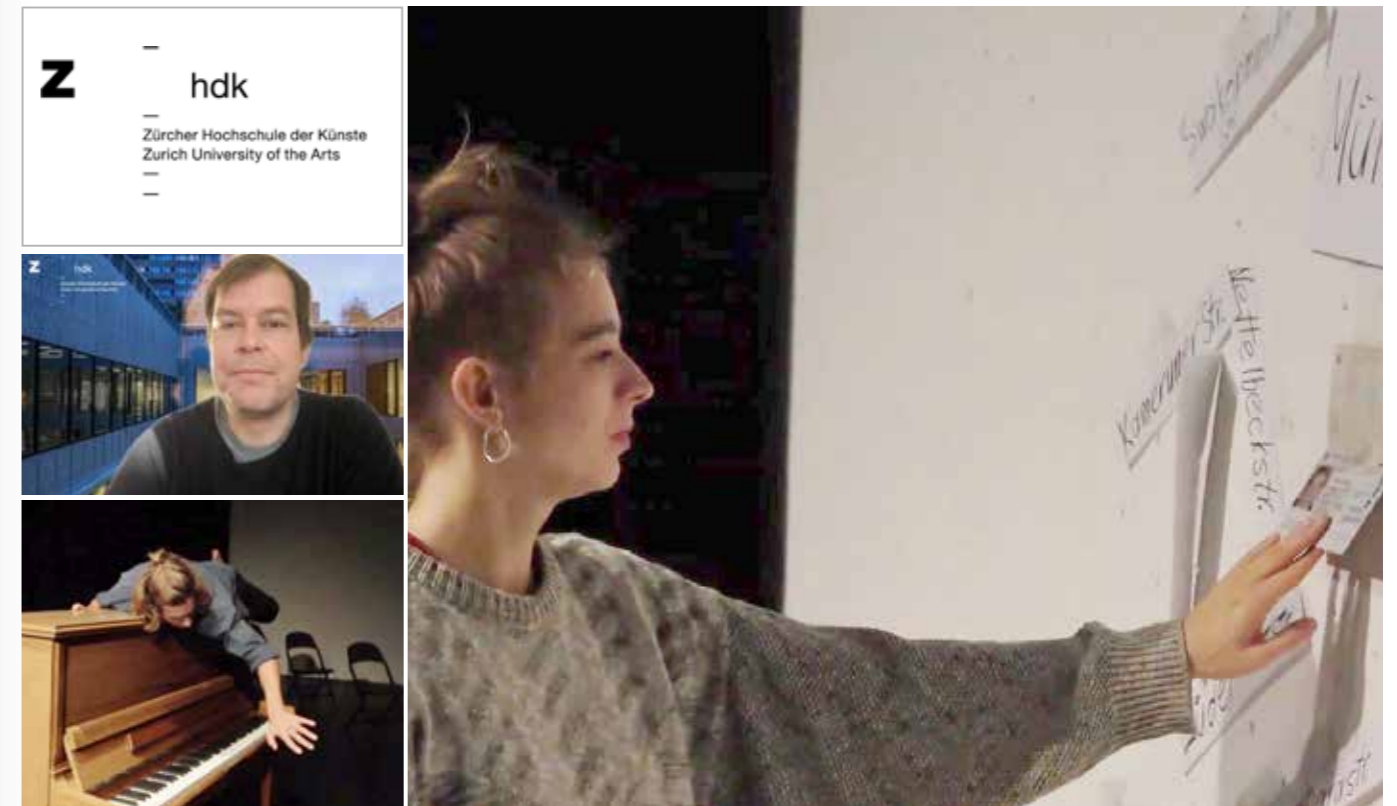


South Sudan | College of Art, Music & Drama, University of Juba (Juba)

