

# Activities

## Zimbabwe Centre of ITI (Africa)

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### Activities of the Zimbabwe Centre of ITI

On 8 November 2010, 22 professional theatre artists came with the objective of establishing a fully-fledged Zimbabwe Centre of the ITI. The artists, who attended the meeting at the National Art Gallery Harare, established a ten-member steering committee to drive the establishment of the proposed ITI Centre. The selected members of the steering committee are: Zane E. Lucas, Daniel Maphosa, Jo Powell, Jasen Mpepo, Stephen Chifunyise, Elizabeth R. Muchemwa, Leeroy Gono, James Jingo, Eunice R. Tava and Lloyd Nyikadzino. The Zimbabwe Centre of ITI, registered locally with the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe Institute, is a member based organization of professional theatre practitioners. The Zimbabwe Centre of ITI was established to ensure that artists rights are promoted in line with the UNESCO convention on the rights of the artists, facilitate access to information and opportunities, and facilitate dialogue on issues that are pertinent to the development of the theatre sector in Zimbabwe.

The Association's aims and objectives shall be to provide a forum for internal and external co-operation, networking and information within the Zimbabwean theatre and dance sector. It shall also be a centre for contact and exchange across borders while contributing to matters of performing arts development. This shall include but not limited to the following:

- To deepen mutual understanding, increase creative co-operation between all people in the Zimbabwean theatre arts (by facilitating professional discussions and talks about Zimbabwean theatre)
- Annually the Zimbabwe Centre of ITI is responsible for the hosting of the World Theatre Day in March. The celebrations will also be a moment to recognize the great work that is being done in Zimbabwean theatre sector.
- Short+Sweet is open access and culturally inclusive, and with its ten minute format in all genres, seeks to return ownership of that vital story telling ability to the community.
- We coordinated and produced the Short+Sweet program at HIFA 2013 which involved the production of 4 ten minute plays written by Zimbabweans, a

Kenyan and Ugandan and all of the shows directed by Zimbabweans. In 2014, we produced 5 ten minute plays.

- Disseminating of all types of information and issuing publications in the realm of theatre (MeTambo News, a monthly theatre e-newsletter and ITI Zimbabwe Facebook page: like our Facebook page - international theatre institute Zimbabwe.
- To promote international exchange of knowledge and practice in theatre arts in order to consolidate peace and friendship between peoples.
- The centre has also established an African scholarship fellowship with Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre in the United States, which provides a professional educational opportunity for Zimbabwean theatre practitioners to go and study in the United States of America for a year and develop their theatre skills. Established in 2012, the African Fellowship exists to promote the development of Physical Theatre and collaborative theatre-making in Zimbabwe.
- Encourage activities and creation in the field of professional theatre in Zimbabwe.

In 2013 on World Theatre Day we awarded professional theatre practitioners with certificates of recognition in partnership with the University of Zimbabwe. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2013 we established a mentorship clinic that had 4 high schools (Chiedza Child Care Centre, Queen Elizabeth, Danhiko College and Churchill Boys High) performing and meeting with established theatre professionals in Zimbabwe (Dylan Wilson Max, Nothando Nobengula, Julia Wharton and Patience Tawengwa). We facilitated the training and mentorship of students at National Education College who went on to participate at the Young Africa Youth Festival and took the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize out of 9 schools.

Recipients of the fellowship: 2014-15 Tafadzwa Bob Mutumbi, 2013-14 Chipso Chikara, 2012-13 Lloyd Nyikadzino  
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Submitted by Lloyd Nyikadzino