The Director General’s Report
November 2014 – April 2017
International Theatre Institute ITI
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November 2014 – April 2017
Dear ITI Members, dear Colleagues, dear friends, ladies and gentlemen

With great pleasure we present the "Director General’s Report November 2014 to April 2017 to you. It covers the multitude of activities that Centres, Committees, Regional Councils and individual ITI members have organized or have participated in. The report covers the period from the last Congress in Yerevan until the Congress in Segovia.

Since the Congress in Yerevan, two and a half years have passed. For this publication 47 Centres, more than ever have sent in their reports, 4 Regional Councils and 14 Committees, Forums, Networks and Project Groups, also more than ever, have reported. The diverse richness of cultural activities is amazing.

The period since the last Congress has been intense. The headquarters of ITI, the “home” of the General Secretariat, relocated to Shanghai and continued to have an office at UNESCO in Paris. This meant a lot of changes, not only in the change of personnel, but also in catching up with issues that should and will bring ITI into a better future.

Unfortunately, the political situation in Brazil has made it impossible to hold the Congress in Manaus. The government of Brazil blocked the finances that were budgeted for the ITI World Congress. Despite all the actions from the Mayor of Manaus and of the Executive Council Members, along with the eminent writer and playwright Marcio Souza, nothing could be changed. The Executive Board had one preparation meeting in Manaus, the General Secretariat members went twice to help the Manaus team to prepare for the Congress. The enthusiasm and dedication of the Manaus team was extremely strong.

Well, with the change of government in Brazil, it became even more difficult to get the funding. That is why the decision that the Executive Council had to take was necessary. With no budget, the needed security for the delegates and artists could not be guaranteed.

So that was the sad end of a promising development for a congress. The work of our friends in Manaus, the Mayor, Marcio Souza and his team is very appreciated. We would like to express our gratitude to all of them.

Immediately after the cancellation of the Congress in the Manaus, the new ITI Centre in Spain approached the Director General and the Executive Council. Alberto Garcia and Luis Llerena wanted to help and give new hope to the members of ITI. They proposed to hold the next Congress in the city of Segovia. After many discussions between the Spanish Centre and the Executive Council, the decision was made to hold the 35th ITI World Congress there. A Congress Task Force was created and together with the help of the General Secretariat, the Executive Council, the Spanish Centre and the Municipality of Segovia a culturally diverse Congress has been prepared.

The General Secretariat put the interim reports of the Centres and Committees on the new website and asked all the Regional Councils, Centres and Committees to update their report for this, the final publication.

Please browse through the report and read what is of interest to you. Even by just looking at the pictures, you will get the impression that ITI is developing, that ITI is going in the right direction and that ITI more and more is reaching its artistic, educational and humanistic goals.

If ITI can do what is written in the vision, mission and goals, then it is because of all the active ITI Members who are utilizing the values that the performing arts present to an individual, the essential values that are important for the artists, the audiences and the people.

UNESCO and ITI’s vision of mutual understanding and peace are needed today, more than ever. A world that is full of culture, of a diversity of cultures and of inspirational expressions of one’s own culture – this is what ITI and its members are striving for.

We would like to thank each and all of you for participating in ITI. We, all of us, are doing it for the benefit of the performing arts and the people. Your work is highly appreciated, now and in the future.

Let’s continue to work for these goals - even stronger.

With warm regards

Mohamed Saif Al-Afkham, President ITI
Tobias Biancone, Director General ITI
Vision and Mission of ITI

Vision

The International Theatre Institute (ITI) envisions a world that puts strong value and importance on the Performing Arts. It is a world in which performing artists are able to work and present their creative ideas to audiences. It is a world in which local, regional and national authorities, sponsors and donors invest in the Performing Arts and fund organizations, institutions, and artists in the field of theatre, dance and music theatre in all their diverse forms. It is a world in which education in the techniques of the Performing Arts and related subjects are offered at all levels of education – from primary to high school and university. It is a world in which the Performing Arts – especially theatre – are used in communities, for development, for mutual understanding and for building peace in conflict zones all over the world. It is a world in which diverse cultures and expressions are safeguarded and innovation is promoted.

Mission

The International Theatre Institute (ITI) is the world’s largest performing arts organization. Founded in 1948 by theatre and dance experts and UNESCO, it strives for a society in which performing arts and their artists thrive and flourish. ITI advances UNESCO’s goals of mutual understanding and peace and advocates for the protection and promotion of cultural expressions, regardless of age, gender, creed or ethnicity. It works to these ends internationally and nationally in the areas of performing arts education, international exchange and collaboration, and youth training.

Goals

The purpose of the International Theatre Institute is to promote the international exchange of knowledge and practice in theatre and dance in order to consolidate peace and friendship between peoples, to deepen mutual understanding and increase creative co-operation between all people in the theatre arts. To achieve this purpose, ITI shall:

- encourage activities and creation in the field of the live performing arts (Drama, Dance, Music Theatre);
- aim at an enlargement of the existing collaboration between performing arts disciplines and organizations, both national and international;
- establish international offices and foster the establishment of National Centres of the ITI in all countries;
- collect documents, disseminate all types of information and issue publications in the realm of the performing arts;
- co-operate actively in the development of the Theatre of Nations and encourage and co-ordinate the organization of theatrical congresses, workshops and meetings of experts, as well as festivals, exhibitions and competitions, both on regional and interregional levels, in co-operation with its members;
- defend the free development of the performing arts and contribute to the protection of the rights of performing arts professionals.

To achieve this within ITI, the member Centres of the organization shall be guided by the principles of mutual respect for the national traditions of each country. (Charter of ITI)

ITI Core Values

The Core Values of ITI are Inspiration, Inclusiveness, Collaboration and Transparency.

Inspiration

“Inspire” means:

- to make someone want to do something;
- to give someone an idea about what to do or create;
- to cause something to happen or be created.

Inclusiveness

“Inclusive” means:

- open to everyone, not limited to certain people.

Collaboration

The word “collaborate” means to work jointly with others, especially in an intellectual endeavour.

Transparency

“Transparent” means:

- free from pretence or deceit;
- easily detected or seen through;
- readily understood;
- characterized by visibility or accessibility of information especially concerning business practices.

(Definitions taken from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary)
The relocation of the “headquarters” of ITI from Paris to Shanghai was not easy. This was to be expected. Nevertheless, it proves that the Executive Council and the General Assembly approved a courageous and correct decision.

UNESCO
The address of ITI is still in Paris – 1 Rue Miollis, 75015 Paris, France. All the mail that is sent to this address is forwarded to the new headquarters in China – 1332 Xinsha Road, Jing’an, Shanghai, China 200040. To keep a small office at UNESCO and to work there during meetings with UNESCO officials and when ITI is organizing an international event in Paris - such as the International Dance Day, 29 April 2016 - is showing that this “pied-a-terre” (secondary “home”) is needed and essential to keep strong and good relations with UNESCO.

The office is no longer in the old provisory building of UNESCO but in the UNESCO Bonvin Building, on the 9th floor, room 9.44, Paris, France.

Relocation
At the end of March 2015, the old rooms and the archive were emptied. The archive of ITI has been donated to the prestigious “Bibliothèque Nationale de France BNF” where documents can be accessed by anyone who is interested in the history of ITI. Some of the books were donated to a Theatre Library in Paris and to the Burkina Faso Centre of ITI. The rest of the books were transported to Shanghai. Also, all the minutes of the Executive Council Sessions and all the Reports and General Assembly minutes that went to the BNF were copied and are to be found in the new headquarters for reference as well.

Provisory Office
From 8 April to the end of the year 2015, the headquarters were in a temporary office at 555 Haifang Road, in Jing’an District at the home of Modern Drama Valley, an organization whose purpose is to bring theatre to people. When we entered the office, everything was prepared by the Cultural Bureau of Jing’an District - the office space, the desks, the computers and printers, phones, a coffee machine and a meeting space. ITI could start to work immediately. ITI did start to work hard and organized together with the Shanghai Theatre Academy the main event of International Dance Day in Shanghai, on 29 April 2015 which included a Conference on Dance with panellists from France, Spain, Cyprus and China, at the Shanghai Theatre Academy.

Grand Opening of the New Building
On the occasion of the 141st Executive Council, on 4 November 2015, the new office at 1332 Xinsha Road was inaugurated with Chinese and international artists in the new building. The inauguration was scheduled in the empty building, as the renovation of the premises had not been started and the furniture was not ready. As an empty building is an ideal space for performances, exhibitions, presentations and the gathering of artists, colleagues and friends, the General Secretariat decided to use the space and celebrate with all Executive Council Members, young practitioners, performing artists, academics from all over the world, and with VIPs from Shanghai and all over China. Chinese dragons and lions, a bombastic ribbon cutting and a lot of smiling faces made that late afternoon a most memorable event. Thanks to the invitation of the Cultural Bureau of Jing’an District, all the ITI Members and guests were invited to a historic restaurant and treated to a delicious dinner.
Relocation

Above: Members of the Executive Council, the Jing’an District and Shanghai Municipality at the dinner invitation.
Below: Guests in the new office.

Relocation

Above: Speech of Mohamed Al-Afkham, President of ITI, at the dinner.
Below: Performances in the new office space.

Next double page
The new office building.
Communication & Visibility

Comments

Communication and visibility are key ingredients for making ITI strong and for making ITI known, both locally and internationally.

To bring information about ITI to performing arts professionals and everybody else is a never-ending task. It has to be done over and over. To strengthen the network, ITI needs to improve the communication and visibility within ITI (internally) and to all the professionals of the performing arts and people (externally).

Improving the communication internally

The task to improve the communication internally has suffered a bit due to change of staff, due to a lack of personnel and due to the time it took to relocate. Currently, ITI is undertaking strong efforts to inform all networks with important information through the Newsletter for ITI Members, the ITI Website, the ITI Congress Newsletter, and the ITI Congress Website. By the time of the Congress, there should be a new ITI Website and a new Congress Website.

Huge work has been undertaken to update the Directory of ITI. All Centres, Cooperating Members and Committees have been contacted to update their addresses, and the new Directory is now updated and online. The Directory is also included at the end of this Report. More work will be done on the ITI email lists for Centres, Cooperating Members, Committees, and Partner Organizations.

Improving the communication externally

At the moment, the headquarters of ITI is communicating to everyone over the “old” website. Information about national events, World Theatre Day, International Dance Day, the Calls for productions and workshops for the Congress and for the Dance Symposium happening at the Congress, for competitions, calls for productions for festivals and many other issues have been published on the website. The ITI website is an effective information medium and ITI will continue to use this channel to communicate to the world.

What will be done to improve the communication externally is to create an “ITI Newsletter” that is going to all who are interested in the performing arts and in ITI. This general ITI Newsletter will be launched soon.

More than two thousand addresses that ITI collected in the recent past will be included and will receive the new Newsletter.

Visibility

To increase the visibility of ITI for everybody, the ITI Centres are playing a very important role. This is done by the multitude of actions that the Centres are undertaking for their events, conferences, festivals, World Theatre Day and International Dance Day celebrations. All kinds of events where the name ITI appears are assisting in increasing the popularity of ITI, and there are no limits to this: posters, flyers, banners, trailers, digital advertisements, films, and as the Mexican Centre has shown, also with the ITI logo on lottery tickets.

It is clear that ITI is mainly an organization for professionals. It is also clear that performing arts professionals are doing their performances, festivals, events, etc. for the audience, for persons of any age and any walk of life. World Theatre Day and International Dance Day are reaching millions of people with their respective messages. These messages act like wake-up calls for those who are not aware of the importance of the performing arts.

