



**International Theatre Institute ITI**  
World Organization for the Performing Arts

**ITI Newsletter**

**Special Message from the General Secretariat Team of ITI**



Dear friends and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

Greetings from Shanghai, China, from the General Secretariat Team of ITI. The lunar new year holiday that China experienced was not a happy one as it should be.

As you may know, due to the new Coronavirus outbreak in a few areas of China, the whole country is now going through some serious problems. Strong efforts to fight against the outbreak and the prevention of more cases are done.

After a 10-day stay-at-home lunar year holiday, the General Secretariat Team has resumed its work on 3 February. If you have any questions or needs, you can still reach the General Secretariat. The work of the office continues to be done. However, as the government and experts strongly suggest that citizens should avoid gathering. That is why the members of the General Secretariat will only return to work in the office at the beginning of March.

The good news is that the Shanghai authorities have been successful in dealing with the virus and things are getting back to normal, step by step.

We will keep you updated on the situation here. If you have any questions, please write to us over [info\(at\)iti-worldwide.org](mailto:info@iti-worldwide.org).

We wish safety and health to all of you. And we hope that authorities all over the world will keep the health issues well under control so that each and everyone can experience safe and healthy days and do the intended work without fear.

Yours sincerely,

General Secretariat Team of ITI

## World Theatre Day

### Reminder

#### Short Version

#### World Theatre Day Message 2020 by Shahid NADEEM

by Shahid NADEEM, Pakistan

#### Theatre as a Shrine

At the end of a performance of Ajoka Theatre's (1) play on Sufi Poet Bulleh Shah (2), an old man, accompanied by a young boy, came to the actor playing the role of the great Sufi (3), "My grandson is unwell, would you please blow a blessing upon him." The actor was taken aback and said, "I am not Bulleh Shah, I am just an actor playing this role." The old man said, "Son, you are not an actor, you are a reincarnation of Bulleh Shah, his Avatar (4)". Suddenly a whole new concept of theatre dawned upon us, where the actor becomes the reincarnation of the character, he/she is portraying. Exploring stories such as that of Bulleh Shah, and there are so many in all cultures, can become a bridge between us, the theatre-makers and an unacquainted but enthusiastic audience. While performing on stage, we sometimes get carried away by our philosophy of theatre, our role as harbingers of social change and leave a large section of the masses behind. In our engagement with the challenges of the present, we deprive ourselves of the possibilities of a deeply moving spiritual experience that theatre can provide. In today's world where bigotry, hate, and violence is on the rise, our planet is plunging deeper and deeper into a climatic catastrophe, we need to replenish our spiritual strength. We need to fight apathy, lethargy, pessimism, greed, and disregard for the world we live in, the planet we live on. Theatre has a role, a noble role, in energizing and mobilizing humanity to lift itself from its descent into the abyss. It can uplift the stage, the performance space, into something sacred. In South Asia, the artists touch with reverence the floor of the stage before stepping onto it, an ancient tradition when the spiritual and the cultural were intertwined. It is time to regain that symbiotic relationship between the artist and the audience, the past and the future. Theatre-making can be a sacred act and the actors indeed can become the avatars of the roles they play. Theatre has the potential of becoming a shrine and the shrine a performance space.

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#### References

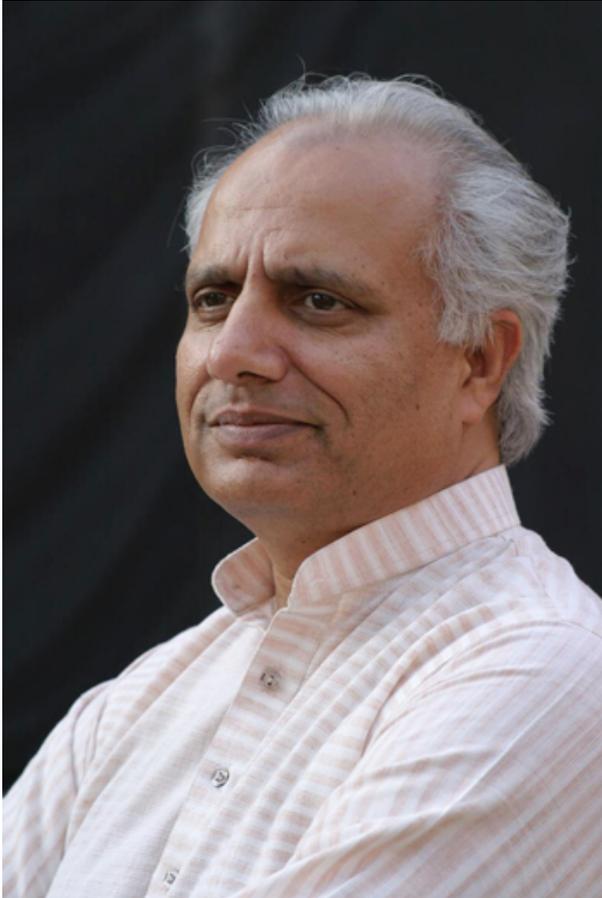
(1) *Ajoka Theatre: Established in 1984. The word Ajoka means "Contemporary" in Punjabi. Its repertoire includes plays on themes such as religious tolerance, peace, gender violence, human rights.*

