



International Theatre Institute ITI

World Organization for the Performing Arts

ITI Newsletter

Editorial



Dear Members and Friends of ITI, dear Readers

This second April ITI Newsletter informs you about some interesting topics

- **International Dance Day 2020** – celebrated on 29 April, as a reminder to promote it with the message of Gregory Maqoma.
- **The Spring of Hope and the Day of Dance** – an invitation to an online Dialogue scheduled for 29 April
- **Alicia Alonso 2020** – to legendary Prima Ballerina Assoluta from Cuba who passed away 2019 and whose birthday will be celebrated on her 100th Birthday, 21 December 2020
- **In Moments of Crisis, People Need Culture** – an inspiring article presented by Ernesto Ottone, UNESCO Assistant Director- General for Culture
- **ResiliArt "Because art makes us resilient"** – A call for Action launched by UNESCO
- **ResiliArt** – the inaugural online debate of 15 April with participation of Audrey Azoulay, DG UNESCO; Ernesto Ottone, Jean Michel Jarre, Yasmina KHADRA, Deeyah KHAN, Angélique KIDJO, Nina OBULJEN-KORŽINEK and Luis PUENZO – with the link so that gives you the possibility to watch it.
- And last but of extreme importance a campaign to include **Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations of the 2030 Agenda – with an Invitation to endorse the campaign. Please get informed and sign it.**

Please take action whenever and wherever you can, so that Culture, the Arts, the Performing Arts, the Performing Artists are surviving well in the time of the Covid-19 crisis. Make people aware that "In Moments of Crisis, People Need Culture".

Take care of yourself, your families, friends and colleagues. And, stay in good health.

Tobias BIANCONE
Director General
International Theatre Institute ITI

International Dance Day



Gregory Vuyani MAQOMA International Dance Day Message Author for 2020

Celebrate International Dance Day 2020 with translating the message into your country's languages and sending us a VIDEO of your country's version of Gregory MAQOMA's message

Dear friend, dear colleague, dear dance lover

2020 is a year with even more challenges for the performing arts community all over the world.

Almost all the Centres of ITI are not able to celebrate **International Dance Day** with an event because of the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus. Therefore, the General Secretariat Team of ITI initiates that all the members and friends **celebrate International Dance Day 2020 - online.**

We encourage all the Centres, Cooperating Members, any members and friends of ITI to send a video (preferably in MP4-Format) to CHEN Simin of the General Secretariat of ITI as soon as possible. Her email address is chen.simin@iti-worldwide.org.

The content of the video may vary:

- **Someone reading the message in the country's language; a short dance fragment for the International Dance Day message, or any creative performance which appropriately interpreted the message for IDD.**
- **Or: Simply "Happy International Dance Day" short self-video to**

share your enthusiasm, your wish for the future of dance or any kind of message that bring light and joy that we need in these difficult times.

The General Secretariat of ITI will collect your videos, edit them (if necessary) and share them to the world on the IDD website. Additionally, the General Secretariat will promote your videos in the more frequently published Newsletter.

After formatting, we will send you the edited video and the link so that you can send it to all your members in your country and put it the link on your institution's website.

Let's be especially active in this particular period. Let's share the beautiful message by **Gregory Maqoma**. Let's show everybody that we can celebrate dance and their value and that no virus can stop us from doing this.

Attached is the message Gregory Maqoma in English and French.