How the first World Theatre Ambassadors were selected

The World Theatre Ambassador project was started in 2008 at a meeting in Zagreb/Croatia where Valery Khasanov, Raija-Siikka Rantala, Zlilka Tucirnovic, Vidar Eggertson and Tobias Biancone were present. There was a call to Centres for proposals. A Centre could only propose members of another country. This enabled the working group to get only internationally relevant personalities.

New World Theatre Ambassadors

If you would like to nominate a distinguished theatre personality, please send the name, with biography and information about his/her achievements to the Director General ITI so that it can be discussed at an Executive Council Session.

World Theatre Ambassadors

Left column: Vigdis Finnbogadottir, Iceland
Grish Kamad, India
Anatoli Vassiliev, Russia
Santiago García, Colombia

Right column: Wole Soyinka, Nigeria
Shang Changrong, China
Robert Sturua, Georgia

For inviting one of the Ambassadors, please write to the General Secretariat for more information.
Communication & Visibility
ITI Websites, Newsletters & Social Media

ITI Worldwide:
- www.iti-worldwide.org
- www.iti-congress.org
- www.world-theatre-day.org
- www.international-dance-day.org

ITI on Facebook

ITI on YouTube

ITI on Twitter

ITI Websites, Newsletters & Social Media

ITI Centres

Website & Social Media of ITI Centres
Websites & Social Media of ITI Centres known to the General Secretariat

Argentina
- www.itiargentina.com.ar

Austria
- www.iti-art.de

Belgium
- www.iti-walloniebruxelles.be

Brazil
- http://www.iti-brasil.org.br/

Croatia
- www.hciti.hr

Cyprus
- www.cyprus-theatre-iti.org

Czech Republic
- www.new.institutumeni.cz

Denmark
- www.dansktit.dk
- www.youtube.com/channel/UCFiNhEpED0g-
gP9Uw1POIC7A

Estonia
- www.teater.ee
- www.facebook.com/pages/Eesti-Teatri-Agentuur

Finland
- www.tinfo.fi
- www.facebook.com/TheaterFederationFinland
- www.TINFO-Teatterin-tiedotuskeskus
- www.twitter.com/TInfoTweets

Fujairah United Arab Emirates
- www.flmfi.ae

Germany
- www.iti-germany.de
- www.facebook.com/iti.germany

Greece
- www.hellastheatre.gr
- www.athensystem.gr
- www.facebook.com/hellerscentre.iti

Iceland
- www.stage.is

Ireland
- www.irishtheatreinstitute.ie
- www.facebook.com/pages/Irish-Theatre-Institute-ITI
- www.twitter.com/Irishtheatren
- www.youtube.com/user/IrishTheatreInstitute
Visibility – Websites & Social Media

ITI Centres, ITI Cooperating Members

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<th>Country</th>
<th>Website(s)</th>
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<td>Japan</td>
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<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>Peru</td>
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<td>Russia</td>
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<td>Slovenia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
<td><a href="http://www.iti-swiss.ch">www.iti-swiss.ch</a></td>
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Visibility – Websites & Social Media

ITI Cooperating Members, ITI Project Groups

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<th>Cooperating Members</th>
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<td><a href="http://www.green.dti.ne.jp">www.green.dti.ne.jp</a></td>
<td>ITI Cooperating Members (known to the General Secretariat)</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/sankhau.com.vn">www.facebook.com/sankhau.com.vn</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.theater.lu">www.theater.lu</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/TheaterFederation">www.facebook.com/TheaterFederation</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.euba.edu.mk">www.euba.edu.mk</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.zdus.si">www.zdus.si</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.iti-swiss.ch">www.iti-swiss.ch</a></td>
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Project Groups (Committees)

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<th>Project Groups (Committees)</th>
<th>Website(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Action Committee for Artist’s Rights – ACAR</td>
<td><a href="http://www.iti-artistsrights.iti-germany.de">www.iti-artistsrights.iti-germany.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Playwrights’ Forum – IPF</td>
<td><a href="http://www.playwrightsforum.com">www.playwrightsforum.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Festival Forum - IFF</td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/IFFcommittee">www.facebook.com/IFFcommittee</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>International Monodrama Forum - IMF</td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/282690435104833/">www.facebook.com/groups/282690435104833/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Theatre Committee - MTC</td>
<td>Music Theatre Now, <a href="http://www.mtnow.iti-germany.de">www.mtnow.iti-germany.de</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.shortandsweet.org">www.shortandsweet.org</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/34737728708374/">www.facebook.com/groups/34737728708374/</a></td>
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Left: Finnish Centre of ITI Website
Right: Swiss Centre of ITI Website
Visibility
Collaboration, Patronage, Use of Logos

• English
• Français
• Español

Below samples of what a Centre’s or Committee’s logo can look like.

Comments by the DG

It might be unclear how ITI handles the branding and patronage of international, regional and national projects.

National and Regional Projects

If there are events such as festivals, conferences, round tables and workshops, organised by a Centre, the Centre should use the ITI logo to promote it. If a national or significant event that is organised by a third party would like to have the patronage of the ITI, the event should request the logo from the respective Centre.

The same applies if a Regional Council organises an event: they can decide whether they want to use the ITI worldwide logo or not, and proceed to do so if they wish.

International Events

If a Centre would like to organise an international event, it is up to the Centre whether to use the Centre’s logo or the international logo if an international event is organized by a party not connected to ITI (Centres, Committees, Forums or Networks), and wishes to have the patronage of ITI, it may apply to the General Secretariat for permission to use the logo. If in such a case, the General Secretariat will inform the relevant Centre and the Executive Council of the request. International events can only receive patronage when the quality of the event is evident.

International Projects

International Projects that request the approval of the General Assembly may obtain such approval provided they are open to all ITI Centres and members. For example through an open call for participation. Sometimes, these requests are based on the fact that through the approval of the General Assembly, these international projects will get better funding.

Patronage by ITI

Patronage by ITI worldwide – symbolised through the use of the ITI worldwide logo - does not mean that ITI is financially supporting an event.

Use of the ITI Logo

All Centres, Cooperating Members and Committees are entitled to use the ITI logo to promote their work. If it is not available, Centres and Committees may request the logo for their Centre or for their Committee from the General Secretariat.

Use of the UNESCO Logo for an Event

There are ITI Centres who have the right to use the logo of UNESCO or use the name of UNESCO in their name. If that is the case they can and should use it.

If a Centre, which does not have this permission from UNESCO, would like to have the patronage of UNESCO, it is advised that they ask the National Commission of UNESCO for such permission. In general, UNESCO will only agree as ITI is the official partner of UNESCO for the performing arts.

If there is a request to use the UNESCO logo for an international event, it is advisable to get in touch with the General Secretariat ITI for further guidance.
Comments / The World of Theatre

By the DG

Two outstanding international printed publications have become a tradition within ITI. “The World of Theatre” is an initiative from the newly-named ITI Publications Committee (formerly, the Communication Committee). During the 35th ITI World Congress, the new edition will be presented by the Committee. The other publication is “ITI Info” - published and distributed by the Russian Centre of ITI - now available in a larger format, presenting national and international events.

Hopefully we will be able to give you more information about which Centres are publishing books. The best way to make sure that they are found in future DG Reports is to send us a copy to the Shanghai address.

As a side note: Despite the statements that the book and bookshops are to be extinct soon, the bookshops in some countries in Europe and even in Shanghai are flourishing and their sales statistics are up, while famous online sellers are experiencing a downward trend.

The Future of ITI Publications

Should ITI stop publishing books? Should ITI just start publishing ebooks? So far the driving force behind all the publications has come from the publishing Project Group called ITI Publications Committee (IPC). For me it is not a proposition of “either-or” but another “and”...

But following the tradition of such endeavours, it should be left to the members of this Project Group to decide the future of the publication. If they take into consideration a) for whom they are publishing it (the target groups) and b) what reading attitudes those target groups are showing, then I am sure that they will find the right way for the future worldwide publications of ITI.

Pictures of “ITI Info” published by the Russian Centre of ITI

Песни Земли

EARTH SONGS
Awards and Prizes

Comments

Comments by the DG

Awards and prizes are good ways to stimulate the performing arts and performing arts practitioners. They are most welcomed by those who receive them. They are a good way of acknowledging the quality of a work, the achievement of a person, and even the innovative ideas that flourish in the field of the performing arts. They seem to covet an award that improves the popularity and status of the winner – a good example is the Prix Goncourt in France where the winner gets a monetary award of about 10 Euros, but due to the prestige of the prize, the winners find their books in the bestsellers’ lists which increases their income and celebrity.

The Music Theatre NOW Award and the Uchimura Prize are the best known competitions connected to ITI. In 2015, the Philippine Centre organized an international Playwriting Competition on the theme of "Climate Change" which made headlines all over the world. At the Yerevan ITI World Congress the General Assembly accepted the Ellen Stewart Award to be taken under the patronage of ITI.

On the following pages all the four awards are presented to you.


The Music Theatre NOW Network of the International Theatre Institute ITI announced the winners of their worldwide competition Music Theatre NOW today. The main goal of this unique event, which is produced by the German Centre of the world’s largest organization for the performing arts, is to promote exchange among artists and presenters of opera and music theatre.

14 first productions of new works, which were realized anywhere in the world since July 2012 were selected by a jury made up of internationally renowned theatre makers from five continents: Brett Bailey (South African playwright, designer and director), Guy Coolen (artistic director of the international opera festival ‘Operadagen’ in Rotterdam), Sara Joan Fang (music producer for Singapore’s national performing arts Centre ‘Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay’), as well as Ana Lara (Mexican composer and founder of the festival ‘Música y Escena’) and Joseph V. Melillo (executive producer of the Brooklyn Academy of Music).

Operas and music theatre large and small, works made for large opera houses, or works created for tiny venues, which are aesthetically innovative and reflect new developments in this genre from the various corners of the world, have been chosen.

An additional four works were chosen for a special mention as their productions show a valuable approach for the work with music and theatre that should be acknowledged.

Music Theatre NOW welcomed 450 participants from 54 countries. The 18 artistic teams will be invited to a special meeting, which will be held at the Operadagen Rotterdam from May 22nd through May 26th 2016. There the selected artists will have the opportunity to present their work in the form of lectures. Winners also have the chance to receive invitations for guest performances. Partner institutions, such as the Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre, China’s largest theatre, or the Operadagen Rotterdam, plan to invite winning productions in the 2016/2017 theatre season. These winners will be announced during the meeting.

ITI welcomes curators, academics, artists and presenters to attend the Music Theatre NOW meeting. The presentations in Rotterdam are also open to the general public and the final program were announced in January. This 3rd edition will coincide with Classical:NEXT - a global meeting for all art music innovators that will take place directly after MTN.

Contact: Christian Grammel (Coordinating Director of MTN) dergrammel@gmx.net
Website: www.mtnow.org
Music Theatre NOW Awards and Prizes

Winner 2016: The Source

Awards and Prizes

List of winning productions and special mentions

The following works (in alphabetical order) were selected by the jury for presentation in Rotterdam at Music Theatre NOW 2016.