(2) *Sufism: The Islamic mystical tradition, Sufi poetry, mostly rendered in music, expresses mystical union through the metaphors of profane love.*

(3) *Bulleh Shah (1680-1757): An influential Punjabi Sufi poet, who wrote about complex philosophical topics in simple language, a strong critic of religious orthodoxy*

complex philosophical topics in simple language, a strong critic of religious orthodoxy, accused of heresy and denied burial in the city graveyard. Popular across religious divide.

(4) Avatar: Reincarnation or manifestation on Earth of a divine teacher according to Hindu culture.



**Documents for use:**

[Short Version in English as PDF](#) and [Word](#)

[Short Version in French as PDF](#) and [Word](#)

[Long Version in English as PDF](#) and [Word](#)

[Long Version in French as PDF](#) and [Word](#)

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

[Biography in French as PDF](#) and [Word](#)

[Photo](#)

[Photo](#)

[Brochure "How to Celebrate World Theatre Day" in English](#)

[Brochure "How to Celebrate World Theatre Day" in French](#)

ITI Centres

the  
other **national**  
theatre

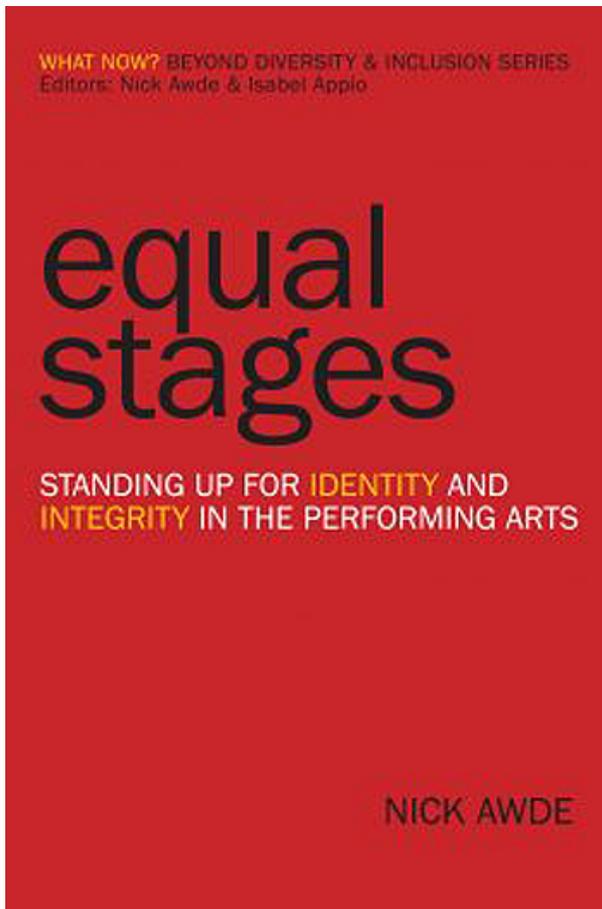
**UK Centre launches the Initiative "the other national theatre"**

What does this mean? Who is behind it? What is in the manifesto of the other

national theatre? The first initiative in the world of the other national theatre

national theatre? To find out [>>please visit the website of the other national theatre by clicking here.](#)

Further information you find in the new publication by Desert Hearts Books under the guidance of the editors Nick Awde & Isabel Appio. The first volume of the series is called *Equal Stages: Standing Up for Identity and Integrity in the Performing Arts*, by Nick Awde. It will be released on 23 March. [>>More information and where to order click here.](#)



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### **Slovak Centre of ITI: Announcing Nová dráma/New Drama Festival 2020**

The **Nová dráma/New Drama Festival** will take place from 11 to 16 May 2020 in Bratislava. The Festival of contemporary Slovak and world drama is an annual presentation of the best contemporary Slovak and world drama productions.