[International Dance Day Message 2020 by Gregory MAQOMA in English \(original\) in PDF](#) and [Word](#)

[Message de la Journée Internationale de la Danse 2020 de Gregory MAQOMA en français \(traduction\) en PDF](#) et [Word](#)

[Biography Gregory MAQOMA in English as PDF](#) and [Word](#)

[Biographie Gregory MAQOMA en français \(traduction\) en PDF](#) et [Word](#)

[Photo Gregory MAQOMA \(jpg\)](#)

[How to Celebrate International Dance Day in English in PDF](#)

[Comment célébrer la Journée Internationale de la Danse en français en PDF](#)

Photo Credits: Alon Skuy

Live Dialogue

ITI in Association with the International Association of Theatre Critics IACT would like to invite you to Seasons of Theatre Dialogue with Octavian Saiu #online under the tile of

The Spring of Hope and the Day of Dance

When: Wednesday, 29 April 2020 – International Dance Day

13:30 Bucharest Time / 12:30 Paris Time / 11:30 London Time

Where: <https://www.facebook.com/teatrelli/>



During these times of loneliness, doubt and for some even despair, we need each other more than ever, and we also need the element that can bring us together beyond all possible barriers: dialogue. On the International Dance Day, you are invited to an extraordinary edition of the Bucharest Seasons of Theatre Dialogue – a meeting about movement, freedom and the strength of the human spirit. A meeting intended as a celebration of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) – UNESCO, under the auspices of which we observe the day of dance, and supported by the Romanian Section – Theatre Studies of the International Association of Theatre Critics. A meeting about the creativity of the body, about the love of dance, and not

least about the hope that this artform radiates.

Special guests will be **Tobias Biancone** (Director General of ITI), **Noa Wertheim**, (Choreographer of Vertigo Dance Company), and **Jarosław Fret** (Director of the Grotowski Institute and of Teatr Zar).

The "venue" for this event is the virtual, boundless online space, to which you are all invited: <https://www.facebook.com/teatrelli/> We look forward to celebrating, together, the International Dance Day. Let us rediscover the beauty of dreaming, smiling, moving ... in the rhythm of our thoughts. So, join us in a dialogue about the art of dance, understood as a liberation of the self and as a true bridge between souls.

Professor **Octavian Saiu** is a scholar and professional theatre critic. He holds a PhD in Theatre Studies from National University of Theatre and Film (NUTF) in Romania, with a thesis about theatrical space, and another PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Otago in New Zealand, with a thesis about Samuel Beckett and Eugène Ionesco.

[>>For full information with full biography, click here.](#)

Alicia Alonso

In Memory of the Prima Ballerina Assoluta / Announcement of 100th Anniversary Event



In 2020 the legendary Prima Ballerina Assoluta would celebrate her 100th birthday. And it will be celebrated in 2020 even if the extraordinary dance personality left us in 2019.

The Ministry of Culture of Cuba, the International Theatre Institute ITI, the Dance Committee of ITI, World Dance Alliance, UNESCO and many, many dance institutions and individuals are taking the occasion of International Dance Day to remind all dance aficionados about the life and achievements of the extraordinary personality Alicia Alonso who was admired, adored, respected and loved by people from all over the world.

Alicia Alonso, born in Havana on 21 December 1920, was an outstanding ballet dancer, choreographer and pedagogue, whose unique imprint identifies the Cuban School of Ballet. The gifted ballerina performed in more than 65 countries, was granted 266 international and 225 national awards.



She created nearly 70 choreographies and convened in the Cuban capital 26 editions of the International Ballet Festival. Her teachings benefitted dancers and choreographers in approximately 50 countries in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa through the collaboration she promoted.

The legendary Prima Ballerina Assoluta, designated UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador in 2002 and ITI World Dance Ambassador in 2017, maintained close ties and lent prestige to both organizations – the United Nations Cultural, Educational and Scientific Organization and the International Theatre Institute. Under her guidance, the Alicia Alonso Foundation and the Alicia Alonso University Dance Institute, based at the Rey Juan Carlos University in Madrid was created. In her honour and on the initiative of her Alicia Alonso University Dance Institute in Madrid & UNESCO created the Alicia Alonso Ibero-American Dance Chair in September 2018.

The 100th Anniversary celebration was scheduled for July in Madrid. Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, the event is now planned for 21 December 2020, her birthday. If possible, with a live event.