1. Coup Fatal
   - Comp.: Serge Kakudji (Democratic Republic of Congo)
   - Con.: Rodriguez Vangama (Democratic Republic of Congo)
   - Dir.: Alain Platel (Belgium)
   - M.D.: Fabrice Cassoul (Belgium)
   - S.D.: Freddy Tsimba (Democratic Republic of Congo)
   - L.D.: Carlo Bourguignon (Belgium)
   - C.: Dorine Demuyck (Belgium)
   - S.D.: Max Stuurman (Belgium)
   - P.O.: Ingrate Art Productions (ITA)

2. Il Ballo delle Ingrate
   - Comp.: Elena Fenucci (Italy)
   - Dir.: Chiara Capelli (Italy)
   - C.D.: Ellie Ivanova (Italy)
   - M.D.: Michaela Giedel (Germany)
   - S.D.: Marco Menegoni (Italy)
   - P.O.: les ballets C de la B & KVS

3. Invisible Cities
   - Comp.: Christopher Cerrone (USA)
   - Dir.: Yuval Sharon (USA)
   - M.D.: Marc Lowenstein (USA)
   - C.D.: Eli Brooks (USA)
   - Ch.: Danielle Agami (USA)
   - P.O.: The Industry (Los Angeles, USA)

4. L.I. | Lingua Imperi - violenta la forza del morso che la ammutoliva
   - Comp.: Christian Garcia-Gaucher (Switzerland)
   - Dir.: Christian Garcia-Gaucher (Switzerland)
   - C.: E.B. Brooks (USA)
   - M.D.: Marc Lowenstein (USA)
   - S.D.: Stefano di Buduo (Germany)
   - L.D.: Austin Switser
   - C.: Melissa Kirgan (USA)
   - S.D.: Matthew J Hilyard (USA)
   - P.O.: Anagoor (Italy)

5. L.I. | Lingua Imperi - so violent was the force that struck it dumb
   - Comp.: Christian Garcia-Gaucher (Switzerland)
   - Dir.: Christian Garcia-Gaucher (Switzerland)
   - C.: E.B. Brooks (USA)
   - M.D.: Marc Lowenstein (USA)
   - S.D.: Stefano di Buduo (Germany)
   - L.D.: Austin Switser
   - C.: Melissa Kirgan (USA)
   - S.D.: Matthew J Hilyard (USA)
   - P.O.: Anagoor (Italy)

6. Musicophilia
   - Comp.: Steffen Wick (Germany)
   - Dir.: Christian Garcia-Gaucher (Switzerland)
   - C.: Xing-Zhen Chung-Hilyard (Taiwan)
   - M.D.: Marc Lowenstein (USA)
   - S.D.: Stefano di Buduo (Germany)
   - L.D.: Austin Switser
   - C.: Melissa Kirgan (USA)
   - S.D.: Matthew J Hilyard (USA)
   - P.O.: Anagoor (Italy)

7. Paradise Interrupted
   - Comp.: Huang Ruo (China)
   - Dir.: Karen Finley (USA)
   - C.: Qian Yi (China)
   - M.D.: Marc Lowenstein (USA)
   - S.D.: Stefano di Buduo (Germany)
   - L.D.: Austin Switser
   - C.: Melissa Kirgan (USA)
   - S.D.: Matthew J Hilyard (USA)
   - P.O.: Anagoor (Italy)

8. Private View
   - Comp.: Christian Garcia-Gaucher (Switzerland)
   - Dir.: Christian Garcia-Gaucher (Switzerland)
   - C.: E.B. Brooks (USA)
   - M.D.: Marc Lowenstein (USA)
   - S.D.: Stefano di Buduo (Germany)
   - L.D.: Austin Switser
   - C.: Melissa Kirgan (USA)
   - S.D.: Matthew J Hilyard (USA)
   - P.O.: Anagoor (Italy)

9. The Queen without a Country
   - Comp.: Christian Garcia-Gaucher (Switzerland)
   - Dir.: Christian Garcia-Gaucher (Switzerland)
   - C.: E.B. Brooks (USA)
   - M.D.: Marc Lowenstein (USA)
   - S.D.: Stefano di Buduo (Germany)
   - L.D.: Austin Switser
   - C.: Melissa Kirgan (USA)
   - S.D.: Matthew J Hilyard (USA)
   - P.O.: Anagoor (Italy)

10. Shifting Ground
   - Comp.: Ji Chao (China)
   - Dir.: Christian Garcia-Gaucher (Switzerland)
   - C.: Qian Yi (China)
   - M.D.: Marc Lowenstein (USA)
   - S.D.: Stefano di Buduo (Germany)
   - L.D.: Austin Switser
   - C.: Melissa Kirgan (USA)
   - S.D.: Matthew J Hilyard (USA)
   - P.O.: Anagoor (Italy)
Awards and Prizes
Music Theatre NOW 2015

The Source
Composer: Ted Hearne (USA)
Text: Mark Doten (USA)
Stage Direction / Video: Daniel Fish (USA)
Stage Design / Video: Jim Findlay (USA)
Lighting design: Chris Kuhl (USA)
Music director: Nathan Koci (USA)
Producing Organisation: Beth Morrison Projects

Awards and Prizes
Music Theatre NOW 2015

The Source
Composer: Ted Hearne (USA)
Text: Mark Doten (USA)
Stage Direction / Video: Daniel Fish (USA)
Stage Design / Video: Jim Findlay (USA)
Lighting design: Chris Kuhl (USA)
Music director: Nathan Koci (USA)
Producing Organisation: Beth Morrison Projects

Two Acts
Composer: Vladimir Rannev (Russia)
Libretto: Dmitry Prigov (Russia)
Producing Organisation: The State Hermitage Museum (Russia)
The opera “Two Acts” was written and staged by Vladimir Rannev to a libretto by Dmitri A. Prigov. It was commissioned by the Goethe-Institut (Germany) and the State Hermitage Museum (Russia).

Wide Slumber for Lepidopterists
Composer: Valgeir Sigurðsson (Iceland)
Text: a. rawlings (Iceland / Canada)
Stage Director / Adaptation for Stage: Sara Martí (Iceland)
Dramaturgy / Adaptation for Stage: Sigóur Sunna Reynisdóttir (Iceland)
Stage Design: Eva Signý Berger (Iceland)
Costume: Harpa Einarsdóttir (Iceland)
Light / Video: Ingi Bekk (Iceland)
Animation / Video Art: Pierre-Alain Giraud (France)

Cachafaz, tragedia bárbara
Composer: Oscar Strasnoy (Argentina)
Stage Director: Pablo Mantano (Argentina)
Musical Director: Pierre Rouiller (Argentina)
Stage Design: Andrea Mercado (Argentina)
Costume: María Emilia Tambutri (Argentina)
Producing Organisation: Ciclo de Conciertos de Música Contemporánea del Teatro San Martín (Contemporary Music Festival of Teatro San Martín) - Complejo Teatral de Buenos Aires

Comfort Ye
Composer: Catherine Milikien and Georg Friedrich Händel (Australia / Germany)
Stage Director/Libretto: Robert Lehnewer (Germany)
Arranger / Music Director: Warwick Stengards (Australia / Austria)
Conductor: Erik Dippenaar (South Africa)
Producing Organisation: Umculo

Xochicuicatl cuecuechtli
Ribald Flowersong
Composer / Text / Stage Director: Gabriel Pareyon (Mexico)
Musical Director: Music Theatre NOW 2015

You Are My Loneliness
Composer: Luobin Wang (China)
Musical Director / Arranger: Guang Zhao (China)
Music Director / Keyboard: Jinghua Jiang (China)
Actors: Liang Lv (China)
Actress: Shui Tian (China)
Producing Organisation: Shanghai Dramatic Arts Center

Music Theatre Now Award Winner 2016
Above left: Il Ballo delle Ingrate
Below left: Paradise Interrupted
Right: Coup Fatal

Music Theatre Now Award Winner 2016
Above left: Cachafaz, tragedia bárbara
Above right: Comfort Ye
Below left: Serie Opera III - Salomé
Below right: Shifting Ground
Awards and Prizes

Ellen Stewart Award

In February 2016 the Ellen Stewart International Award’s Executive Committee announced the selection of Colombian artists Bernardo Rey and Nube Sandoval as winners of the 2016 Ellen Stewart International Award. During the selection process, over 36,000 individuals from around the world voted for their preferred nominees and left hundreds of comments on the Award’s website www.ellenstewartaward.net.

Rey and Sandoval were in a remote rain forest in Colombia when they got the news. During the ceremony at La MaMa ETC in New York, they joined the celebration via live video feed from Colombia. They were in the process of working with a local community of young women, who performed a traditional song for audiences in both New York and Colombia. As result of the Award, Sandoval and Rey will be guests at the International Theatre Institute World Congress in Segovia in July 2017, receive an artistic residency at La MaMa Umbria in Italy to create a new artistic work in June, the financial and production support to present the new work at the Spoleto Festival of 2 Worlds in July, and subsequently at La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club in New York.

The work they propose to develop in Spoleto, “The Echo of Invisibles” focuses on the issue of migration and refugees in Europe and the Middle East. It advances the work of Sandoval and Rey around physical actions, poetic images and versatile scenery integrating multimedia with live singing and music. Sandoval and Rey directed the Theatrical Laboratory of psycho-social rehabilitation with refugee victims of torture in Rome and continue to work in Colombia in social contexts of high vulnerability. Their methodology, Theater as Bridge, is based on the rescue, stimulation and enhancement of artistic skills of participants who are mostly young refugees from Africa, Afghanistan and Iraq.

As part of the selection process 11 Finalists were shortlisted on the Ellen Stewart Award website: Anna Novell from Replay Theatre Company (Belfast – Northern Ireland), Berith Danse from Theatre Embassy (Norway), Stephanie Ansin & Fernando Calzadilla (Miami – USA), Torange Yeghiazarian & Golden Thread Productions (San Francisco – USA) in approximately 40 days more than thirty six thousand people voted for their favourite artists and left comments on the website.

The artists that received most online votes were Faisal Malik and Nourman Mehrnood from Thespianz Theatre (Karachi – Pakistan), Mammalian Diving Reflex (Toronto – Canada), Marwa Ensemble (Beirut – Lebanon), Nube Sandoval and Bernardo Rey (Bogotá – Colombia), Ping Chong (New York – USA), Sanjoy Ganguly (Kolkata – India), Stephanie Ansin & Fernando Calzadilla (Miami – USA), Torange Yeghiazarian & Golden Thread Productions (San Francisco – USA) and funded by the Japanese Centre and has become a biannual award. It aims to stimulate and encourage initiatives taken by groups or individual artists outside Japan, leading to an action or project bearing some relation to Japanese theatre.

The Ellen Stewart International Award Executive Committee made its final determination by considering the achievements of the artists, the project proposed for the residency and also the public votes and comments. We are thrilled that so many people visited the website (www.teatrocenit.org) and learned about the Finalists’ extraordinary work with younger community members. This Award, we hope, will inspire others to follow in their footsteps. We want to build on Ellen’s determination to involve more young people in the transformative power of theatre, music, dance and the live performing arts.

Awards and Prizes

Uchimura Prize

The Uchimura Prize was inaugurated in 1992 on the initiative of the Japanese Centre of ITI in honour of its former president, Naoya Uchimura, the Japanese playwright who devoted his life to promoting mutual knowledge and understanding of theatre throughout the world. Since 2015 the prize has been awarded by the Japanese Centre and has become a biannual award.

The 21st Uchimura Prize has been awarded to the ITI Channels: Website, ITI Newsletter, etc. The 22nd Uchimura Prize will be promoted through the ITI Channels: Website, ITI Newsletter, etc.

Announcement of the 22nd Uchimura Prize

Top: Uchimura Award ceremony in The Slovene Repertory Theatre – Trieste, December 2015; Photo: Theatre Archive
Right: Five Modern No Plays by Yukio Mishima, The Slovene Repertory Theatre – Trieste (Slovenško stalno gledališče Trst); dir: Mateja Koležnik
Photo: Luca Quaia

The 22nd Uchimura Prize will be promoted through the ITI Channels: Website, ITI Newsletter, etc.