The main programme offers eight performances of contemporary plays staged in the last year, which will be observed by an international jury. The best performance will receive the *Grand Prix Nová drama/New Drama 2020*.

We are happy to announce German playwright **Falk Richter** as a godfather of Festival 2020 and a special guest and pleased to offer a rich additional programme with the special festival section **Focus Austria**, bringing insight into the theatre of this country.

The year 2020 marks a major jubilee: the centenary of the foundation of the Slovak National Theatre (1 March 1920). Therefore, we prepare also a Showcase of Slovak theatre as well as international conference **Recycling In The Performing Arts: From Creativity To Commerce** and the Congress International Association of Theatre Critics (AICT)

The program will be available in March.

DUDELAŇŮSTAN

### **Indian Centre of ITI: Open Call for the IAPAR International Theatre Festival 2020 in Pune, India**

As the IAPAR International Theatre Festival enters into its fifth year, the thrust to keep the 'Actor at the Centre', has been infinitely rewarding. In the current socio-political-cultural situation worldwide, there are many voices which need a representation, hence the decision to focus the festival on 'Marginalised Narratives'. Wars and dissent, political hegemony, migration and instability, smothering of expression and artistic endeavours and many such agencies, are making ours a polarised world. No ready answers and solutions are available, to vent the unrest and dichotomy of thoughts that is thrown up.

The least, then, that can be expected, is to make available a platform to express these concerns and lend an ear to these 'stories'. By this attempt, we hope to lead up a new path, while creating a fruitful ambience, to be heard and seen.

The IAPAR international Festival 2020 invites applications under the umbrella of 'Marginalised Narratives'.

The festival will take place in Pune, India in November 2020! Deadline for application is **27t March 2020**.

Send us an email on [iapar.festival@gmail.com](mailto:iapar.festival@gmail.com) for the detailed application form or call on +91 77750 52719 to know more.

Vidyanidhee Vanarase (Prasad), Founder Director, International Association for Performing Arts and Research, India (IAPAR), President of the Indian Centre of ITI



### **Awards**

**The Japanese Theatre Director and Educator Tadashi Suzuki receives the Yuri Lyubimov International Theatre Award 2019**





The Yuri Lyubimov International Theatre Award, established by the Lyubimov Charity Foundation for the Development of Theatre Art and the International Theatre Institute (ITI), was presented on 16 November 2019 to the Japanese director and educator Tadashi Suzuki at the Alexandrinsky Theatre after his performance "Cyrano de Bergerac" which was part of the Theatre Olympics, held in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

The award ceremony happened in the Tsar's lobby of the theatre in the presence of actors and interested theatre people. The ceremony was hosted by Katalin Lyubimova, Chairwomen of the Foundation, and Mohamed Saif Al-Afkham, President of ITI. In his speech, the President of ITI underlined the significance of the Yuri Lyubimov Award and the value and importance of the life-long work of Tadashi Suzuki. Welcoming addresses were handed over to the Japanese laureate from Tobias Biancone, Director General of ITI, and Anatoli Vassiliev, stage director and Yuri Lyubimov Awardee 2018 who both could not be present during the cultural event in Saint Petersburg.

The Yuri Lyubimov International Theatre Award has been created by the Yuri Lyubimov Foundation and the International Theatre Institute (ITI). The award is given annually to an international theatre personality for her or his dedication to theatre and their achievement.

Attached are the [>>messages of Tobias Biancone](#), DG ITI; [>>and Anatoli Vassiliev](#) for the event.



