



International Theatre Institute ITI

World Organization for the Performing Arts

ITI Newsletter

Editorial



Dear Member and Friend of ITI, dear Reader

Encouragement, love and support – this is an intangible “commodity” that is continuously needed by all of us. The multitude of letters, documents, videos, etc. that ITI has received are giving hope and connectedness – you can find proof and inspiration on the website of ITI.

How will Culture and the Performing Arts recover after Covid-19? A debate with distinguished speakers you will find in the second edition of ResiliArt that is just online live on Thursday, 14 May, 14 to 16 h, Paris time, and can also be watched online at a later point.

Also, just now, the Between.Pomiedzy Festival: Kosmopolis 2020 is presenting you a whole festival in Poland – online – from now until 17 May.

The North Macedonian of Centre of ITI is offering you a series of online lectures on German Theatre with Thomas Irmer, German dramaturge and theatre researcher, 11 and 12 June.

The World Theatre Training Institute AKT-ZENT/ITI is presenting you a three-day online conference in collaboration with the ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts and Kamal Theatre on 13 to 15 June. The title is “Challenges of the Mind: An online conference about new dimensions in theatre training”.

And much more is in the pipeline, at the moment online.

But I ask myself: Online Festival? Online Conference? Online Lecture? Online Future of the Performing Arts? Or rather not?

Well, from my own viewpoint is that the live arts – such as music, theatre, dance, music theatre, poetry readings – everything that is happening as an exchange between performers and the members of an audience never vanishes from Earth.

us, a play that inspires us, a poetry-reading that is astonishing us, a storyteller that is making us laugh, a singer making us smile and so on – live. The sooner the better.

Meanwhile stay in good health, communicate and stay in dialogue with your colleagues, friends, family and members of your future audiences.

Tobias Biancone
Director General ITI

Reminder: ResiliArt – Teleconference with Mohamed Saif Al-Afkham – 14 May, 2 pm



It is a great pleasure to invite you to join the second online conference “ResiliArt that UNESCO is initiating in partnership with the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity. The theme is: The Road to Recovery

ITI feels honoured that Mohamed Saif Al-Afkham, United Arab Emirates - President of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) is part of this debate. These are the panellists that take part as well:

- ANITTA, Brazil - Singer, songwriter and actress
- Ferne DOWNEY, Canada- Actress and President of the International Federation of Actors (FIA)
- Cheick Oumar SISSOKO, Mali - Film director and Secretary-General of the Pan-African Federation of Filmmakers
- Pascal ROGARD, France - Director General of the Society of Dramatic Authors and Composers (SACD)
- Fuzia SAEED, Pakistan - Director General of the National Arts Council of Pakistan

Moderator: Ernesto OTTONE, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture
[Please join the distinguished speakers on 14 May 2020, from 2 pm to 4 pm \(Paris time\).](#)

Calls for Participation



ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher
Education in the Performing Arts



World Theatre Training Institute AKT-ZENT
Research Centre of the International Theatre Institute

Online Conference on New Dimensions for Theatre Education

13 to 15 June 2020

The impacts brought by the COVID-19 are massive. We should say it is a challenging time for theatre teachers. Most of the academies switched to online teaching course and turned to the e-learning mode. Are there methodologies and experiences that could be shared? Or is a complete change of teaching methodology needed? The pandemic invites all to reflect on new dimensions. That is the reason why the Board of the ITI/UNESCO Network has decided to launch this conference.

The World Theatre Training Institute AKT-ZENT/ITI – one of the members of the ITI/UNESCO Network has taken the initiative to create a three-day conference as a starting point for a possible long-term project for the development of new methods and forms for online and hybrid theatre education.

We encourage you to participate in the conference and contribute to your experience. Please read the detailed project and register your participation.

