

Jetse Batelaan is awarded the Prize of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) in 2020. The board of the German ITI centre took this decision following a survey of its members. It is for the second time that the prize is awarded in the field of children's and youth theatre, since 1985 – Volker Ludwig, the founder and long-standing director of Berlin's GRIPS Theatre, was honoured with its predecessor, the Prize for World Theatre Day, in 1999.

Batelaan, since 2013 Artistic Director of the Artemis Theater in 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands, is currently ranked among the most unconventional protagonists of a new generation of theatre professionals in Europe. His productions are praised for their strong visual language, their exuberant imagination and absurd comedy. His works usually cross the boundaries of the genre and are aimed equally at children, adolescents and adults.

The ITI Prize winner of 2020, who this year was awarded the Silver Lion of the Venice Biennial in the category of theatre, is no stranger in the German theatre landscape: During the last ten years alone, he presented at the festival Theaterformen in Braunschweig (2010) "Der erhobene Zeigefinger" and in Hannover (2011) "Toneel 14+". In 2015 the tanzhaus nrw staged "Wenn Du nur schnell genug rennst ...". Last year Batelaan produced the play "Vorstellung, in der hoffentlich nichts passiert 8+" at the Theaterhaus Jena and recently the co-production of Artemis Theater with the Ruhrtriennale and Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, "(.....) A show that doesn't give a shit about its own vague title". Batelaan is invited – this being part of the award for the first time - with a work to the ITI-Festival Theater der Welt in Düsseldorf 2020.

After completing his training at the Academy of Theatre and Dance in Amsterdam, Jetse Batelaan worked as a freelance artist, from 2003, and directed, among others, the Theatergroep Max in Rotterdam. From 2009 to 2013 he worked as director at the Ro Theater in Rotterdam. As director of Artemis he regularly collaborates with theatre collectives such as De Warme Winkel in Amsterdam and Het Zuidelijk Toneel in Tilburg.

Rising Stars: Since 2016, the German ITI Centre has been awarding its prize to artists in recognition of and in support of their beginning international work. The 2019 winners are the ensemble of "Mittelreich" and its director Anta Helena Recke, in previous years Viktor Bodó (2018), Yael Ronen (2017) and Milo Rau (2016) were awarded the prize.