Yuri Lyubimov International Theatre Award Ceremony with: Natalia Isaeva, Alfira Arslanova, Mohamed Saif Al-Afkham, Tadashi Suzuki, Katalin Lyubimova and Valery Fokin (from left to right)

## The London International Mime Festival receives the Special World Mime Organisation Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Art of Mime, given by the World Mime Organization



Helen Lannaghan and Joseph Seelig, co-directors of the London International Mime Festival, receiving the Special World Mime Organisation Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Art of Mime – presented on behalf of World Mime Organisation's president Marko Stojanovic. The award is presented to them by Stefania Bochicchio and Nick Awde, co-directors of the UK Centre of ITI, 1 February 2020.



Photo credits: Nick Awde

### Partner Organizations





**Registration Open: International Association of Theatre Critics (IATC):  
30<sup>th</sup> Congress of IATC in Bratislava, Slovakia**

The 30<sup>th</sup> edition of the Congress of IATC will happen during the **Nová dráma/New Drama** Festival (see information above) from 12 to 16 May 2020 in Bratislava, Slovakia

For more information about IATC and about the Congress can be found on the website: "<https://aict-iatc.org/en/> – in English and French.

Email: [contact\(at\)aiatc-iatc.org](mailto:contact@aiatc-iatc.org)

Deadline for Registration **March 2020**



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**Call for Participation; International University Theatre Association (IUTA)**

**13<sup>th</sup> IUTA World Congress in Manila, Philippines**

**Theme: University Theatre as Social and Cultural Agent**



The International University Theatre Association (AITU-IUTA) is pleased to announce that its 13th World Congress will be held in Manila, Philippines – from 25 to 29 August 2020. Organized by the IUTA Philippine Center in partnership with the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), the 13th Congress seeks to provide a major forum to discuss the role of the university theatre as a social and cultural agent in the present time

the present time.

A considerable body of academic and practice knowledge has certainly been accumulated on these topical areas over the past 12 congresses: University Theatre in general, repertoire and performance practice, research, pedagogy, cross-cultural influence. These ideas and knowledge developed from specific cultural, economic and social situations and environment, could find application and relevance in a new, dynamic context. A new economic, social and cultural setting is therefore needed to test the boundary of relevance and application of this present body of knowledge. This new boundary is how University Theater has been and can be used for social transformation.

The 13th Congress offers a variety of opportunities for contributors. It includes an academic conference, workshops, discussions, theatre festival of performances and a poster display of theatre projects and research.

More information you find in the attached letter:

[>>IUTA Information about the Congress 2020](#)

In this letter, you find also call for papers, workshops and performances. Deadline for the submission of application: **15 March 2020**

Further Information about the Congress you find on these links:

#### **Facebook**

International University Theatre Association (AITU-IUTA)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/131721440191868/>

#### **IUTA Philippine Centre**

[https://www.facebook.com/IUTAPHL/?\\_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARAK9hcjwAvGUS6qDKjLTe7\\_IXRIreT8bMIS8ptgXX4mWTj2-UJhy\\_oGDPa1f3KsmxEoRM6yDgC3Z6Fe](https://www.facebook.com/IUTAPHL/?_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARAK9hcjwAvGUS6qDKjLTe7_IXRIreT8bMIS8ptgXX4mWTj2-UJhy_oGDPa1f3KsmxEoRM6yDgC3Z6Fe)

#### **Website IUTA-AITU**

[www.iuta-aitu.org](http://www.iuta-aitu.org)



**2020**  
AUGUST 25-29

✉ iutaphilippinecenter@gmail.com 📱 IUTAPHL

www.iutaph.com

## ITI Committees and Project Groups



### **International Playwrights´ Forum: New Deadline for the Submission of Entries for the International Competition: Dramatic Adaptations of Sholem Aleichem Short Stories**

The International Playwrights´ Forum is **prolonging the deadline** for the submitting stories to **31 May 2020**.

More information about the Competition:

[>>English version click here](#)

[>>French version click here](#)

## Calls

### **Coletivo Egrégora: Open Call for Emerging Artists**

The Coletivo Egrégora would like to invite young artists interested in exchanging experiences and knowledge with two Brazilian artists, Gab Mariquito and Jeff Fagundes, who will be on a European tour between 21 July 21 August 2020 with the dance theatre solos *NIDRA* and ***IROKO: Meu Universo***, beginning its trajectory in Lisbon and ending it in Amsterdam.