[>>More Information about the Conference](#)

[>>Registration Form for the Conference](#)



North Macedonian Centre of ITI / PRODUKCIJA

Open Call Participation for the lectures "Short School of German Theatre Knowledge"

Digital lectures by Thomas Irmer, 11 and 12 June 2020
North Macedonian Centre of ITI / PRODUKCIJA



Seminar / Lecture

Thursday/Friday 11/12 June 2020 from 12.00 to 13.30 h (Paris time)

Lecturer: Thomas Irmer, dramaturge, a researcher in theatre; Berlin, Germany

Target audience/participants: Local, regional and international students and professional practitioners and theoreticians

1. Skype Online Lecture: Theatre history and the next future for international theatre; including keyword relations to former Yugoslav theatre culture.
Thursday, 11 June 2020: 60 minutes lecture and 30 minutes Q&A session on Skype / 12.00 - 13.30 h (Paris time)

2. Skype Online Lecture: Focus on contemporary German Drama.
Friday, 12 June 2020: 60 minutes lecture and 30 minutes Q&A session on Skype (90 minutes) / 12.00 to 13.30 h (Paris time)

Additional key references for discussion: History of the East German theatre; Heiner Müller Opus; Berlin Theatre/Performing Arts Scene vs Off-Berlin and Off-Off Berlin Scenes in today's Germany; Internationalization of German culture and theatre (before and after Covid-19); Upcoming theatre/performing avant-garde: Contemporary children and youth theatre.

Organizers: North Macedonian Centre of ITI / PRODUKCIJA

Supported by the Goethe Institute Skopje, Ministry of Culture, Republic of North Macedonia

Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/336593540641574/>

Deadline: 30 May 2020 (Please send your confirmation for participation to: macedoniancenterofiti@gmail.com, with the following data:

Subject: Thomas Irmer Lectures, your first name and your last name, profession and email

Ass. Prof. PhD Ivanka APOSTOLOVA BASKAR

Head of the North Macedonian Centre of ITI / PRODUKCIJA

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URL. <https://www.iti-worldwide.org/macedonia.html>

Festival Online

THE 11th BETWEEN.POMIĘDZY FESTIVAL: KOSMOPOLIS 2020

All events are available free of charge at www.between.org.pl and on FB throughout the entire week of the Festival



Please visit the 11th Between.Pomiedzy Festival: Kosmopolis 2020

It is online until 17 May. All events are available free of charge at www.between.org.pl and on Facebook throughout the entire week of the Festival. Facebook: [between.pomiedzy](https://www.facebook.com/between.pomiedzy)

More information:

[>>The Poster](#)

[>>The Press Release \(in English\).](#)

[>>The Program \(in English\).](#)

In Memoriam

Santiago Garcia – World Theatre Ambassador of ITI

20 December 1928 to 23 March 2020



Santiago García – Reinventor of the Colombian Theatre

By José Assad

Santiago García, the inveterate reinventor of Colombian theatre, with his jovial, familiar presence, loaded with spontaneous humor as if he were any regular citizen of La Candelaria, the traditional Bogotá neighborhood, no longer lives there like any mortal being.

Now following in the footsteps of his own inventiveness, he will live from now on, in the universe of the collective memory of the great theatre of the world.

There, in this new scenario, his presence will endure for generations to come as an example of a creative industry, forged from the closest circles of co-creators, who without seeking it, transcended distances and cultural barriers, until reaching distant latitudes where actors of distant stages, together with playwrights, directors, audiences and researchers, they saw in that example, inspiration to explore their particular realities through the art of theatre in their own ways.

These imaginative occurrences, the result of exhaustive research made in light of the collective creation practice marked the path of a possible theatre built from group practice.

A delightful and at the same time deeply reflective stage play. Theatre par excellence of entertainment, as a convergence between the intellect and the creative impulse; Of course, irreconcilable with the so-called entertainment theatre and deeply committed to the problems that his collective identified as a starting point for their research-creations.

Santiago García, researcher, trainer, actor, playwright and director, but also the most common and ordinary neighbor; neighborhood pedestrian, customer of the corner store and sidewalk conversationalist.

Above all, he was always a common and ordinary citizen who avoided reverence and who without wanting or pretending it transcended his surroundings to bequeath us his contribution to the profession of theater, despite his efforts to go unnoticed and as far away as possible from the fickleness of entertainment, reverence and personality cults.

presented with the recognition of the International Theater Institute as a World Theater Ambassador: "*I promise to be a very bad theatre ambassador*".

What a teacher of teachers who could not fulfil this promise very reluctantly!

Santiago García, now behind the curtains, challenges us to give continuity to the theatre of the possible, of the unusual, the theatre of hope, even in the most difficult times.

To ask him to endure in order to be witness of the bewilderment we now live in was already asking too much of a man who never run out of the task of seeking an answer to the most heartfelt problems in the society he was a part.