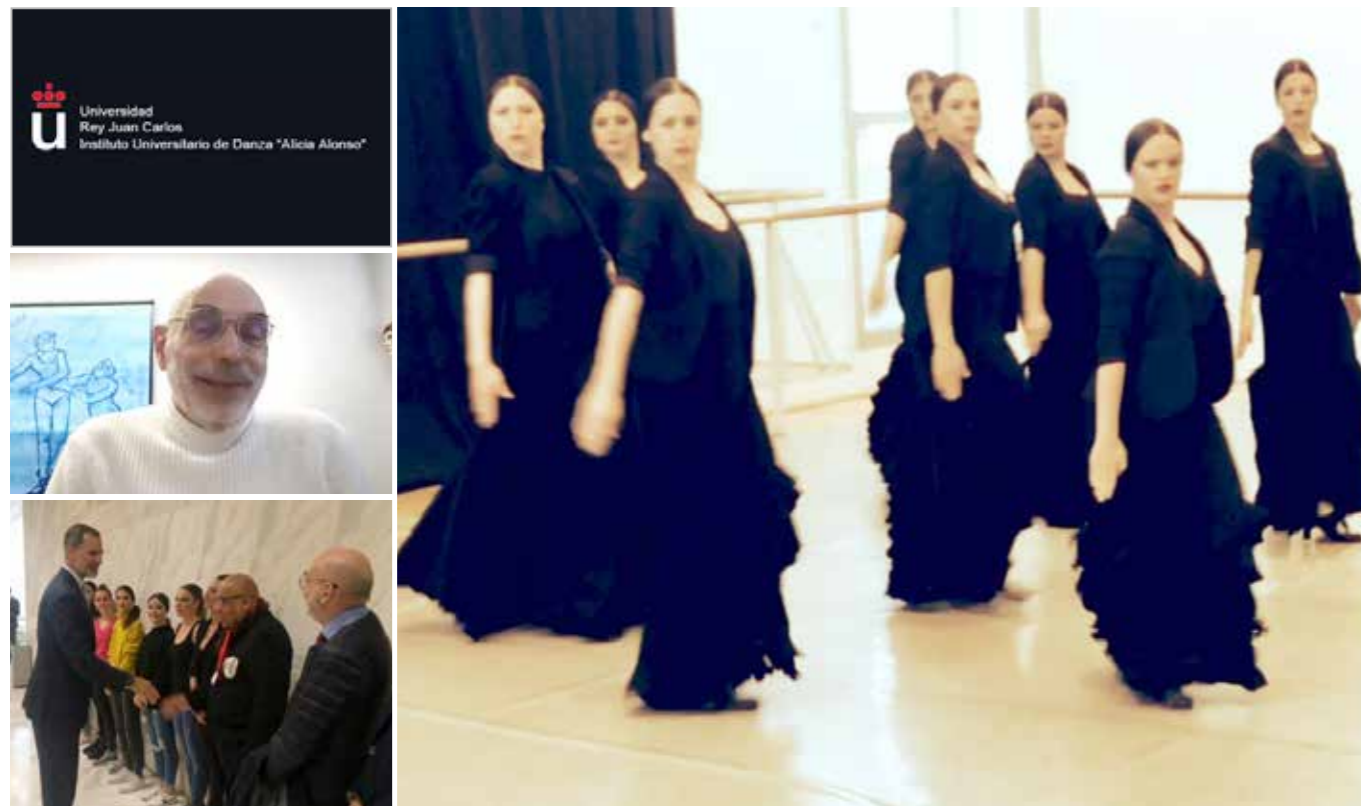




Spain | Escola Superior de Arte Dramática de Galicia ESADg (Vigo)



Switzerland | Zurich University of the Arts (Zurich)



Spain | Alicia Alonso Dance Institute, University Rey Juan Carlos (Madrid)

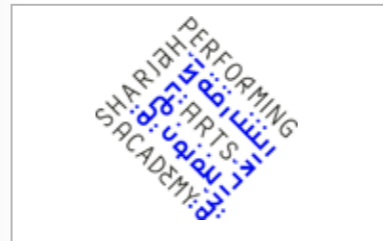


Switzerland | Accademia Teatro Dimitri (Verscio)





Turkey | Bilkent University (Ankara)



United Arab Emirates | Sharjah Performing Arts Academy (Sharjah)



Ukraine | Kyiv National I.K. Karpenko-Karyi University of Theatre, Cinema and Television (Kiev)



United Kingdom | CGO Institute - Diploma for Creative Producing





United States of America | Georgetown University (Georgetown)



United States of America | Texas Tech University School of Theatre and Dance (Lubbock)



Dialogue with an Artist

From day 1 to day 4, there is a Dialogue with an Artist session, where a distinguished performing artist shows his or her artistic works and has a dialogue with the students and educators. This Session aims to enable a direct connection between artists and students and let the spirit of artists inspire and encourage the students. To maximize the participation of students, the Session is moderated by students from Network member institutions.