Through this journey, the two artists seek to foster cultural exchange between the political ways of independent art in Brazil and in countries such as Portugal, Spain, France, Germany, Netherlands and other countries that have any group who want to talk about young contemporary theatre.

If you are interested, please contact:

E-mail: [coletivoegregora\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:coletivoegregora(at)gmail.com)

Phone: Gab Mariquito +55 21 979 511 169

Jeff Fagundes +55 21 995 071 340





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## Call for the 9<sup>th</sup> Methodika: "Assuming the Future is Shaping the Future"

Assuming the Future is Shaping the Future is the title of the 9<sup>th</sup> Methodika, the International Festival for Theatre Training Methods. It is scheduled from 25 to 29 September 2020 in Pescara, Italy.

The Artistic Director Dr Jurij Alschitz invites artists, actresses, actors, directors, teachers, pedagogues for the unique opportunity to share, discuss and develop the most unusual ideas for theatre training and rehearsal practice.

This year the format of the International Festival for Theatre Training Methods [Methodika](#) will give to every participant the unique possibility to express and develop yet unrealized methodological ideas. What today seems like a crazy or risky proposition may easily become the future of theatre training and rehearsing. In this way, the 9<sup>th</sup> Methodika is not only a space of sharing but also creating new theatre methods and professional networks. Finally, Methodika wants to celebrate the artistic aspect of teaching.

The participation is free of charge (only the administration fee of 90 € is applied). Application is required. Please send your expression of interest to **[methodika\[at\]theatre-culture.org](mailto:methodika[at]theatre-culture.org)** to ensure your place. We will get back to you with more information.

Contact: +39 08 5431 0119 / +39 33 3422 6744

### The 9<sup>th</sup> Methodika is an invitation to all visionary artists!

The 9<sup>th</sup> Methodika, led by the World Theatre Training Institute AKT-ZENT, is part of the joint [research programme](#) on Hybrid Theatre Training of the [ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts](#). The 9<sup>th</sup> Methodika is hosted by [Didattica Teatrale](#) and [Media Museum Pescara](#), Italy.

[>>More information, click here.](#)

[>>Note of the Artistic Director Dr. Jurij Alschitz please click here.](#)



## Open Call for Speakers for Theatre Training in Hyperspace

### **Experts' Colloquium about New Dimensions for the Theatre Training An initiative by Dr Jurij Alschitz; concept and moderation Christine Schmalor.**

The Experts' Colloquium about New Dimensions for Theatre Training is organized in the frame of the 6<sup>th</sup> International Theatre and Education Festival Forum "Nauruz" of the Galiaskar Kamal Tatar Academic Theatre in Kazan, Russia – from 10 to 12 June 2020

The challenge of digitality has arrived at all Institutions of the Arts. The [ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts](#) formed a working group to investigate the theme of [Hybrid Education](#) – the combination of online training and classroom tuition.

Digitality is not a technical question but a cultural competence. Today we are facing the need for substantial changes in education in general. New demands for innovation of content and methodology arise in the educative process. How do we imagine the future of teaching? How does the digital mindset affect the process of acting, stage presence, dramaturgy, and methodological tools for artistic development?

During the International Theatre and Education Festival Forum "Nauruz" experts from all continents will meet during three days to discuss visionary models for artistic education, to exchange practical knowledge regarding the concept and construction of online modules and hybrid training.

**Any interested scientist or practitioner in the field of education, theatre training or production is invited to join and share experience.**

While the first two days will take the shape of a work meeting, all participant of the festival will be invited to join the open panel discussion on the 12 June. The colloquium language will be English and Russian.

### **Open Call for Speakers**

Please apply with a short proposition on the theme and content as fast as possible and send to [akt.zent\(at\)berlin.de](mailto:akt.zent(at)berlin.de)

**Conditions:** Full accommodation for 4 nights and local transport.

Furthermore, we encourage any interested person to join as a participant. Please use the [registration form](#).