The Uchimura Prize is awarded to the performance “Five Modern No Plays” (Kindai Nogaku-Shu / Moderne Nô Dramen) by Yukio Mishima, directed by Mateja Koležnik, Slovenia.

Five Modern No Plays, directed by Mateja Koležnik, Slovenia

The 21st Uchimura Prize has been awarded to the performance “Five Modern No Plays” (Kindai Nogaku-Shu / Moderne Nô Dramen) by Yukio Mishima, directed by Mateja Koležnik, Slovenia.
The winner of the 2015 International Theatre Institute Global Playwriting Contest was “A Continental Divide” by Barbara Anderlič of Slovenia. The play was adjudged the best among 31 entries from 14 countries, namely, Argentina, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Fujairah, India, Iran, Malta, Nigeria, Philippines, Slovenia, UK, USA, and Vietnam.

Honourable mention was made of the play “Songs for Sandy: Reflections on a Super Storm” by Bryan Boodhoo of Canada.

The other finalists were: “Angry Angels” by Ivan Dimitrov of Bulgaria, “Endless Summer: A Collection of Theatrical Outbursts” by EllaRose Chary of the USA, “Planet Hospice” by Daniel Kinch of the USA, and “When the Music Stops” by Chris Bush of the UK.

The Competition was created by the Earthsavers / UNESCO Artist for Peace, under the direction of Cecile Guidote Alvarez, and within the framework of the International Theatre Institute, as part of the worldwide celebration of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO.

The Competition was undertaken in partnership with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), headed by Margaretha Walhstrom, the UN Special Representative of Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The winning play, which dwells on the effects of floods and drought on human beings, has had a world premiere broadcast and global webcast on “Radyo Balintataw,” a program on Philippine radio station DZRH, broadcast on Dec. 6, 2015.
Membership

ITI Member Card

What is the ITI Member Card?
An ITI Member Card is a card issued by the ITI to its Cooperating Members and Centres for performing arts professionals and students. It allows access to venues and festivals at reduced or free entry. The card is available throughout Europe and can be requested from the ITI General Secretariat or a Centre in their region.

Where can you already use it?
The ITI Member Card is currently in use in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovenia, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, and others.

What if theatre/dance performances are free in my country?
In countries where venues and festivals do not charge an entrance fee, the card is only of interest for those members who travel abroad.

When can I receive the Card?
Cards for new members can be requested from the ITI General Secretariat or a Centre of an ITI Centre. The General Secretariat can issue an ITI card logo sticker to centres for distribution to participating venues and festivals. It is a kind of "quality label" for venues to use the ITI logo.

Do venues and festivals accept the Card?
The promotion of the card is the responsibility of the ITI Centres and the General Secretariat. ITI Centres are responsible for the acceptance of the card in their area or country. Each venue or festival is free to regulate the reduction of the price or free entrance. The "right" of ITI members to free or reduced entry to venues worldwide is not given.

Incentives for performing arts venues
• ITI Centres and Cooperating Members should continuously promote the card to performing arts venues and festivals to encourage acceptance of the card.
• To encourage acceptance, the ITI worldwide website will have a link to the ITI Centre where there will be a list of all venues and festivals accepting the card with links to their websites.

Comments by the DG
After some technical and postal problems, the machine that creates the Member Card is back in Europe and cards can be ordered by Centres and Cooperating Members – only – by sending the list of members to be awarded Member Cards (with) in an Excel spreadsheet to membercard@iti-worldwide.org.

Please do not order single Member Cards; rather, collect and submit a list of at least ten (insert a number that is preferred). The Cards and the Year Stickers will only be sent to the addresses of Centres and Cooperating Members, not to individual members. As it is a Card for professionals the following data should be sent:
1. Name of ITI Centre
2. Profession or Position in ITI
3. First Name LASTNAME
4. Comments or questions

Where can you already use it?
• To encourage acceptance, the ITI worldwide network continuously promotes the card to performing arts venues and festivals where the card allows the use of the card with a link on the ITI Centre’s page and on the ITI website.
• The promotion of the card is the responsibility of the ITI Centres and the General Secretariat. ITI Centres are responsible for the acceptance of the card in their area or country.
• Each venue or festival is free to regulate the reduction of the price or free entrance. The “right” of ITI members to free or reduced entry to venues worldwide is not given.
• This privilege depends on the goodwill of the institutions concerned as well as the successful promotion by the National Centres in the countries where the venues are located.
• Experience has shown that the card is accepted by many theatres, even if there is no ITI Centre in the country. Good advice to members will be to try to use the card at all times to raise public awareness.

Incentives for performing arts venues
• ITI Centres and Cooperating Members should continuously promote the card to performing arts venues and festivals to encourage acceptance of the card.
• To encourage acceptance, the ITI worldwide website will have a link to the ITI Centre where there will be a list of all venues and festivals accepting the card with links to their websites.
• The General Secretariat can issue an ITI card logo sticker to centres for distribution to participating venues and festivals. It is a kind of “quality label” for venues to use the ITI logo.
Activities – ITI Days
World Theatre Day 2015

The Message

The message of Krzysztof Warlikowski from Poland was very well received by the theatre community all over the world. It was translated into numerous languages and the original version and its translations are available on the website www.world-theatre-day.org that ITI has created especially for this day.

Worldwide Celebrations

World Theatre Day was celebrated all over the world with events, message readings, award ceremonies, etc. by ITI Centres and other organizations.

World Theatre Day in Fujairah

The main event of World Theatre Day, with the message author Krzysztof Warlikowski, was held in Fujairah/United Arab Emirates. On invitation of Mohamed Saif Al-Mheiri, President of ITI worldwide, theatre professional of the Gulf countries, the United Arab Emirates and from the world were attending the celebration in Dibba, the place where the Fujairah International Monodrama Festivals are held. After the introduction by the president and the DG a film produced for the event about the message author and his work was shown. The author read his message for World Theatre Day in English, followed by a local theatre play. The event was well documented in the media in the United Arab Emirates and by an article about Krzysztof Warlikowski and the event in “The Stage” written by Nick Awde who attended the celebration in Fujairah.

Activities – ITI Days
World Theatre Day 2015 – Message

World Theatre Day Message 2015
by Krzysztof Warlikowski
Polish Stage Director

The true masters of theatre are most easily found far from the stage, and they generally have no interest in theatre as a machine for replicating conventions and reproducing clichés. They search out the pulsing source, the living currents that tend to bypass performance halls and the throngs of people bent on copying some world or another. We copy instead of create worlds that are focused or even reliant, on debate with an audience, on emotions that swell below the surface. And actually there is nothing that can reveal hidden passions better than the theatre.

Most often I turn to prose for guidance. Day in and day out I find myself thinking about writers who nearly one hundred years ago described prophetically but also restrainedly the decline of the European gods, the twilight that plunged our civilization into a darkness that has yet to be illumined. I am thinking of Franz Kafka, Thomas Mann and Marcel Proust. Today I would also count John Maxwell Coetzee among that group of prophets.

Their common sense of the inevitable end of the world – not of the planet but of the model of human relations – and of social order and upheaval, is poignantly current for us here and now. For us who live after the end of the world. Who live in the face of crimes and conflicts that daily flare in new places faster even than the ubiquitous media can keep up. These fires quickly grow boring and vanish from the press reports, never to return. And we feel helpless, horrified and hemmed in. We are no longer able to build towers, and the walls we stubbornly construct do not protect us from anything – on the contrary, they themselves demand protection and care that consumes a great part of our life energy. We no longer have the strength to try and glimpse what lies beyond the gate, behind the wall. And that’s exactly why theater should exist and where it should seek its strength. To peek inside where looking is forbidden.

“The legend seeks to explain what cannot be explained. Because it is grounded in truth, it must end in the inexplicable”—this is how Kafka described the transformation of the Prometheus legend. I feel strongly that the same words should describe the theatre. And it is that kind of theatre, one which is grounded in truth and which finds its end in the inexplicable that I wish for all its workers, those on the stage and those in the audience, and I wish that with all my heart.
Activities – ITI Days
World Theatre Day 2016

The Message
The message of Anatoli Vassiliev was very well received by the theatre community all over the world. It was translated into 46 languages and the original version and its translations are available on the website www.world-theatre-day.org, a website ITI has created especially for this day.

Worldwide Celebrations
World Theatre Day was celebrated all over the world with events, message readings, award ceremonies, etc. by ITI Centres and by other organizations.

World Theatre Day in Guangzhou
The main event, with the message author attending, was held in Guangzhou/China on 27 March 2016. The Chinese Centre of ITI / China Theatre Association, in collaboration with the Cultural Bureau of Guangzhou and the ITI General Secretariat were the driving forces behind the event. During three days the Chinese Centre organized the World Theatre Day event, a festival, the Regional Council for Asia/Pacific, a colloquium about Traditional Theatre in Asia and two workshops. International guests, the Chinese and local theatre community were attending the events.

Anatoli Vassiliev participated and read his message during an impressive celebration – in Chinese style, very colourful, showing a medley of Chinese opera and theatre – including some astounding acrobats and the use of large Chinese gongs on stage. Part of the three day events were shows from Guangzhou, Beijing (The Merchant of Venice) and a special evening with excerpts of Cantonese opera.

The EC Members Fabio Toccidi (Italy) and Apostolos Apostolides gave workshops for Chinese theatre students on the last day of the event.

The colloquium about Traditional Theatre in Asia with a participation of about 50 persons showed that especially in Asia traditional theatre and performing arts are an important part of everyday life. That is where the roots of theatre, dance and music theatre from these countries are to be found. The different presentations from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Vietnam with impressive visuals showed how much the traditional forms are part and parcel of the culture in a country. The wish to create an Asia/Pacific festival that stresses the tradition were voiced and may take form in the near future. There is also a demand for a forum within ITI that deals with this issue.

The event was held under the patronage of UNESCO.

Beijing (The Merchant of Venice) and a special evening with excerpts of Cantonese opera.

Anatoli Vassiliev reading his message in Guangzhou, China.
Do we need theatre?

That is the question thousands of professionals disappointed in theatre and millions of people who are tired of it are asking themselves.

What do we need it for?

In those years when the scene is so insignificant in comparison with the city squares and state lands, where the authentic tragedies of real life are being played.

What is it to us? Gold-plated galleries and balconies in the theatre halls, velvet armchairs, dirty stage wings, well-polished actors' voices, - or vice versa, something that might look apparently different: black boxes, stained with mud and blood, with a bunch of rabid naked bodies inside.

What is it able to tell us?

Everything!

Theatre can tell us everything.

How the gods dwell in heaven, and how prisoners languish in forgotten caves underground, and how passion can elevate us, and how love can ruin, and how no-one needs a good person in this world, and how deception reigns, and how people live in apartments, while children wither in refugee camps, and how they all have to return back to the desert, and how day after day we are forced to part with our beloveds, - theatre can tell everything.

The theatre has always been and it will remain forever.

And now, in those last fifty or seventy years, it is particularly necessary. Because if you take a look at all the public arts, you can immediately see that only theatre is giving us - a word from mouth to mouth, a glance from eye to eye, a gesture from hand to hand, and from body to body. It does not need any intermediary to work among human beings - it constitutes the most transparent side of light, it does not belong to either south, or north, or east, or west - oh no, it is the essence of light itself, shining from all four corners of the world, immediately recognizable by any person, whether hostile or friendly towards it.