Day 1

Lemi PONIFASIO, Samoa & New Zealand

Student Moderator: Ege TOLGA
Bilkent University (Ankara/Turkey)

Introducing Artist: Hamadou MANDÉ, Burkina Faso

Day 2

Elli PAPAKONSTANTINO, Greece

Student Moderator: Tejas HIRAH
LASALLE College of the Arts (Singapore/Singapore)

Introducing Artist: Daniel BAUSCH, Switzerland

Day 3

Stan LAI (LAI Shengchuan), China

Student Moderator: Silvana Zuluaga Gómez
Red de Escuelas de Teatro – RET (Bogota/Colombia)

Introducing Artist: Alvaro Andrés FRANCO RODRIGUEZ,
Colombia

Day 4

Gladys AGULHAS, South Africa

Student Moderator: César MAEKAWA ABE
Alicia Alonso Dance Institute (Madrid/Spain)

Introducing Artist: Luis LLERENA, Spain

To watch all the Dialogue sessions, please click here:
[https://www.iti-unesco-network.org/connectingevent_](https://www.iti-unesco-network.org/connectingevent_artistdialogue.html)
[artistdialogue.html](https://www.iti-unesco-network.org/connectingevent_artistdialogue.html)





Lemi PONIFASIO

Samoa and New Zealand
Choreographer, stage director, designer, artist, International Dance Day Message Author

Biography

Lemi Ponifasio is acclaimed internationally for his radical work as a choreographer, stage director, designer, art installations, and collaborations with many communities.

Born in Samoa, Lemi Ponifasio founded MAU in 1995, a platform that brings together traditional and contemporary Pacific and Maori artists, thinkers and communities from the fields of oratory, ceremony makers, kapahaka, theatre, music, dance, film and visual arts.

MAU focuses on arts and culture, avant-garde, and thought. MAU seeks to transform the theatre's power source, challenge the authority of theatre, and re-examine and question our current concept of what is human. It organizes new art, workshops, symposia, and community meetings; activities to build new systems of knowledge and new cultures to confront the political-cultural-ecological and scientific predicaments of our time.

Lemi Ponifasio gives the name MAU as the philosophical foundation and direction of his work, the name of his work, and the communities he works with. MAU is the Samoan word meaning what we need to hold to or truth. Lemi's collaborators are people from all walks of life, performing in factories, remote villages, opera houses, schools, marae, castles, galleries, and stadiums. His projects have included fully staged operas, theatre, dance, exhibitions, community forums and festivals in more than 40 countries.

Lemi Ponifasio has presented his creations in places such as the Festival d'Avignon, Lincoln Center New York, BAM New York, Ruhrtriennale, LIFT Festival London, Edinburgh International Festival, Theater der Welt, Festival de Marseille, Theatre de la Ville Paris, Onassis Cultural Centre Athens, Holland Festival, Luminato Festival Toronto, Vienna Festival, Santiago a Mil Chile, the Venice Biennale and in the Pacific region.

His recent works include Chosen and Beloved (2020) with MAU Wahine and NZ Symphony Orchestra, Jerusalem (2020) with MAU, House Of Night and Day (2020) exhibition at Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Transfigured Night (2020), Love To Death (2020) with MAU Mapuche, Santiago Chile.

More information about Lemi Ponifasio can be found on the website of [MAU](#), of [International Dance Day](#) (with his message) and on [Wikipedia](#) (with the list of his performances).

Artistic Work for the Dialogue: **LE SAVALI: Berlin**



To watch all the Dialogue sessions, please click here: https://www.iti-unesco-network.org/connectingevent_artistdialogue.html



Elli PAPA KONSTANTINO

Greece
Stage director, writer, visual artist, cultural manager

Biography

Elli Papakonstantinou connects notions of myth and gender philosophy by revisiting the classics and creating immersive experiences. She is the founder of the international company ODC Ensemble. After living in the UK for over a decade, Papakonstantinou returned to Greece during the crisis and her engagement with civic movements at this time was pivotal to shaping her ideas. Named a Visiting CCRMA Scholar at Stanford University and a visiting scholar at Princeton University, she has been awarded twice a Fulbright Artist's Award.