**Call for Applications for the Hig Fest in Yerevan, Armenia 1 to 8 October 2020**

**HIGH FEST  
International  
Performing  
Arts Festival**



**ՀԱՅ ՖԵՍՏ  
Միջազգային  
Թատերական  
Փառատուն**

“Dear Friends and Colleagues! We are happy to announce the opening of the registration for the HIGH FEST International Performing Arts Festival, which will take place from 1 to 8 October 2020 in Yerevan, Armenia! This year it will be the 18th Edition! The festival is one the best 24 European festivals from the long list of 715 by EFFE Awards 2019-2020. We are the main festival on the territory of the former USSR Countries (except for Moscow). [>>So, apply and be part of us!](#) The application **deadline is 15 March!**

We will be happy to answer any other question, so don't hesitate to write to us.

Contact: High Fest Coordination Team, HIGH FEST International Performing Arts Festival

26 Amiryan Street / State Institute of Theatre and Cinema Yerevan 0002, Armenia

Tel/Fax: +374 99 53 62 33 whatsapp/viber

[info\(at\)highfest.am](mailto:info(at)highfest.am)

[www.highfest.am](http://www.highfest.am)



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**Connect 35 - Log on, join in, dance!**



In a range of 35th-anniversary celebrations, Magpie Dance, the leading dance charity for children and adults with learning disabilities, launch Connect 35, a free, online, participatory dance opportunity.

People with and without a disability, and with and without dance experience, are encouraged to make and upload their own dances, using the number 35 as their inspiration. With participants from all over the UK and beyond, Connect 35 is set to

break barriers to dance.

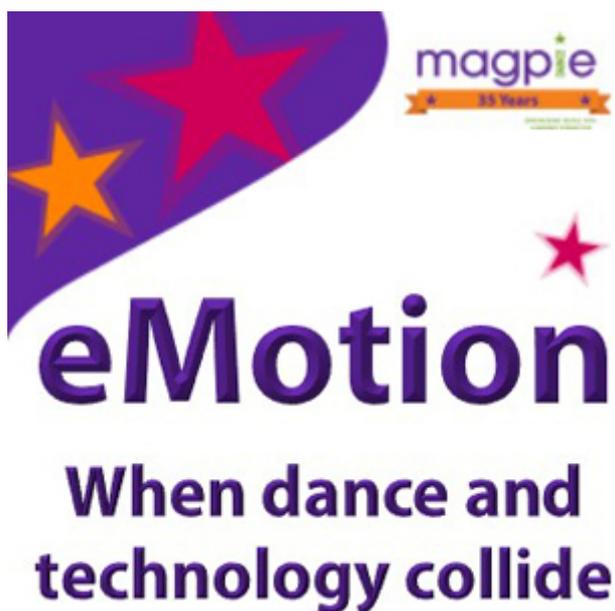
"We hope that you find inspiration from us and want to join in by making your own moves! Take part and upload your own video and help us share Connect 35 around the globe." Erica Moshman, Creative Learning Coordinator.

More information: <https://logonjoinindance.magpiedance.org.uk/>



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**eMotion - When dance and technology collide.**



24 May 2020

Join Magpie Dance for a dance technology festival - Try your hand at interactive exhibitions, immersive workshops and watch live performances. Suitable for all the family. Get your tickets online: <https://buytickets.at/magpiedance/344767>

Activities include: Dancing with Meccanoid, Immersive pop up performances, Exhibition, Interactive Lights performance in the studio theatre, VR Headsets, Sphero experience



### **Calls of the Accademia Teatro Dimitri**

The Accademia Teatro Dimitri, member of the ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts is announcing different calls.

### **Preliminary Auditions "Bachelor of Arts in Theatre" 2020/2021**

The Bachelor of Arts in Theatre offers extensive training in the field of Physical Theatre. The teaching consists of regular lessons in core subjects, various academic workshops, numerous courses for further growth and the development of theatrical shows, which allow the students to gain a solid technical mastery in the theatrical and movement skills. Preliminary Auditions are held in: Bern, Berlin, Paris, Milano and Version.