And we need theatre that always remains different, we need theatre of many different kinds.

Still, I think that among all possible forms and shapes of theatre its archaic forms will now prove to be mostly in demand. Theatre of ritual forms should not be artificially opposed to that of "civilized" nations. Secular culture is now being more and more emasculated, so-called cultural information" gradually replaces and pushes out simple entities, as well as our hope of eventually meeting them one day.

But I can see it clearly now: theatre is opening its doors widely. Free admission for all and everybody.

To hell with gadgets and computers - just go to the theatre, occupy whole rows in the stalls and in the galleries, listen to the word and look at living images! – It is theatre in front of you, do not neglect it and do not miss a chance to participate in it - perhaps the most precious chance we share in our vain and hurried lives.

We need every kind of theatre.

There is only one theatre which is surely not needed by anyone - I mean a theatre of political games, a theatre of a political "mousetrap", a theatre of politicians, a futile theatre of politics. What we certainly do not need is a theatre of daily terror - whether individual or collective, what we do not need is the theatre of corpses and blood on the streets and squares, in the capitals or in the provinces, a phony theatre of clashes between religions or ethnic groups...

Anatoli Vassiliev
The Message
When the message of the French actress Isabelle Huppert finally arrived, it was very well received by the ITI Centres, by the theatre communities and theatre professionals all over the world. It was translated into 28 languages. The original version in French and the translations can be found on the World Theatre Day website of ITI – www.world-theatre-day.org

Thanks to an internationally acclaimed person writing the message World Theatre Day received media coverage, probably like never before. This resulted in an increased visibility of ITI, not only for the theatre professionals but also for the general audience.

We learn
What ITI started in 2016 by asking the Centres and Cooperating Members as well as the Committees to nominate possible message authors will be continued. But learning from getting the message at a late time which is non-optimum for ITI and the Centres, the General Secretariat and the Executive Council are putting together a strict schedule with a deadline for the chosen message author when he or she has to send in the message to the Headquarters of ITI.

Worldwide Celebrations
World Theatre Day was celebrated all over the world with events, message readings, award ceremonies, etc. by ITI Centres and by other organizations. These worldwide celebrations are an important action for the benefit of theatre. They underline the importance and value of the theatre all over the world. They are flagship events for Centres as can be perceived when reading the reports that were sent in by the ITI Centres. The World Theatre day events are in most cases when ITI becomes visible by the general public in a country. It is a pleasure to see persons who are not part of ITI not translating the message in their language and in one case, publishing all the messages in book form.

Digital Map on www.world-theatre-day.org
There is a map to be found on the World Theatre Day website. It shows where events have taken place all over the world. This map will be continued.

Messages on YouTube
What will be done in 2018 as well is asking Centres to send in a video with eminent theatre personalities, actresses, actors, etc. reading the message of the year’s message author in their own language. The message of Dario Fo that has been read in different languages can be found on YouTube. This is a successful action initiated by ITI that should be continued.

World Theatre Day at UNESCO
Thanks to a generous donation of Yang Chuangdong of the HanHall Foundation from China, ITI was able to organize an event at UNESCO, on 27 March 2017. The main hall was rented (after being closed for a year for renovation). The General Secretariat put a culturally diverse performance programme together. Al Sidy, storyteller from Togo was the first to perform, telling the audience the story of a shoe maker (he performed once at the beginning of the Executive Council session, held in Burkina Faso). The second play was an excerpt of „The French”, a performance, directed by Krzyztof Warlikovski, message author 2015. Zhang Jun, UNESCO Artist for Peace, from China showed „J. Hamlet” in Kunqu Opera style. The DG was the master of ceremony of the event. The president of ITI, Mohamed Saif Al-Afkham informed the people about ITI, the DG of UNESCO, Irina Bokova wrote a message was sent to all Centres and published in the event brochure. Eric Falt, Assistance Director of UNESCO for Culture, honoured the event with a speech.

The planning, organizing and holding of the event was done under the leadership of Chen Zhongwen, assisted by Tang Yiming and Malory Domecyn. Many ITI members from all over the world attended the event at UNESCO in Paris.
Activities – ITI Days
World Theatre Day 2017

Above: “The French”. Below: Isabelle Huppert and Tobias Biancone

Zhang Jun, UNESCO Artist for Peace, performing “I, Hamlet” in Kunqu Opera style. He is playing 8 different roles.

Below: After the event reception: Isabelle Huppert speaking with Anatoli Vasilyev and Natacha Iasava, with EC Member Le Quy Duong, Mohamed Saif Al-Afkham and Elmaze Nura; Alberto Garcia with the members of the HanHall Foundation (to the right, the leader of Han Hall: Yang Chuandong)
So, here we are once more. Gathered again in Spring 55 years since our inaugural meeting, to celebrate World Theatre Day. Just one day, 24 hours, is dedicated to celebrating theatre around the world. And here we are in Paris, the premier city in the world for attracting international theatre groups, to venerate the art of theatre.

Paris is a world city, fit to contain the global theatre traditions in a day of celebration from here in France's capital we can transport ourselves to Japan by experiencing Noh and Bunraku theatre, trace a line from here to thoughts and expressions as diverse as Peking Opera and Kathakali, the stage allows us to linger between Greece and Scandinavia as we envelope ourselves in Aeschylus and Ibsen, Sophocles and Strindberg, it allows us to flit between Britain and Italy as we reverberate between Sarah Kane and Prinadello. Within these twenty-four hours we may be taken from France to Russia, from Racine and Molierre to Chekhov; we can even cross the Atlantic as a bolt of lightning to Aeschylus and Sophocles, we can even cross the Atlantic as a bolt of inspiration to serve on a Campus in California, enticing us to learn that the inaugural World Theatre Day message was written by Isabelle Huppert, a French theatre and film actress.

Speaking here I am not myself, I am not an actress, I am just one of the many people that theatre uses as a conduit to exist, and it is my duty to be receptive to this - or, in other words, we do not make theatre exist, it is rather thanks to theatre that we exist. The theatre is very strong. It resists and survives everything, war, censorship, tyranny. It is enough to say that "the stage is a naked scene from an indeterminate time" - all it needs is an actor. Or an actress. What are they going to do? What are they going to say? Will they talk?
The public waits, it will know, for without the public there is no theatre - never forget this. One person alone is an audience. But let's hope there are not too many empty seats! Productions of Ionesco's productions are always full and he represents this artistic value candidly and beautifully by having, at the end of one of his plays, and old lady say, "Yes, Yes, yes in full glory. Let's die to enter the legend... at least we will have our street..."

World Theatre Day has existed for 55 years now. In 55 years, I am the eighth woman to be invited to celebrate World Theatre Day. We honour the achievements of past centuries, and nourished by the achievements of past centuries, and to the world.

As I am in Paris, shortly before a presidential election, I would like to suggest that those who want to learn the art of theatre thus a new diaspora of actors will emerge, who will undoubtedly draw from this constraint unimaginable benefits by finding a new representation. Unimaginable Benefits - sounds like a nice formula, worthy to be included in any political rhetoric, don't you think?

As I am in Paris, shortly before a presidential election, I would like to suggest that those who want to learn the art of theatre thus a new diaspora of actors will emerge, who will undoubtedly draw from this constraint unimaginable benefits by finding a new representation. Unimaginable Benefits - sounds like a nice formula, worthy to be included in any political rhetoric, don't you think?

It is true, that's how it is, I see no difference between the two.

On World Theatre Day in 1964, Laurence Olivier announced that, after more than a century of struggle, a National Theatre has just been created in the United Kingdom, which he immediately wanted to morph into an international theatre, at least in terms of its repertoire. He knew well that Shakespeare belonged to the world.

On World Theatre Day, 1944, when thinking of space, Tardieu says it is sensible to ask "what is the longest path from one to another?" For time, he suggests measuring, "in tenths of a second, the time it takes to pronounce the word 'eternity'"... For space-time, however, he says, "before you fall asleep, fix your mind upon two points of space, and calculate the time it takes, in a dream, to go from one to the other." It is the phrase in a dream that has always stuck with me. It seems as though Tardieu and Bob Wilson met. We can also summarise the temporal uniqueness of World Theatre Day by quoting the words of Samuel Beckett, who makes the character Winnie say, in his expectant style: "Oh what a beautiful day it will have been!" When thinking of this message, that I feel honoured to have been asked to write, I remembered all the dreams and visions these two had shared.

As such, it is fair to say that I did not come to this UNESCO hall alone, every character I have ever played is here with me, roles that seem to leave when the curtain falls, but who have carved out an underground life within me, waiting to assist or destroy the roles that follow, Phaedra, Araminta, Orlando, Hedda Gabler, Medea, Merteuil, Blanche Dubois, Phèdre, Araminta, Orlando, Hedda Gabler, Medea, Merteuil, Blanche Dubois...

Also supplementing me as I stand before you today are all the characters I loved and applauded as a spectator. And so it is, therefore, that I belong to the world. I am Greek, African, Syrian, Venetian, Russian, Brazilian, Persian, Roman, Japanese, a New Yorker, a Marseillais, Filipino, Argentinian, Norwegian, Korean, German, Austrian, English – a true citizen of the world, by virtue of the personal ensemble that exists within me. For it is here, on the stage and in the theatre, that we find true globalization.

On World Theatre Day, by virtue of the personal ensemble that exists within me. For it is here, on the stage and in the theatre, that we find true globalization.

Speaking here I am not myself, I am not an actress, I am just one of the many people that theatre uses as a conduit to exist, and it is my duty to be receptive to this - or, in other words, we do not make theatre exist, it is rather thanks to theatre that we exist. The theatre is very strong. It resists and survives everything, war, censorship, tyranny. It is enough to say that "the stage is a naked scene from an indeterminate time" - all it needs is an actor. Or an actress. What are they going to do? What are they going to say? Will they talk?
The public waits, it will know, for without the public there is no theatre – never forget this. One person alone is an audience. But let's hope there are not too many empty seats! Productions of Ionesco's productions are always full and he represents this artistic value candidly and beautifully by having, at the end of one of his plays, and old lady say, "Yes, Yes, yes in full glory. Let's die to enter the legend... at least we will have our street..."

World Theatre Day has existed for 55 years now. In 55 years, I am the eighth woman to be invited to celebrate World Theatre Day. We honour the achievements of past centuries, and nourished by the achievements of past centuries, and to the world.

As I am in Paris, shortly before a presidential election, I would like to suggest that those who want to learn the art of theatre thus a new diaspora of actors will emerge, who will undoubtedly draw from this constraint unimaginable benefits by finding a new representation. Unimaginable Benefits - sounds like a nice formula, worthy to be included in any political rhetoric, don't you think?

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In researching the writing of this message, I was glad to learn that the inaugural World Theatre Day message of 1962 was entrusted to Jean Cocteau, a fitting candidate due to his authoring of the book ‘Around the World Again in 80 Days’. This made me realise that I have gone around the world differently. I did it in 80 shows or 80 movies. I include movies in this as I do not differentiate between playing theatre and playing movies, which surprises even me each time I say it, but it is true, that's how it is, I see no difference between the two.

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Activities — ITI Days
World Theatre Day 2017 — Message UNESCO

Message from Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO on the occasion of World Theatre Day

27 March 2017

World Theatre Day, established by the International Theatre Institute in 1981, celebrates one of the oldest and most vibrant forms of artistic expression of humanity. The history of theatre goes back to the beginning of language itself, and its various forms of expression reflect our common cultural diversity. UNESCO protects and values the dozens of theatrical forms inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, such as the Kumiokachi, the traditional musical theatre of Okinawa (Japan), the Mystery Olay of Elche (Spain) and the Mask Yong Theatre (Cambodia).

