

**Concept Paper for Side Event:
UNESCO World Conference on Culture and Arts Education 2024**

Event Title: Harmonizing Heritage and Innovation: Navigating Tradition in Contemporary Arts Education

Objective: The primary aim of this event is to cultivate a dynamic and inclusive dialogue on the intersection of heritage and innovation in arts education. By examining how tradition can flourish alongside modern approaches, our goal is to inspire educators, students, and professionals in the performing arts sector.

Event Overview: Hosted by the Network for Higher Education in Performing Arts, this online event will delve into the theme of "Harmonizing Heritage and Innovation." The intention is to create an engaging platform that honours the rich cultural legacy and historical practices of the arts (heritage) while integrating fresh and innovative approaches that resonate with contemporary society (innovation).

Speaker Selection:

- Lemi Ponifasio: a visionary artist, seamlessly integrates traditional performing arts with avant-garde dance, creating captivating and thought-provoking performances. He actively engages with local and indigenous communities, collaborating with them and respecting their cultural heritage. Ponifasio's commitment extends to training local artists, empowering them to refine their skills and express themselves through performing art. By embedding traditional forms into contemporary works, he bridges the past and present, fostering appreciation for cultural heritage. His visionary approach inspires meaningful connections between cultures and generations, showcasing the power of collaboration and inclusivity.

Opening Keynote: "Navigating Tradition in Contemporary Performing Arts Creation" (10 minutes).

- Jarosław Fret: As a seasoned theatre director and founder of Teatr ZAR, Fret's work transcends conventional boundaries, skillfully harmonizing traditional and contemporary elements in his performances. His role as the Director of the Grotowski Institute and involvement in projects such as the Grotowski Year 2009 and the International Theatre Festival The World as a Place of Truth underscores his commitment to preserving artistic heritage while fostering innovation. FRET's groundbreaking research expeditions into the oldest forms of religious music and his direction of performances like the Gospels of Childhood triptych showcase his ability to navigate the delicate balance between tradition and modernity.
- Speech: Insights on Tradition and Innovation in the European Context (10 minutes).

- Serge Nicolai: As an actor, director and set designer, Serge has been a member of the Théâtre du Soleil since 1997. He is the artistic and pedagogical director of L'Aria, Association des Rencontres Internationales Artistiques, an training centre open to everyone (professional and amateur actors, technicians, costume designers, teachers, students, foreigners). As a founding member and artistic director of L'Aria, he has played a pivotal role in shaping the organization's training programs and artistic vision. Within L'Aria, Nicolai has developed an innovative curriculum that combines rigorous physical training with a focus on personal growth and artistic exploration. He guides aspiring performers through a comprehensive journey of self-discovery, helping them develop a deep understanding of their bodies, emotions, and creative potential.

Speech: Insights on performing arts training for amateurs, professionals and the young(10 minutes).

Session Format: online 12 February 14:00-15:30 Paris time

Welcome and Introduction (5 minutes): Tobias Biancone, President of the Network, will kick off the session and set the tone. Daniel Bausch, a board member of the Network, will provide a quick overview of the theme "Harmonizing Heritage and Innovation" and moderate the meeting.

Opening Keynote (15 minutes): Lemi Ponifasio will deliver the opening keynote, exploring the navigation of tradition in contemporary performing arts creation.

Invited Speakers (20 minutes):

Jarosław Fret will share insights on the intersection of tradition and innovation in the European Context (10 minutes).

Serge Nicolai will share insights based on his own practical experiences on the performing arts training for all(10 minutes).

Q&A Session (15 minutes): Engage participants in a 10-minute question-and-answer session.

Closing Remarks and Future Directions (5 minutes): Summarize key points and highlight future events or resources related to the theme.

Remark: This format aims to provide an equal and comprehensive exploration of the chosen theme, ensuring diverse perspectives and fostering a collaborative and forward-looking dialogue.

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26 January Paris / France