Papakonstantinou was commissioned by the European Capitals of Culture "Valetta18" (Malta), "Eleusis21" (GR) and "Pafos17" (Cyprus) and presented her work for the European Parliament for Culture in 2017. Her creations have toured internationally at the Centre Georges Pompidou/ IRCAM (FR), Brooklyn Academy of Music (US), Operadagen Festival (HL), Neukollner Oper Berlin (DE), Romaeuropa Festival (IT), LaMaMa E.T.C. (US), the West End (UK), National Theatre of Greece (GR) and more. More information about Elli Papakonstantinou can be found on her [website](#).

Artistic Work for the Dialogue: **Traces of Antigone, Hotel_AntiOedipus, Oedipus, The Cave**



To watch all the Dialogue sessions, please click here: https://www.iti-unesco-network.org/connectingevent_artistdialogue.html



Stan LAI (LAI Shengchuan)

China
One of the leading playwrights/directors in the Chinese speaking world

Biography

One of the most celebrated voices in the contemporary Chinese theatre, Stan Lai (Chinese 賴聲川) has been called "The best Chinese language playwright and director in the world." (BBC) "The preeminent Chinese playwright and stage director of this generation." (China Daily) "Asia's top theatre director." (Asiaweek) "The most celebrated Chinese language playwright and director in the world and his body of work - which to date includes over 40 original plays - has redefined how we think about the art form itself." (Broadway World)

Born in the U.S., Lai began his creative career in Taiwan, and now his works are performed all over China and the Chinese speaking world, as well as in the West, in an illustrious career that spans over three decades. His oeuvre includes milestones such as *That Evening, We Performed Crosstalk* (1985), credited with creating a new theatrical form and revitalizing the dying art of crosstalk (xiangsheng) in Taiwan, *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land* (1986), called by the *New York Times* as "the most popular contemporary play in China," *The Village* (2008) described by the *Beijing News* "the pinnacle of our era of theatre," his epic 8 hour *A Dream Like A Dream* (2000), called by *China Daily* as "possibly the greatest Chinese-language play since time immemorial," and his latest *Ago*, which has been hailed as "a new kind of theater, one equipped to respond to the pressures of the 21st century." Lai has also written and directed two widely acclaimed feature films, *The Peach Blossom Land* (1992) and *The Red Lotus Society* (1994), the former which received top prizes at the Tokyo, Berlin, and Singapore international film festivals. Lai is also an acclaimed opera director (*Dream of the Red Chamber*, San Francisco Opera) and event director (*Deaflympics Opening Ceremony*, Taipei 2009).

His awards include Taiwan's National Arts Award, which he has won an unprecedented two times (1988, 2001), "Man of the Year" for Cultural Affairs, *Newsweek China* (2010), and a Star on the Walk of Fame at the Sibiu International Theatre Festival (2019).

In 2013, Lai co-founded the Wuzhen Theatre Festival, which has become one of Asia's top festivals. In 2015, he founded Theatre Above, a 699-seat venue in Shanghai dedicated to the performance of his works.

Lai holds a Ph.D. in Dramatic Art from the University of California, Berkeley, and has taught extensively at the Taipei National University of the Arts, and at Berkeley and Stanford. His book *Stan Lai on Creativity* is a best seller in China and Taiwan. His plays have been published in numerous Chinese editions including a recent 17 volume set (Beijing, Citic Press), as well as in English versions from Oxford and Columbia University Press. Selected Plays of Stan Lai, 12 plays in 3 volumes, will be published in English by the University of Michigan Press with release date Dec 20, 2021. Lai is currently Artistic Director of Performance Workshop, Taiwan, Theatre Above, Shanghai, and Co-founder and Festival Director of the Wuzhen Theatre Festival, China.