Theatre is much more than a form of entertainment. By its immediacy, by the comic or tragic relation that it alone builds between the stage and the public, theatre is a unique lever of expression, reflection and sharing. As a living art par excellence, the theatre depicts the truths, dramas and universal questions that structure human societies and allow them to represent themselves, even at decisive moments. In post-conflict situations in particular, culture and theatre help communities to resume dialogue, accelerate reconciliation. We have seen this in Chad, for example, in 2014, on the occasion of a project led by ITI with the support of UNESCO’s International Fund for Culture Diversity.

The International Theatre Institute, founded in 1948 by UNESCO, is an essential partner in bringing this message to life and in promoting theatre. Together, we commemorate our commitment to support governments in adopting creative policies, development the activities of producers, artists and theatre groups, and through them the entire family and the know-how of culture and entertainment, as a force for peace and development.

Irina Bokova
Activities — ITI Days
International Dance Day 2015

Message
The message for International Dance Day 2015 was written by the Spanish choreographer and dancer Israel Galvan. It was translated into numerous languages and the original version and its translations are available on the website www.international-dance-day.org that ITI has created especially for this day.

Worldwide Celebrations
International Dance Day was celebrated all over the world with dance events, flash-mobs, award ceremonies and more by ITI Centres and by other organizations.

International Dance Day in Shanghai
The main event of International Dance Day 2015 was held at the Himalaya Centre in Shanghai. The General Secretariat created the event with the help of the International Dance Committee and the Shanghai Theatre Academy.

As Israel Galvan was not able to be at the event, his team created a video that premiered at the event on 29 April in Shanghai where the message was read in Chinese with English subtitles. The main event was created with five dance performances. Two local Chinese shows (one more traditional, the other ballet) were performed by the Dance Company of the Shanghai Theatre Academy. Two performances were invited through the help of the Spanish Centre of ITI, a flamenco ballet (Inés Hellín, David García) and a ballet (Óscar Torrado and María Cristina Álvarez). The show
Activities – ITI Days
International Dance Day 2015

International Dance Day 2015 – Message

by Israel Galvan
Dancer and choreographer, Spain

Carmen Amaya, Valeska Gert, Suzushi Hanayagi, Michael Jackson... I see them as energy-generating turbines and this makes me think about the importance of choreography on that energy of the dancer. The important thing is probably not the choreography, but specifically that energy, the whirlwind which it triggers.

I imagine a Tesla coil attracting them all and emitting a healing ray and causing a metamorphosis in their bodies. Pina Bausch as a praying mantis, Raimund Hoghe converted into a dung beetle, Vicente Escudero into a stick insect and even Bruce Lee into a centipede.

When I was small I didn't like dance, but it was something that came out of me naturally and easily. Almost instinctively. Over time I realised that dance healed, it had an almost medicinal effect; it helped me to not be so introverted and opened me up to other people. I have seen the image of a child ill with ebola being healed through dance. I know it's a superstition, but might it be possible?

Afterwards, dance ended up becoming an obsession which filled my hours and which makes me dance, even when I remain still, immobile, thus separating me from the reality of things. I know this isn't good, bad or necessary but... that's the way it is. My daughter Milena, when I'm sitting still on the couch, thinking about my things, with my own murmur, says to me: dad, don't dance. And the thing is that I see people moving when walking down the street, when calling a taxi, when moving in their different ways, styles and deformities. They're all dancing! They don't know it but they're all dancing! I would like to shout to them: there are people who still don't know! We're all dancing! Those who don't dance are unlucky, they are dead, they do not feel or suffer!

I like the word fusion, not as a marketing word, a confusion to sell a certain style, a brand. Better fission, an atomic mixture: a cocktail with the feet fixed to the ground of Juan Belmonte, the aerial arms of Isadora Duncan and the half swaying belly of Jeff Cohen in the Goonies. And with all these ingredients, to make a pleasant and intense
Activities – ITI Days

International Dance Day 2015 – Message

drink which is delicious or bitter or which goes to your head. Our tradition is also that mixture, we come from a cocktail and the orthodox people want to hide their secret formula. But no, races and religions and political creeds, everything mixed! Everybody can dance together! Maybe not holding onto each other, but by each other’s side.

There is an old Chinese proverb which says: “the flutter of a butterfly’s wings can be felt across the world”. When a fly takes flight in Japan, a typhoon shakes up the water of the Caribbean. Pedro G Romero, after a shattering sevillanas dance says: the same day the bomb fell on Hiroshima, Nijinsky repeated his great leap in a forest in Austria. And I continue imagining: a lash of Savion Glover makes Mikhail Baryshnikov turn. At that moment, Kazuo Ono stays still and triggers a certain electricity in Marla Muñoz, who thinks about vonrad veidt and forces Akram Khan to cause an earthquake in his dressing room; they move their rattles and the floor becomes covered with the tired drops of their sweat.

I would like to be able to dedicate this International Dance Day and these words to every person in the world who is dancing just at this moment. But, allow me a joke and a wish: dancers, musicians, producers, critics, schedulers, let’s have a party finale, let’s all dance, as Béjart did, let’s dance in style, let’s dance the Bolero by Ravel, let’s dance it together.

Israel Galván
Message

The message of Lemi Ponifasio was very well received by the dance community all over the world. It was translated into 19 languages and the original version and its translations are available on the website www.international-dance-day.org that ITI has created especially for this day.

Worldwide Celebrations

International Dance Day was celebrated all over the world with dance events, flash-mobs, award ceremonies and more by ITI Centres and by other organizations.

International Dance Day at La Villette in Paris

The main celebration was held in Paris. Normally ITI would organize an event in Paris at UNESCO, but the biggest hall was under renovation in 2016. That is the reason International Dance Day was held at la Villette, a famous venue in Paris, where many world class dance events are presented. Thanks to the Chinese FOSUN Foundation which sponsored the event, it was possible to invite the message author with a performance from his group MAU. Lemi Ponifasio from Samoa and New Zealand can be considered not only as a choreographer, he is also a stage director who creates in his performances text, songs, music, stage design, multimedia, etc. The performance of his group MAU was rooted in the culture he lives in, visually and acoustically it is very impressive. Additionally the celebration included an excerpt of “Red” performed by the Dance Company of the Shanghai Theatre Academy and the “Sok” of Shantala Shivalingappa, an Indian born dancer who lives in Paris and has worked with Maurice Béjart, Peter Brook, Pina Bausch and others key figures in dance.

The event was held under the patronage of UNESCO. Francesco Bandarin, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO wrote a speech that can be found in the brochure.
Activities – ITI Days
International Dance Day 2016

Performance by the Dance Company of Shanghai Theatre Academy.
Photos: Felix Reinhard, MotionPictures.ch

Activities – ITI Days
International Dance Day 2016 – Message

International Dance Day Message 2016 by Lemi Ponifasio
Choreographer, set designer, stage director, poet from Samoa & New Zealand

Message

Tatalo

Pa’i atu i le vânimono
Le tupu’aga o lo tatou pa’ia
la fa’asusuluina ai
Foliga o tatou tuaa
E mafai ai ona tatou iloa atu tatou fanau

Lala‘a i luga
Talaane
Lalo
la fusia atoa i totonu o tatou a’ano
Ivi ma o tatou mânatunatuga

Ua fulisia le lalolagi
Ua sâili folau fa’ataasi tagata
Ua tapena ma potopoto i’a sa
Ae ua le gaganu
Ua manu’a le fatu
Avea le sa’asa’a
E fai ma fa’atino’aga o le alofa
E fai ma fa’atino’aga o le amio tonu
Ma sulu o le mea moni

(Original Version in Samoan)

Karakia (Prayer)

touch the cosmos
the source of our divinity
illuminating
the face of the ancestors
so we can see our children

woven above
beside below
unite all within
our flesh and bones
and memory

the Earth is turning
humans in mass migration
turtles gather in silent preparation
the heart is injured

make dance
a movement of love
a movement of justice
the light of truth

Photo Lemi Ponifasio
© Lemi Ponifasio, MAU
International Dance Day Speech 2016
by Lemi Ponifasio

Speech held during the International Dance Day at La Villette, 29 April 2016

Your Majesties, Your Excellencies, dancers, dance teachers, choreographers, dance administrators, dance critics, ladies and gentlemen

Talofa Kia ora - Good Evening. It is a magical honour to be here with you tonight.

Thank you to the International Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute of UNESCO - for inviting me to give this year’s International Dance Day message.

I was born and brought up in Samoa, a small island nation in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Dance is truly a borderless spiritual force, borderless in form and it brings people together everywhere in world. It is a demonstration of people in cooperation, people in search of beauty and celebration of our existence with all sentient beings.

A tree is always dancing towards the rays of the sunlight. A dancer’s work is to orient us towards the divine…. that is within us. Therefore, we are born from Earth to change the world. Towards the world of light.

We are part of the Earth’s process. Like us Earth is also looking for its dance. Like us Earth is looking for its home. The birth of the universe was the birth of dance. So dance was born long before the first human. We are the flesh of the cosmos - we are the weave of everything.

The nature, the stars and all celestial life. Dance activates our connectedness.

Each moment you dance you ignite this energy.

Each moment you dance you are gifting and sharing something beautiful from your heart to someone or with a community.

Our world is facing many challenges at the moment. Both the human nature and the non-human nature.

We mistreat our planet in the same way we mistreat our children.

We send our children to die in deserts and swamps in wars.

We make our children flee from their homes and drown in seas or suffocate in container trucks.

We are using our children to feed the darkness of the human heart.

We as a species are consuming our own children.

Dance is an invitation to transform. And like dance, the transformation starts here with us.

Let’s share our dance.

Take your dance to the children, to the river, to hospitals, to prisons, to refugee camps and into different communities, those with disabilities and the young and old. To all corners of the world.

Thank you.
International Dance Day Summit 2017
27 to 29 April 2017, Shanghai / China
Shanghai International Dance Center
Fosun Arts Center

The International Dance Day Summit 2017

General Information
The International Dance Day Summit 2017 was held from 27 to 29 April in Shanghai. In the newly built Shanghai International Dance Center and the Fosun Art Center, a three-day event including a conference, about 40 dance workshops, two gala performances, and the main gala ceremony evening were held. 2017 IDD Summit was co-organized by the International Theatre Institute, Shanghai Theatre Academy and Fosun Foundation, with support from China Dancers Association and Shanghai International Dance Center Foundation. The Fosun Foundation has been the main sponsor for the International Dance Day in 2016 in Paris and now in Shanghai.

We, Dance Together!
Under the motto of “We, Dance Together!” the Summit in Shanghai aimed to promote the communication and exchanges of dancers, dance lovers, and artists all over the world, to let everyone enjoy dance for its own sake, and to discuss and reflect on the future development of dance. What is more, “We, Dance Together!” is an inclusive statement chosen for the essence of the Summit. Based on the theme “We, Dance Together!” is stated on the paper from UNESCO, 2017 IDD Summit is an event which “responds to the aim of UNESCO to promote the art form dance”. (See the message of Irina Bokova, Director General UNESCO).

Message Author – Trisha Brown
The Executive Council and the Board of the International Dance Committee of ITI chose Trisha Brown, choreographer, dancer and founder and artistic director of the Trisha Brown Dance Company, to be the message author 2017. As Trisha Brown passed away in March 2017, the International Dance Day Summit was also considered to be a tribute to her and her work.