The Alicia Alonso University Dance Institute / The Spanish Centre of ITI has prepared a beautiful comprehensive website about Alicia Alonso to explore. Languages: English and Spanish.

<https://dia-internacional-de-la-danza-alicia-alonso.jimdosite.com>

More information about the planned event can be found in the ITI Newsletter at a later point this year. Newsletter subscription is available on www.iti-worldwide.org or www.international-dance-day.org

Photo Credits: Alejandro Ernesto

UNESCO

In moments of crisis, people need culture

Article presented on the UNESCO website by Ernesto OTTONE, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture



COVID-19 has brought into stark relief, as crises often do, the necessity of culture for people and communities. At a time when billions of people are physically separated from one another, culture brings us together. It provides comfort, inspiration and hope at a time of enormous anxiety and uncertainty. Yet even as we rely on culture to get us through this crisis, culture is also suffering. Many artists and creators, especially those that work in the informal or gig economy, are now unable to make ends meet, much less produce new works of art. Cultural institutions, both large and small, are losing millions in revenue with each passing day. As the world works to address the immediate danger of COVID-19, we also need to put in place measures to support artists and access to culture, both in the short and long-term.



Culture, common good for resilient societies

Today we are facing a global crisis unlike any we have seen this century. Thousands of people have lost their lives to COVID-19 and many more have been infected. Billions of people are now confined to their homes around the world. Those who cannot work from home – doctors, nurses, emergency personnel, people who work in essential services like supermarkets and pharmacies, and sanitation workers, just to name a few – are putting their lives on the line every day to keep us safe and healthy. Healthcare systems in even the wealthiest of countries are straining under the pressure of this global pandemic. Economically, socially and psychologically, the impact of COVID-19 will likely be felt long after this sanitary crisis is over.

COVID-19 has brought into stark relief, as crises often do, the necessity of culture for people and communities. On social media, we have seen inspiring videos of world-renowned artists and musicians performing for free for their neighbours, as well as millions of people online.

Many are using their artistic talents to spread important information about COVID-19, such as proper handwashing and the need for social distancing. We have seen entire communities, isolated in their homes and apartments, come together to sing, play music, dance and even project films from their windows and balconies. Museums, opera houses, concert halls and other cultural institutions, now closed to the public, have generously opened their doors online, providing free virtual tours of their collections and streaming performances for free.

Libraries, including film libraries, have also opened up their collections to the public. UNESCO is encouraging World Heritage sites to follow suit, and UNESCO platforms such as [World Heritage Journeys in Europe](#) already offer a means for people to explore World Heritage from their homes.

"At a time when billions of people are physically separated from one another, culture has brought us together, keeping us connected and shortening the distance between us. It has provided comfort, inspiration and hope at a time of enormous anxiety and uncertainty."



Culture is also in crisis

Yet even as we rely on culture to get us through this crisis, we cannot forget that culture is also suffering. Many artists and creators, especially those that work in the informal or gig economy, are now unable to make ends meet, much less produce new works of art.

Cultural institutions, both large and small, are losing millions in revenue with each passing day. Many World Heritage properties are now closed, which will also have a social and economic impact on the communities that live in and around these sites. COVID-19 has put many intangible cultural heritage practices, including rituals, rites

COVID-19 has put many intangible cultural heritage practices, including rituals, rites and ceremonies, both religious and non-religious, on hold, with important consequences for the social and cultural life of communities everywhere.

As the recent earthquake in Zagreb has shown, cultural heritage remains vulnerable to natural disasters and other threats, with COVID-19 further complicating emergency response efforts.

Moreover, for millions of people around the world access to culture through digital means remains out of reach. [According to the UN's International Telecommunications Union](#), 86% of the population of developed countries uses the Internet, versus just 47% of the population of developing countries. The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, established by ITU and UNESCO, specifies in its [State of Broadband 2019](#) report that a total of 43.5% respondents in low-income countries have pointed to poor connectivity as a barrier when trying to use the internet, compared to only 34.6% of those in upper middle-income and 25% in high-income.