Artistic Work for the Dialogue: **The Village**



To watch all the Dialogue sessions, please click here: https://www.iti-unesco-network.org/connectingevent_artistdialogue.html



Gladys AGULHAS

South Africa
Dancer, choreographer, educator,
International Dance Day Message Author

Biography

Growing up in Johannesburg in the 1970s and '80s, Gladys Agulhas was first exposed to dance at a young age. By the time Gladys entered high school, dancing had become her abiding passion. After school she studied at the Johannesburg Art Foundation from 1988-89. She has studied Integrated Contemporary Dance Teaching in Switzerland with renowned teacher/Independent Artist Adam Benjamin from London. Gladys Agulhas is the founder of AGULHAS THEATRE WORKS (ATW/Choreographer/Dance Practitioner) and an independent performer, nominee and winner of numerous Contemporary Choreography and Dance Awards in South Africa, ex-senior dancer for the former Johannesburg Dance Theatre. She also worked with PACT Dance Company and performed with various other companies in South Africa. Agulhas was the recipient of the Women's Day Award in Eldorado Park for the promotion of Arts in the community. Agulhas is involved with Dance in Education, and is co-founder of the Kiptown Arts Foundation. She teaches at various institutions and Companies. She was involved in Shuttle 99, Dance Education Exchange programme between the Nordic countries and South Africa. Agulhas is a proud member of World Dance Alliance Europe and of WoVA (Women's Voice Arts Africa). In 2004 - 2007 ATW travelled, performed and conducted integrated Dance workshops in Switzerland, Holland and Sweden. She won the first Prize reception of the Department of Arts and Culture "MOSADI WA KONOKONO" (Woman of Substance) National Award 2007. More information about Gladys Agulhas can be found on the website of [The Presidency of South Africa](#) and of [International Dance Day](#).

Artistic Work for the Dialogue: **Pretending to be Something Coming from Nothing**



To watch all the Dialogue sessions, please click here: https://www.iti-unesco-network.org/connectingevent_artistdialogue.html



Breakout Sessions


The Breakout Session is designed to create a platform to enhance the exchange of ideas on specific topics among Network members. The Network Secretariat sent out a survey form to all the members before the event to collect their topics of interest. After receiving all the feedback, the Secretariat selected the five most mentioned topics to be the discussion topics for this online event. Also, five Breakout Room moderators who have expertise in the topics are selected from Network member institutions to lead the discussion.

Room 1: Social Theatre / Community Theatre



Moderator: Fabio TOLLEDI, University del Salento, Italy

Fabio TOLLEDI moderates the Social Theatre / Community Theatre Breakout Room. The participants think that theatre has a diverse ability and plays an important role globally. They express their needs to promote a common activity to share news all over the world about this topic. They share different experiences and discuss examples such as Theatre in Conflict Zones and Theatre in Prison.

To watch all the Breakout Sessions, please click here:
https://www.iti-unesco-network.org/connectingevent_breakoutsessions.html 



Room 2: Dramaturgy / Playwriting



Moderator: Janice Sze Wan POON, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, China


Janice POON moderates the Dramaturgy / Playwriting Breakout Room. The participants share the different theatre situations in their countries and the theatre experience in the pandemic, especially the online experiences. They discuss the important materials and elements of online theatre-making, such as the concern of time, the audiences' attention and writing for online theatre. They found out that it is very different for the audiences to watch online performances than to watch the performance in a theatre. And it provides challenges for the dramaturgs because the theatre production cycle is shorter and more intense. Also, the feedback from audiences is more instant. The participants say that theatre is very important in this circumstance and the playwrights and dramaturgs need more supports. The dramaturgical sensibilities can play an important role in connecting people and making theatre together.

Room 3: Interdisciplinarity



Moderator: Vidyanidhee VANARASE, International Association for Performing Arts and Research IAPAR, India

Vidyanidhee Sudheer VANARASE moderates the Interdisciplinarity Breakout Room. The participants talk about the idea of interdisciplinarity and interdisciplinary approach in the context of theatre. They think that it is necessary to break the barriers of traditional theatre and traditional teaching practices of theatre. They also discuss the purpose of theatre, performing, and theatre teaching. And they navigate the other aspects of the possibilities of theatre, such as the healing effect which relates to mental health. They also talk about the disciplines of psychology, sociology and philosophy which go beyond the universal understanding of the curriculum of theatre. And they discuss how various disciplines merge into a new discipline. The participants decide to stay in communication and further develop on the subject.