Summit Activities

Conference
More than 30 dance scholars from around 10 countries participated in the Conference on 27 April at the Fosun Art Center. Through keynote and panel speeches and a round table, dance scholars and practitioners exchanged ideas on the topic of how traditional dance cultures are preserved within the global dance scene. More than 100 persons (dance students, educators, dance professionals and dance admirers) attended the Conference.

Workshops
14 workshops were offered during the Summit, to encourage the transfer of knowledge. The workshop leaders came from Burkina Faso, China, France, India, Japan, Puerto Rico, Russia, Spain, UK and USA, offering a broad variety of techniques from different cultural backgrounds.

Performances
In the Grand Hall of Shanghai International Dance Center, three performance nights were presented to more than 2500 dance amateurs, students, academics and professionals. Thursday evening, 28 April, the title of the event was Shanghai Night. Dance students from the Dance College of the Shanghai Theatre Academy and Shanghai Dance School, plus the performers from Shanghai Dance Theatre and Shanghai Opera House presented their work. Shanghai Night was a colourful and joyful event. It showcased, in a positive light, the dance education situation and the development of the dance arts in Shanghai.

Friday, 28 April, the International Night took place, with Shantala Shivalingappa performing the traditional Indian dance form Kuchipudi, Mita Nosaki dancing the Japanese traditional Gagaku, Companie Mouvementes performing a modern dance performance dedicated to the issue of refugees, and the Dance Theatre Ljubljana Slovenia presenting modern dance. All the international performances were very authentic, genuine performances.

Gala Night / A Tribute to Trisha Brown
The highlight of Summit was the Gala Night on Saturday, 29 April. The Gala Night expressed the essence of the Summit. Based on the theme “We, Dance Together!”, the organizers implemented an initiative to get everyone dancing. Dance troupes with disabilities (Zhenzhou Normal University Disabled Art Troupe from China and DanceAbility International from USA) alongside internationally recognized dancers were invited to dance on the same stage. The event started with two shows from young, talented dance students. A duet from the Central Academy of Drama, Beijing, and a solo by a student from Shanghai. Leah Brown from the Trisha Brown’s Dance Company showed a stand-out work from the message author’s oeuvre, “If You Couldn’t See Me”. Machi Lindahl, president of ITI Dance Committee introduced Trisha Brown’s life and work, followed by the Message of Trisha Brown, read by her close collaborator, Susan Rosenberg. Tobias Biancone (DG ITI), Feng Shuangbai (Chairman China Dancers Association), Lou Wei (Chairman Shanghai Theatre Academy), and Li Haifeng (Vice-President Fosun Foundation) delivered speeches during the gala. UNESCO Artist for Peace, Cecile Guadete Alvarez, read the message of Irina Bokova, DG UNESCO.
International Dance Day Message 2017
by Trisha Brown
Dancer, Choreographer and Artistic Director, USA

Message

I became a dancer because of my desire to fly. The transcendence of gravity was always something that moved me. There is no secret meaning in my dances. They are a spiritual exercise in a physical form.

Dance communicates and expands the universal language of communication, giving birth to joy, beauty and the advancement of human knowledge. Dance is about creativity... again and again... in the thinking, in the making, in the doing, and in the performing. Our bodies are a tool for expression and not a medium for representation. This notion liberates our creativity, which is the essential lesson and gift of art-making.

The life of an artist does not end with age, as some critics believe. Dance is made of people, people and ideas. As an audience, you can take the creative impulse home with you and apply it to your daily life.

This message is for dance professionals and dance admirers all over the world. It is published also as a tribute to Trisha Brown who passed away on 18 March 2017.

The message has been put together from her written works and statements by her close collaborator Susan Rosenberg, in collaboration with Andromachi Dimitriadou Lindahl. It shares her vision about her work and the values that it reflects.
Activities – ITI Days
International Dance Day 2017

Impressions of the Summit 2017, held in the Shanghai International Dance Center

Activities – ITI Days
International Dance Day 2017

Impressions of the Summit 2017, held in the Shanghai International Dance Center
Activities – ITI Days
International Dance Day 2017

Impressions of the Summit 2017, held in the Shanghai International Dance Center

Activities – ITI Days
International Dance Day 2017

Impressions of the Summit 2017, held in the Shanghai International Dance Center
Activities 2014 – 2016
Regional Councils

Comments by the DG

Regional Councils are important for the development of ITI. A meeting between the Centres of a Region strengthens the region and the centres in it. A Regional Council meeting serves a multitude of purposes:

• Ideas can be exchanged;
• Projects can be developed;
• Best practices of one Centre may help other Centres to do the same and become stronger;
• Bi-lateral collaboration (two Centres of the region) or multi-lateral collaboration (many Centres of the region) can be established;
• Awards for performing artists of a region can be given and be celebrated;
• Regional showcases (best of a region’s dance, theatre and music theatre) can be developed;
• Information can be exchanged in the regions and to the world;
• Research in traditional and modern forms of the performing arts can be done;
• And many more things besides.

In the last two years, the African Centres, the Arab Countries and the Asia Pacific Centres have organized regional meetings. The Centres of Europe and the Americas are planning to have regional meetings after the congress; the Centres of Africa, the Arab Countries and the Asia Pacific region are continuing their collaboration.
Activities – Regional Councils
Regional Council „Africa“

Activities 2014 - 2017

After several meetings held at the last Congress with the participation of 8 African countries present in Yerevan (South Africa, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Togo, Uganda, Sudan, Zimbabwe) it was decided that a General Assembly of the African Regional Council of ITI should be held in March 2015 in Khartoum, at the invitation of Mr Ali Mahdi.

As this meeting has been postponed, the African Centres and the African Regional Council have been actively involved in several areas since 2014.

Extensive activities of the African Centres:
• Creation of a new Centre of ITI in Ghana
• Creation of a Centre in Morocco
• Organization of a training course on directing and acting in Cameroon, directed by the Ivorian Sidiki Bakaba
• Organization of a stage directing training course (Central African Republic)
• Organization of training courses for young practitioners in Zimbabwe and Chad, animated by eminent theatre personalities.
• Welcome of two Central African theatre artists who were displaced as refugees in Cameroon following the war in their country
• Good involvement of the African Centres in celebrating the World Theatre Day and the international dance Day.
• International Festivals organized by the African Centres of ITI: International Theatre and Puppets Festival in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) - International Festival of Dramatic and Plastic Arts for Union and Peace (Chad), Les Scènes Théâtrales Nationales (Benin) etc. have been organized on the scheduled dates.
• Theatre Publications by the Ugandan Centre
• Launch of the theatre writing contest (Algerian Centre)
• Circulation of performances in Africa and outside Africa.
• Organization of workshops on theatre writing in Chad and on copyright and neighbouring rights in Uganda.
• The African Regional Council of ITI proposed that Mr Hamadou Mandé, President of the ITI Centre of Burkina Faso and Vice-President of CRAIT Partnerships, sits on the Administration Board of CERAV/Afrique (Regional Centre for Live Arts in Africa ) Based in Bobo-Dioulasso.
• The African Regional Council was also represented by Hamadou Mandé at the 3rd Summit of Cultural Institutions of Africa and the Diaspora (SICADA), held from 10 to 14 October in Maputo (Mozambique). SICADA is a regional meeting that brings together the cultural institutions of Africa and the African Diaspora to work in synergy to advance major African cultural projects by working closely with organizations such as the African Union and Intergovernmental Organization of La Francophonie.
• The International Stage Arts Network (iSTAN), attended the African participation with Mr Hamadou Mandé, representative of the African Regional Council at his summit held from 27 to 30 November 2016 in Beijing, China.
• Organization by the Composée Centre and the Association Leche de Nouguel of the competition called “Nouguel Prize for the criticism of a show”.
• Organization of a workshop on “Cultural Animation” by the Beninese Centre
• The merit of all these great projects is to be attributed to the dynamism of the African Centres which, with courage and determination, are working hard despite the great financial crisis in Africa to ensure that African theatre continues to radiate inside and outside the continent.

Submitted by Ambroise MBA, President of the African Regional Council of ITI
Activities – Regional Councils
Regional Council “Arab Countries”

ITI Arab Council Meeting in Fujairah
For the first time ever, a meeting bringing together all Arab ITI Centres was held in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates on Tuesday February 23, 2016 at Le Meridien Al Aqah Hotel on the sidelines of the 1st Fujairah International Arts Festival. The session was chaired by H.E. Mohamed Saif Al Afkham, President of ITI Worldwide and Director of Fujairah International Arts Festival.

New Arabic Centres
The meeting addressed several issues such as introducing the newly joined Arab centres and suggesting a mechanism for activating inactive centres. Al Afkham started the session by welcoming the attendees and asking them to introduce themselves, affirming that such gatherings are essential for the success of ITI in the Arab World and hoping that this meeting will be held on the sidelines of theatre festivals organized in member Arab countries. After that, representatives introduced themselves and their centres, and talked about their achievements, current projects and future ambitions and visions. They spoke about the issues they face and discussed with the attendees how to overcome them.

Arab Regional Centre for ITI
It was also announced during the meeting that a new regional centre for ITI UNESCO is to be established to represent the Arab Countries and ensure Arab presence in international ITI events. This centre will be in Fujairah and Ibrahim Assiri will be appointed as coordinator between all Arab ITI Centres.

Introducing ITI to New Members
ITI Director General Tobias Biancone spoke about ITI, its objectives, current and future projects and about their ambassadors and awards, hoping that soon there will be an Arab person among their ambassadors. Biancone expressed his appreciation for Fujairah and for the ITI President for inviting artists in Fujairah and the importance of Arab participation in ITI.

Arabic Newsletter
Georgette Gebara proposed that there be an Arabic newsletter for the Arab ITI Centres to publish news and information about the activities of centres. The proposal was met with approval from most attendees.

Attendees
The meeting was attended by Ali Mahdi Nouri, Secretary General of ITI, Aktina Stathaki and Zhongwen Chen from ITI General Secretariat, as well as Apostolos Apostolides and Fabio Tolledi from the Executive Council. The meeting proceeded with discussions in which all the delegates participated. The delegates agreed to set up a new office for the region which will be based at the Chinese Centre of ITI. The Chinese Centre of ITI will serve as the regional secretariat and work on better communication, and planning more regional activities including the sharing of theatre information and publishing quarterly e-bulletins.

Arabic Newsletter
Georgette Gebara stated the need for an Arabic newsletter for the Arab ITI Centres to publish news and information about the activities of centres. The proposal was met with approval from most attendees.

Activities – Regional Councils
Regional Council “Asia / Pacific”

Activities of the Asia Pacific Regional Council
On 28 March 2016, the Asian-Pacific Regional Meeting was convened once again after years of inactivity. Delegates from 11 Centres of the Asia Pacific Region (China, Bangladesh, Japan, India, Iran, Mongolia, Nepal, Russia, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam) and three members of countries which do not as yet have an ITI Centre (Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia) participated in the meeting. Present at the meeting were Tobias Biancone, Chen Zhongwen and Aktina Stathaki from ITI’s General Secretariat, as well as Apostolos Apostolides and Fabio Tolledi from the Executive Council. The meeting centred on two topics: How to build up a mechanism to strengthen the cooperation ties in the region? and Is there a need to set up a new committee within ITI better to preserve and develop traditional theatre in the world?