There also remains an important gender divide in terms of access to the Internet. [According to the OECD](#), 27 million fewer women than men have a smartphone and can access mobile Internet. The 2019 UNESCO publication "[I'd Blush If I Could](#)", produced under the auspices of the EQUALS Global Partnership, illustrates that women are now four times less likely than men to be digitally literate.



Take action to support artists and increase access to culture

As the world works to address the immediate danger of COVID-19 we also need to put in place measures to support artists and access to culture, both in the short and long -term.

We need to work to ensure that culture is accessible to all, and that the full diversity of humanity's cultural expressions can flourish, both online and offline. Ensuring culture is accessible to communities without Internet access, including indigenous peoples, will require that we embrace analogue tools, such as community radio.

We need to encourage countries to ensure that artists can access global markets and that they are fairly remunerated for their work. With one fifth of those employed in cultural occupations working part-time, and often on a contractual, freelance or intermittent basis, we need to rethink the labour and social protection frameworks surrounding artists, to take into account [the unique ways in which artists work](#).

At all times, including crises such as this one, we need to ensure that the economic, social and human rights of artists and creators are respected. This includes their right to free expression and protection from censorship.

UNESCO has made it its mission to promote access to culture during this time of self-isolation and confinement. We have launched the social media campaign #ShareCulture and encourage people around the world to share their culture and creativity with one another online.

We are also working to step up our ongoing efforts to increase access to culture and support protections for artists, in order to address the root causes of the current crisis facing culture.

Now, more than ever, people need culture. Culture makes us resilient. It gives us hope. It reminds us that we are not alone.

That is why UNESCO will do all it can to support culture, to safeguard our heritage and empower artists and creators, now and after this crisis has passed. We hope you will join us in this effort, by supporting culture in your own community, however you can.

"We need a concerted and global effort to support artists and ensure access to culture for all."

You find this article on the UNESCO website in different languages, just click on the language for reading it in the following languages

[English](#)

[French](#)

[Spanish](#)

[Russian](#)

[Arabic](#)

[Chinese \(Mandarin\)](#)

[Portuguese](#)

On these pages you can also subscribe to the UNESCO Newsletter.

Photo Credits: UNESCO (Ernesto Ottone)



UNESCO launches ResiliArt – Artists and Creativity beyond Crisis

We need a concerted and global effort to support artists and ensure access to culture for all

The health crisis brought on by the novel coronavirus has plunged the global economy into a recession, costing the global economy US \$1 trillion during 2020

(UNCTAD). While billions of people around the world turn to culture as a source of comfort and connection, the impact of COVID-19 has not spared the culture sector. More than 80% of UNESCO World Heritage properties have closed down, threatening the livelihoods of the local communities and cultural professionals. Cultural institutions and facilities including museums, theatres and cinemas are losing millions in revenue each day, and many have had to let go of their staff. Artists across the world, most of whom were already working part-time, on an informal basis or under precarious contracts prior to the pandemic, are struggling to make ends meet. Today, we are experiencing a cultural emergency.

UNESCO is launching a global movement – ResiliArt

ResiliArt sheds light on the current state of creative industries amidst crisis through an exclusive global discussion with key industry professionals while capturing experiences and voices of resilience from artists – both established and emerging – on social media. Together, it raises awareness about the far-reaching ramifications of COVID-19 across the sector and aims at supporting artists during and following the crisis.



The inaugural debate took place on 15 April 2020, World Art Day, in partnership with CISAC.