To watch all the Breakout Sessions, please click here:
https://www.iti-unesco-network.org/connectingevent_breakoutsessions.html 

Room 4: Teaching Methods



Moderator: Dmitry TRUBOTCHKIN, Graduate School of Performing Arts, Russia


Dmitry TRUBOTCHKIN moderates the Teaching Methods Breakout Room. The participants discuss a few problems concerning traditional and contemporary methods of teaching. And they communicate within the situation of the intercultural world and how to use methods of different cultures to teach the students. They also discuss and advantages and disadvantages of online teaching and share their experience of teaching last days in December.

Room 5: International Collaboration



Moderator: CHEN Zhongwen, General Secretary of the ITI/ UNESCO Network

CHEN Zhongwen moderates the International Collaboration Breakout Room. The participants discuss the different levels of collaboration. Getting to know one another is the first level and building concrete projects is the second level. The participants discuss and envision various projects and ways of collaboration. Levan KHETAGURI proposes that the Network members unite together and offer students a place to take what they learned into practice. They also discuss supporting one another by offering international tutors to the students. And they propose to hold an online conference in 2022 and offline events in the future. They look for a place to host the General Assembly and the possibility for the Student Festival. They will continue to develop ideas and discuss how to realize them.

To watch all the Breakout Sessions, please click here:
https://www.iti-unesco-network.org/connectingevent_breakoutsessions.html 

Presentation of the Network Secretariat & Open Space



Moderator: Tobias BIANCONE, President of the ITI/ UNESCO Network

At the end of the last day, an Open Space is specially designed for Members to share ideas, voice suggestions, and visions for the Network to the largest extend. The Breakout Session moderators will summarize the discussions in their rooms. There will also be sharing of Network projects and the Network Secretariat presentation.


CHEN Zhongwen, Secretary of the Network, introduces the Network and the Secretariat* to the members. She presents the structure of the Network, its missions, and its activities to reach the missions. And she presents the geographic distribution and categories of the members of the Network. Also, she introduces the function of the Secretariat as a bridge and a platform. She presents the various tasks the Secretariat is undertaking to serve all the Network members. She says it is the Secretariat's duty to serve the members and to help with the local and global community in the performing arts education field. She thanks everyone who supports this Network and says the Network belongs to and depends on everyone.

* The work of the ITI/ UNESCO Network Secretariat is carried out by the General Secretariat of the International Theatre Institute (ITI).

President
Tobias BIANCONE

Secretary
CHEN Zhongwen

General Secretariat ITI
DU Mengxuan (Annie), Network & ITI Project Officer
TANG Yiming, ITI Establishment Officer
CHEN Simin (Nancy), ITI Project Officer