The path of Santiago García drives us to reinvent the theatre as many times as necessary to re-think ourselves as a society; Only by transferring it can we say that the theatre survives above its protagonists of the moment to give us hopeful lights in the midst of uncertainty.

...

Jeffrey Sichel

24 December 1967 – 27 March 2020



It is with deep sadness that the ITI/UNESCO Network announces that our dear friend and colleague Jeffrey Sichel passed away. Thanks to his tremendous efforts for the ITI/UNESCO Network with his passion, generosity and expertise this organization came into existence.

Tobias Biancone, Derek Goldman and Vidyanidhee Prasad Vanarase have sent us their words in honour of their friend Jeffrey Sichel. The texts are attached.

If you would like to send us your condolences, please send them to the ITI/UNESCO

Please read the tribute words honouring Jeffrey Sichel by:

[>>Tobias Biancone](#)

[>>Derek Goldman](#)

[>>Vidyanidhee "Prasad" Vanarase](#)

...

Heherson "Sonny" Alvarez

6 October 1939 – 20 April 2020



Many members of ITI have met Senator Heherson "Sonny" Alvarez, a noble person that a lot of people consider to be a hero. Most of us have met him together with Cecile Guidote Alvarez, President of the Philippine Centre of ITI and UNESCO Artist for peace who he supported throughout his life. That he passed away has saddened many of us and for sure "our" Cecile. In this Newsletter we are sharing the words of the Former House Speaker Jose De Venecia, Jr. who is giving us an insight into the life of his colleague and friend Heherson Alvarez.

May he rest in peace.

If you would like to send Cecile and her family your condolences please send your words to the General Secretariat of ITI – info@iti-worldwide.org - who will forward them to Cecile Guidote-Alvarez.

Heherson „Sonny“ Alvarez - Peace-Maker

By Former House Speaker Jose De Venecia, Jr.

Former Senator Heherson "Sonny" Alvarez and this columnist saw each other more than a month ago, when he and his beloved wife Cecile Guidote-Alvarez visited us in our office in Makati.

Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, a multi-awarded theatre artist and culture and arts advocate, came to discuss with us an "art festival/forum for peace and climate justice" to be held in Manila hopefully in March 2021, which she is spearheading, with the full support of her husband and various government and non-government institutions.

loquacious. We reminisced about our respective political battles when we were still active in the political arena.

As both of us are in our eighties (Sonny Alvarez was 80 years old and we are 83), we also talked about our health and daily regimen. Sonny was actually healthier and stronger for his age. Curiously, we did not talk about the dreadful coronavirus (COVID-19) which, sadly, later claimed his life. Before we parted ways, Sonny, Cecile, and we agreed to meet with our "Core Group" for lunch or dinner at a mutually convenient schedule. As it turned out, it was the last time we would ever see him.

Heherson "Sonny" Alvarez served our country with great distinction, both in the executive and the legislature, and in his private capacity; before he entered public service and even after he retired from the government. He was a member of the 1971 Constitutional Convention, two-term senator, Isabela representative, secretary of agrarian reform and of environment and natural resources, and commissioner of the climate change commission (CCC). He was also the founder of Earth Savers Movement, a now 29-year-old organization devoted to environmental protection and the battle against climate change. The environment and climate change were among the issues closest to Sonny's heart, which he championed at the time when only very few people paid attention to or cared to understand. Truly, Sonny Alvarez embraced causes larger than himself and he was ahead of his time.

As a legislator, he authored landmark legislation, among which were the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, Department of Energy Law, Solid Waste Management Act, Clean Air Act, National Commission on Culture and the Arts Law, and the Indigenous People's Rights Law.

A steadfast advocate of democracy and human rights, he fiercely and fearlessly fought martial law, endured tremendous difficulties while in self-exile in the United States with his wife Cecile, and served as secretary-general of the Movement for Free Philippines (MFP).

As of this writing, our dear friend Cecile Guidote-Alvarez has been discharged from the hospital. Our family and friends continue to storm heaven with prayers for her full recovery and for her emotional and spiritual strength as we know how immensely painful it is for her to lose her beloved husband Sonny.

May Cecile and their children be consoled by the thought that Sonny is now with our Creator, in a place where there is no more pain and suffering. And so, we bid farewell to our dear friend Sonny Alvarez. His remarkable life and outstanding legacy have carved a niche in our nation's history. He will never be forgotten.

Jose De Venecia, Jr.

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](#)



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