Audrey AZOULAY, UNESCO Director-General, **launching the ResiliArt discussions with an introduction.**

Ernesto OTTONE, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture, moderated the discussion with the following artists:

- **Jean Michel JARRE**, France - composer, performer, CISAC President and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador
- **Yasmina KHADRA**, Algeria – Author
- **Deeyah KHAN**, Norway/UK - musician, documentary film director and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador
- **Angélique KIDJO, Benin** - Singer-songwriter, CISAC Vice-President and UNICEF International Ambassador
- **Nina OBULJEN-KORŽINEK**, Croatia - Minister of Culture of Croatia and violinist
- **Luis PUENZO, Argentina** - film director, screenwriter, producer and President of INCAA

If you want to watch the inspiring statements of Ms Audrey Azoulay, Mr Ernesto Ottone and all the artists please click on the language versions below. You can watch

the whole or section of it.

[English](#)

[French](#)

[Chinese \(Mandarin\)](#)

Photo Credits: UNESCO

UNESCO launches ResiliArt movement in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic



Cancelled concerts, postponed festivals, delayed album launch and closed cinemas – COVID-19 has hit the cultural and creative industries hard. Still, creative workers find creative solutions. This is why UNESCO calls on all artists and creatives to join the ResiliArt movement.

COVID-19 and the cultural and creative industries

While billions of people around the world turn to culture as a source of comfort and connection during the COVID-19 crisis, the impact of COVID-19 has not spared the culture sector. More than 80% of UNESCO World Heritage properties have closed down, threatening the livelihoods of local communities. Museums, theatres and cinemas are losing millions in revenue each day, and many have had to let go of their staff. Artists across the world, most of whom were already working part-time, on an informal basis prior to the pandemic, are struggling to make ends meet. Today, we are experiencing a cultural emergency.

Culture makes us resilient and gives us hope

In times of crisis, we need art more than ever. People in self-isolation singing together from balconies showed us that culture and creativity can unite us. Our favorite films, paintings and sculptures give us comfort, strength, escape and courage. Music, songs and dance allow individuals to express themselves and maintain social ties amidst travel restrictions and home confinement. This unprecedented emergency demonstrates culture's role in building resilience and social cohesion; art is resilient.





UNESCO calls on all artists and creatives to join the ResiliArt movement

On 15 April, UNESCO launched a global movement – ResiliArt to shed light on the current state of creative industries, engaging with key industry professionals globally for their views and capturing experiences of resilience from artists – both established and emerging – on social media. Together, it raises awareness about the far-reaching ramifications of COVID-19 across the sector and aims at supporting artists during and following the crisis.

Cultural industry professionals are encouraged to join the movement and replicate the ResiliArt series in their respective regions using the publicly available guidelines. The devastation brought to the entire culture value chain will have a long-lasting impact on the creative economy; ResiliArt aims to ensure the continuity of conversations, data sharing, and advocacy efforts long after the pandemic subsides.

Let's flood the screens with messages of creative resilience and bring maximum visibility to the challenges artists and creative professionals are facing – and overcoming – in this time of crisis!

For further information, please contact us at hanoi@unesco.org

More information about ResiliArt you can find by clicking on the language you would like to read, below. You will find on this web page the Participation Guide, the Concept Note and the Institution Guide, as well as the link to the video of the 15 April 2020 online event.

[English](#)

[French](#)

[Chinese \(Mandarin\)](#)

Photo Credits: UNESCO

United Nations



Culture in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda – Invitation to endorse the Campaign

The International Theatre Institute (ITI) supports the initiative for the inclusion of a specific cultural goal to be devoted to culture in the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

Leading up to the adoption of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the International Music Council (Partner Organization of ITI) campaigned together with several global cultural networks under the banner "The Future We Want Includes Culture" for the inclusion of one specific goal devoted to culture, or for the integration of cultural aspects across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This campaign was also known as the #culture2015goal campaign. In the final document of this campaign (23 September 2015: "Culture in the SDG Outcome Document: Progress Made, but Important Steps Remain Ahead"), the networks committed to keep their cooperation active.