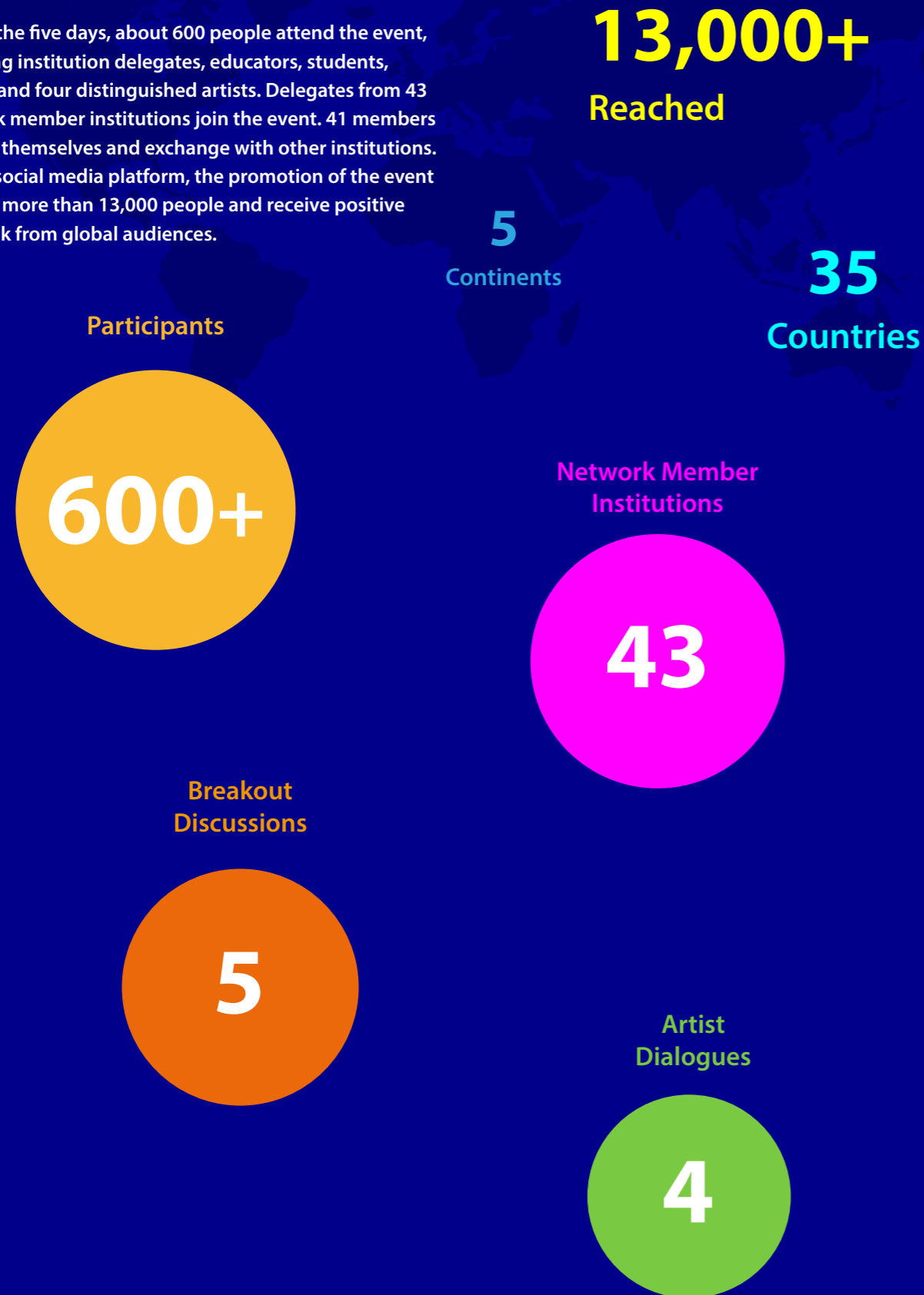
To watch the Presentation of the Network Secretariat & Open Space, please click here:
https://www.iti-unesco-network.org/connectingevent_openspace.html 



Statistics and Feedback of the Special Connecting Event 2021

The event attracts nearly 200 registrations from students and educators of Network member institutions and the guests.

During the five days, about 600 people attend the event, including institution delegates, educators, students, guests, and four distinguished artists. Delegates from 43 Network member institutions join the event. 41 members present themselves and exchange with other institutions. On the social media platform, the promotion of the event reaches more than 13,000 people and receive positive feedback from global audiences.



Event Organizer

The main organizer of the ITI/UNESCO Network Special Connecting Event 2021 is the General Secretariat of ITI*. It is advised by the Board of the ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts.

* The work of the ITI/UNESCO Network Secretariat is carried out by the General Secretariat of the International Theatre Institute (ITI).

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CHEN Simin (Nancy), ITI Project Officer

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Levan KHETAGURI, Georgia
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Prisca Leutenegger, Futura Communication



Expression of Gratitude

With the support of the Members of the ITI/UNESCO Network and all the participating members, the Special Connecting Event from 13 to 17 December 2021 has developed into a highly appreciated gathering. The event has reached its goal to enhance the communication among our members, promote interaction between artists and students, and build potential collaborations.

The team of the General Secretariat want to express its deepest gratitude to all the participants for participating and contributing to this Special Connecting Event.