[>>More information](#)

### **Master of Arts in Theatre**

The Accademia Dimitri offers two Master of Arts Programms with specialization on "Physical Theatre" and Teatro di Figura: Puppets, Objects and Material Theatre

[>>More information](#)

A promotional poster for the Master of Arts in Theatre program at Accademia Teatro Dimitri, 2020/2021. The poster features images of performers in various theatrical costumes and poses. Text on the poster includes: ACCADEMIA TEATRO DIMITRI, MASTER PROGRAMME 2020/2021, MASTER OF ARTS IN THEATRE, SPECIALIZATION PHYSICAL THEATRE, SPECIALIZATION TEATRO DI FIGURA: MATERIAL, OBJECT, AND PUPPET THEATRE, Accademia Dimitri - Physical Theatre www.academia-dimitri.ch/master. On the right side, there is a grey box with text: MASTER OF ARTS IN THEATRE, The Master programme offers students an intimate artistic community in which to foster their individual approach to theatrical creation, and to engage in a dialogue about contemporary aesthetics of the stage. The course emphasizes the role of the artist as both a searcher and a researcher. The Master degree programme is aimed at professionals and graduates of the performing arts. Application deadline for the MA 2020/21: March 30, 2020. Admission exams in Version: May 1-3, 2020. Beginning of the Academic Year 2020/21: September 15, 2020. Language: English. More informations about our Master Programme: academia-dimitri@supsi.ch www.academia-dimitri.ch/master. Logos for ACCADEMIA TEATRO DIMITRI and SUPSI are at the bottom.

### **Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Performing Arts Practice in Conflict Zones**

In a globalized world in which the consequences of violence war and discrimination have become an integral part of our lives politics is created with angst demarcation and isolation determining everyday life. The CAS Performing Arts Practice in Conflict Zones offers an opportunity to open new spaces of reflection and action.

[>>More information](#)

### **Easter and Sommer Courses for Adults**

During the months of July and August, the Accademia Teatro Dimitri offers an

During the months of July and August, the Accademia Teatro Dimitri offers an interesting and varied program of courses in Verscio. These are aimed at adults, both professionals and non-professionals, who are interested in physical theatre and would like to explore various fields such as dance, circus arts, pantomime, clowning, rhythm and theatrical improvisation. The Accademia also offers courses for kids.

[>>More information](#)

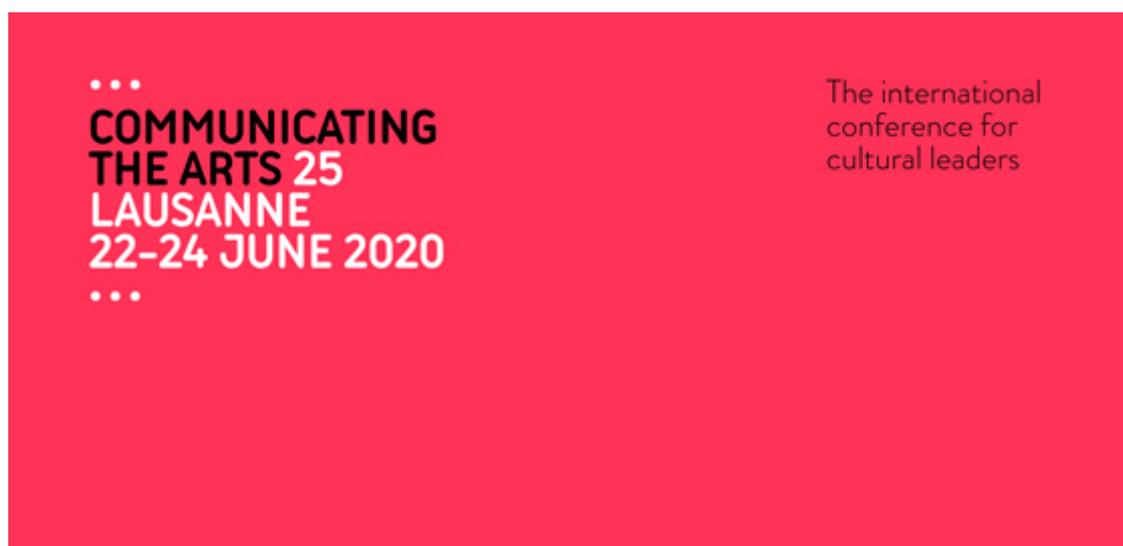


## Pre-Announcement

**Communicating the Arts** - 22 - 24 June 2020 in Lausanne/Switzerland

Communicating the Arts is the leading conference and networking platform for professionals working for performing and visual arts organisations. Three hundred senior professionals will come together to network, engage in stimulating conversations and rethink their institution's models and strategies.

More information will follow in the next Newsletter.



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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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