Building on this commitment and with the world faced with the COVID-19 pandemic today and the need to rebuild our societies tomorrow, culture should be at the heart of the response. Culture brings inspiration, comfort and hope into people's lives.

or the response. Culture brings inspiration, comfort and hope into people's lives.

To harness this potential, the #Culture2030Goal movement, in the context of its engagement in the United Nations 2030 Agenda, calls on UN agencies, governments and all other stakeholders to act.

[>>If you would like to endorse this initiative, you can endorse it over this link.](#) You can endorse it as individual and an institution.

More information: (Click on the title)

[The Future We Want Includes Culture](#)

[Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)

["Culture in the SDG Outcome Document: Progress Made, but Important Steps Remain Ahead"](#)

Festivals

Between.Pomiedzy Literature / Theatre Festival

Sopot, Gdansk, Gdynia, Poland – 11 to 17 May 2020, online



KOSMOPOLIS 2020

We imagined the festival rather differently last year when we chose its theme – *Kosmopolis 2020*. Nature, however, had other plans. It halted the driving rush of the everyday, reminding us how fragile a species we are. So today we have to deal with increasing numbers of restrictions, from all sides there is bad news, and we are assailed by images of widespread suffering and powerlessness. We live through endless demands, extremes of stagnation, frustrating restrictions; we are being buried in a mound of the unbearable quotidian. And nothing can be done about it. The world has changed and will never be the same again. Memories, readings, relations with those close and dear to us take on new meanings daily.

Our first reaction was to move Between.Pomiedzy to the autumn. We concluded there was no other way out, and hoped that we would be able to meet between 19 and 25 October. But it turns out that when you're in isolation you feel even more the need to be with others. to share in your own ways the experiences of this strange time.

There's creativity everywhere. We keep bearing witness to this time of plague. In his or her own way, each of us is going through a global experience, whatever that may turn out to be in the future. *Kosmopolis 2020* has and will become something quite different, but – who knows? – perhaps something more intense, more relevant to the now we live in, than it might have been at the beginning of the year.

So, it's time to change plans. Let's meet, after all, in May – but in a virtual world. We want to share some things we've put together: films, photographs, archival material, all kinds of records. Along with the scholars and artists we work with, we ask what this experience is that we're going through. What will it turn out to be in the future? How in different corners of the world do we manage with and in the everyday of isolation? How do we see the past, not so distant after all, although unimaginable then in a Europe without frontiers?

So that will be *Kosmopolis 2020* – made up of tatters, shards, fragments. May a festival that brings together academics and the world of artists become a dynamic, evanescent laboratory, beyond categorization, a laboratory that allows free play of current experience and thoughts in progress. May our contribution to the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the University of Gdańsk take, of necessity, this very form.

We hope, of course, that we will be able thoroughly to discuss this kaleidoscope – a hurriedly composed semiosphere – when we meet in the autumn in a Sopot once more bubbling with creative ferment. In the meantime: let's stay at home but meet together in the net.

The organizers of the 2020 Between.Pomiędzy Festival: Tomasz Wiśniewski, David Malcolm, Katarzyna Kręglewska, Robson Corrêa de Camargo, Ewelina Stefańska, Małgorzata Woźniak

More info: www.between.org.pl

Facebook: [between.pomiedz](https://www.facebook.com/between.pomiedz)

festival@between.org.pl

(Best to stay in touch is over Facebook.)

More information:

[KOSMOPOLIS 2020 English](#)

[KOSMOPOLIS 2020 French](#)

[Program KOSMOPOLIS 2020 English](#)

Did you miss an ITI Newsletter? Do you search for information that you found in an ITI Newsletter and cannot find it anymore? Well, that should not be a problem for you. There is a section on the ITI website where you can find the past ITI Newsletters: [>>Here is the link to this archive](#)



[>>ITI Website](#)



Copyright © 2020 International Theatre Institute ITI, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this newsletter as part of the ITI network.

Our mailing address is:
International Theatre Institute ITI
UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis
Paris 75015
France

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