About the International Theatre Institute ITI

Vision and Aims

The International Theatre Institute ITI, the world's largest organization for the performing arts, was founded in 1948 on the initiative of the first UNESCO Director General, Sir Julian Huxley, and the playwright and novelist, J.B. Priestley. The organization strives for a society in which the performing arts and their artists thrive and flourish, and advances mutual understanding, creative cooperation and peace. It advocates the protection and promotion of cultural expressions, regardless of age, gender, creed, or ethnicity.

The International Theatre Institute creates and animates platforms for international exchange and for engagement in the education of the performing arts, for beginners, artists and professionals alike. The organization has more than 90 Centres spread across the five continents. Every year, ITI organizes the World Theatre Day and the International Dance Day.

On the initiative of Tobias Biancone, Director General of ITI, with the assistance of academics and ITI members, the ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts was created with assistance in the form of valuable guidance from the UNITWIN department of the Educational Sector of UNESCO. According to the pilot structure unanimously approved by the 2018 General Assembly, the ITI General Secretariat works as the ITI/UNESCO Network's Secretariat. The Director General of ITI is the President of the ITI/UNESCO Network. The Deputy Director General of ITI is the Secretary of the ITI/UNESCO Network.



www.iti-worldwide.org
www.world-theatre-day.org
www.international-dance-day.org





About ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts

Vision and Aims

The ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts advances ITI's and UNESCO's goals of sustainable, peaceful and creative development, in a world characterised by a fertile diversity of cultural expressions.

As understood by the ITI/UNESCO Network, performing arts encompass theatre, drama, dance, music theatre, playwriting and related disciplines.

The Network strives towards building a global platform for higher education institutions to gather, learn from each other, organize exchanges involving scholars, artists and students, and tackle common important academic, artistic and institutional issues. It supports the development of the performing arts in developed and developing countries, with particular emphasis on Africa, helping to improve accessibility to performing arts higher education.

The ITI/UNESCO Network promotes higher education institutions and projects which bring together both theory and practice. It strives to make the importance of education in the performing arts understood and institutionally recognised not only in the academic and artistic worlds, but also by decision-makers and the general public.



**Network for Higher Education
in the Performing Arts**

www.iti-unesco-network.org



About UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

The UNITWIN Chairs and Networks Programme promotes international inter-university cooperation and networking to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge sharing and collaborative work. Through this Network, higher education and research institutions all over the globe pool their resources, both human and material, to address pressing challenges and contribute to the development of their societies and promote peace and mutual understanding.

In many instances, the UNITWIN Networks and Chairs serve as thinktanks and bridgebuilders between academia, civil society, local communities, research and policy-making. They have proven useful in informing policy decisions, establishing new teaching initiatives, generating innovation through research and contributing to the enrichment of existing university programmes while promoting cultural diversity.

The ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts is one of the currently 45 UNITWIN Networks established worldwide.



[UNITWIN on the UNESCO website](#)





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Member Participation List

Country	Institution Name	Contact Person
Armenia	Yerevan State Institute of Theatre and Cinematography (Yerevan)	Narine SARGSYAN
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts (Baku)	Mastura GULIYEVA
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Brazil	NEEDRAM, Theatre Directing and Dramatic Writing Research Group, Federal University of Santa Catarina (Florianópolis)	Paulo Ricardo BERTON
Burkina Faso	Superior School of Theatre Jean-Pierre Guingané – CFRAV (Ouagadougou)	Hamadou MANDÉ
Canada	University of Regina (Regina SK)	Taiwo AFOLABI
China	Shanghai Theatre Academy (Shanghai)	GONG Baorong
China	The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (Hong Kong)	Janice POON
Colombia	Red de Escuelas de Teatro - RET (Bogota)	Alvaro FRANCO
Costa Rica	University of Costa Rica (San José)	Erika Rojas BARRANTES
Georgia	Arts Research Institute of Georgia (Tbilisi)	Levan KHETAGURI
Germany	World Theatre Training Institute AKT-ZENT/ITI (Berlin)	Christine SCHMALOR
Greece	Ethnomusicology and Cultural Anthropology Laboratory of National and Kapodistrian, University of Athens(Athens)	Pavlos KAVOURAS
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We are not able to display the email of individuals on the list due to privacy concerns. If you would like to have the contact information, please write to secretariat@iti-unesco-network.org.



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