At the beginning of the meeting, Tobias Biancone showed a presentation on ITI, its activities and the functions of a Regional Council. The introduction was very well received by the delegates from ITI Centres and the other guests as it showed how ITI works and the big realm of artistic exchange ITI covers. The introduction was followed by Ramendu Majumdar, Honorary President of ITI, who expressed his strong hope to revitalise the regional cooperation and he suggested that the Chinese Centre assumes the responsibility for hosting the secretariat for the Regional Council for Asia Pacific. The Presidents of the Chinese Centre underlined that the secretariat’s location should follow the principle of rotation, so that another Centre can take over in the future.
Activities – Regional Councils „European” Regional Council

After more than ten years in which there were no reunions between the European Centres, the Italian Centre took the initiative to create a European Regional Council of ITI, and invited the leaders of the Centre of Europe to Lecce (Puglia, Italy).

The meeting happened on 15 and 16 October 2016. The following persons and Centres were present:
• Belgium Wallonia Centre (Jean-Henri Dreze)
• Croatian Centre (Zeljka Turcinovic)
• Executive Council (Apostolos Apostolides, Cyprus)
• German Centre (Thomas Engel)
• Georgian Centre (Levan Khetaguri)
• Israeli Centre (Gad Kaynar)
• Italian Centre (Executive Council Member Fabio Tolledi, Roberta Quarta, Giorgio Zorcu, Ivano Gorgoni)
• Kosovo Centre (Elmaze Nura, Mentor Zymberaj)
• Macedonian / FYROM Centre (Ivanka Apostolova)
• Russian Centre (Alfira Arslanova)
• Slovenian Centre (Tatjana Azman)
• Spanish Centre (Alberto Garcia, Luis Llerena)
• Swedish Centre (Executive Council Member Ann Marie Engel)
• Swiss Centre SuisseTHEATRE (Executive Council Member Daniel Bausch)

As well as the DGs of ITI (Tobias Biancone)

This first reunion was a good start for the European Regional Council and its Centres. With the leaders of the Centres communicating with each other, exchanging thoughts, ideas, best practice and talk about possible projects and about where ITI can build up new Centres, the European region can be strengthened.

The participants discussed the following issues:
- The relationship between ITI and UNESCO: the use of the logo of UNESCO, projects of ITI with UNESCO
- The budget restrictions of the Centre and the result of it
- The showcases organized in Croatia and in Sweden.

In a second session the participants started to focus on what can be done for the European region and the ITI Centres of that region.
- Making the Centres work known to the national UNESCO Commission, thus deepening ties to UNESCO Convention about Cultural Diversity.
- Develop the strength of all Centres of ITI in Europe.
- The showcases organized in Croatia and in Sweden.
- The budget restrictions of the Centre and the result of it
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Activities 2014 – 2016 Centres

Comments by the DG
The Centres are the main pillars of ITI. They represent ITI within their sphere of influence in their country or region. They are the main entrance gate for professionals that work in the performing arts. They are the main source for people being active in committees, forums, networks and project groups. The Centres deserve the main attention of the General Secretariat – this includes the attention that is given to the individual members that the Centres and thus ITI have.

There are 42 Reports in this publication. The General Secretariat is very happy about this – it is the largest amount of Reports published in an ITI Report. By reading the Centre’s Report the reader can discover the activities that make ITI strong, visible and valuable. It is with great appreciation that these reports are published. Maybe one day ITI will publish a Report with all the Centres…
Activities
Algerian Centre ITI (Arab Countries)

Activities 2014 -2015
After the participation of the Algerian Centre at the Congress in Armenia in November 2014, the Centre carried on its programme with participation in the National Festival of Amazigh theatre in Batna with the performance entitled "AZUZEN" written and directed by OKBAOUI Cheikh (Production from the Centre). Subsequently, the Centre created a programme for 2015 which is as follows:

• Launch of the KATEB YACINE Creative Award (Golden Nedjma), competition for best theatrical text with an international jury, more than 60 texts from different countries were received, awards were presented during the International Theatre Festival In Bejaia on 29 October 2015, the first prize was won by the playwright Metoli Ahmed of the Republic of Egypt with the text "Al-Hadjiz" the prize was set at 3,000 dollars.
• In February, the Centre translated the message of the World Theatre Day written by the Polish director Krzysztof Warlikowski, the translation was done by the playwright Ali Tamert.
• In March the Centre celebrated the World Theatre Day with a programme of theatrical performances and tributes given to Algerian theatre figures as well as the reading of the World Theatre Day Message.
• In April the Centre participated in the experimental theatre festival in Shanghai with an experimental performance.
• In June, the Algerian Centre celebrated the artist's world day, which is held 8 June of each year, and also organized theatre performances and activities for the Children's Day and the African Children's Day.
• In October, the Algerian Centre organized an award ceremony of the KATEB YACINE Creation Competition (Golden Nedjma) at the Bejaia International Festival.
• In November, the Algerian Centre organized workshops which saw the participation of many young people who came from different locales across the country. Workshops were held over 10 days in Adrar, a provincial capital in the south of Algeria.

Activities 2016
• In January, members of the Centre took part in the Arab festival in Kuwait from 9 to 16 January, and the international festival Fadjr in Tehran, Iran.
• In February, translation of the message for World Theatre Day, written by the Russian director Anatoli Vassiliev, was done by Abed Al-Halim Bouchraki, professor of drama at the University of Constantine.
• Participation of the Centre at the ITI Arab Centres meeting at the Al-Fujairah Arts Festival in the United Arab Emirates.
• In March, we celebrated World Theatre Day by organizing a theatre meeting with theatre performances and artistic encounters at the Wilaya de Sétif, in collaboration with the Theatre cooperative ILAF.
• In April, we held a celebration of the International Dance Day on 29 April in Alger.
• Participation in the showcase in Zagreb organized by the Croatian Centre of ITI.
• In June, participation in the international theatre festival "BABEL" in Targoviste Romania.
• In July, participation in the National Amateur Theatre Festival in Mostaganem, Algeria.
• In September, an award ceremony was organized for the KATEB YACINE competition Golden Nedjma at the Adrar Festival.
• Participation in the play "The Tempest" by William Shakespeare in Yerevan with The Armenian Centre of ITI.
• Production of the Shakespeare play "Julius Caesar" on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.
• In October, participation in the showcase in Stockholm -Sweden, organized by the Swedish Centre of ITI.

Activities 2017
• In January, participation in the showcase in Leipzig -Germany.
• In March the Centre celebrated the World Theatre Day with a programme of theatrical performances and tributes given to the figures of the Algerian theatre and the reading of the World Theatre Day Message in collaboration with the National Days of Experimental Theatre In Elalma, Setif, Algeria.

President of the Centre
Cheikh Okbaoui
Activities
Bangladesh Centre of ITI (Asia/Pacific)

Activities 2015

Publication Ceremony of “Khanika”
February, 2015: Publication ceremony of “Khanika” in Bengali, translated from “Moments” - a book of poems by Tobias Biancone, Swiss Poet and Director General of ITI. The translation was done from English to Bengali by Prof Shafi Ahmed, and it was published by Mofidul Hoque of Sahitya Prakash.

World Theatre Day Celebration
27 March This event was held in Dhaka City and was jointly organized by ITI Bangladesh Centre, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation and Bangladesh Pathanatok Parishad. Theatre activists and theatre lovers participated in the World Theatre Day procession with colorful costumes, masks, placards, festoons, etc. The Day was also marked by a lecture programme and the reading of WTD message of Krzysztof Warlikowski in the National Theatre, Dhaka. Warlikowski’s message was distributed through flyers in the local national language and included information about ITI. There were theatre and dance performances as well as theatre songs and folk songs with 700 people in attendance. World Theatre Day was also celebrated in the other major cities of Bangladesh.

Dhaka International Theatre Festival
The “2nd Dhaka International Theatre Fest” took place in the National Theatre in Dhaka in March. The Festival comprised 26 theatre and dance drama performances from Bangladesh, China, United Kingdom and India. 10 special bulletins titled ‘Theatre Fest’ were published daily during the festival. Open Forum – a platform to meet the directors of the plays - was organized during the Festival.

Exhibition
March: An exhibition of portraits of world renowned playwrights was organized in the Festival venue for the duration of the Festival.

Theatre Discourse: “Theatre against Violence” and “Art Reincarnated”
March: 150 theatre practitioners from Bangladesh and abroad participated in the discourse at the National Theatre.

International Dance Day 2015 Celebration
29 April, Dhaka City: Approximately 270 dancers and fans participated in the International Dance Day procession with colorful costumes and properties. Also to mark IDD, a seminar on dance and a Dance Festival were organized in April.

Theatre Discourse on “Digitization and the Future of Theatre”
June, National Theatre, Dhaka: Ratan Thiyam, a celebrated theatre director and former Director of the National School of Drama in Delhi, India, served as a resource person in this event attended by 75 persons.

ITI Quarterly Bulletin Publication
The ITI Bulletins for March and June were published in Bengali.

General Assembly
December, Dhaka City: A new Executive Committee of Bangladesh ITI Centre was established and the General Assembly approved the ITI programme for the period 2016-2018.

Activities 2016

Planned Activities (till May)

World Theatre Day Celebration
27 March, in Dhaka City: This event took a similar form to the 2015 version.

World of Theatre
The next Edition of the World of Theatre, edited by Ramendu Majumdar and Mofidul Hoque, are planned to be completed and launched by the next Congress.

Activities
Bangladesh Centre of ITI (Asia/Pacific)

Executive Committee Bangladesh ITI Centre:
President: Nasiruddin Youssuf
Vice-Presidents: Abdus Selim, Keramat Mowla, Shafi Ahmad, Sara Zaker
General Secretary: Debaprosad Deb Nath
Assistant General Secretary: Jhuna Chowdhury
Organising Secretary: Junaid Eusuf
Secretary for International Affairs: Ahmed Iqbal Haider
Publications Secretary: Selim Shamsul Huda Chowdhury
Secretary of Finance: Nasirual Haque
Archive Secretary: Babul Biswas
Programme Secretary: Lucky Enam
Information Secretary: Im Pervin

Executive Members: Ataur Rahman, Mammur Rasheed, Mofidul Hoque, Lioquat Ali Hoque, Malay Bhawmik, Minu Haque, Syed Dulal, Maman Hena, Shahadat Hussain Hela, Mizanur Rahman, Khondakar Shah Alam, Ramendu Majumdar (President of Honour), Syed Shamsul Haque
Activities
Belgium Centre of ITI (Europe)

Activities 2014-2016

Elya Marine Llard, secretary of the Belgian Centre

The Bureau consists of:
President – Valérie Court
Vice President – Jean-Henri Drèze
Treasurer – Marc Gooris
Secretary – Marine Llard
General Manager – Olivier Parfondry

The objective was to revitalise the Belgian Centre by using restructuring to transform it into a tool, bridge and gateway for young people, developing our projects at a national and international level.

Activities 2015

• March 2015 – The Belgian Centre supported International Theatre Day with the circulation of the Message for 2015 written by Krzysztof Warlikowski.
• June 2015 – The Centre provided financial aid to the Association des Scénographes (Designers’ Association) for Moving Lab, a project that was part of the 18th Prague Quadrennial. A major international event in the world of stage design, every four years since 1967, this international exhibition has presented the most innovative contemporary works in the fields of the performing arts, costume, sound and light design as well as theatre architecture. Belgium has been represented from its beginning, and two associations, one French and one Flemish, have joined forces to organise the Belgian presence at the Quadrennial.
• Participants: Christain Hallin, designer, Katrien Wilmotte, Jacopo De Bieveld, Jo Klaps, Irma Morin and architect Anne Cabot. Their project was awarded a gold medal.
• November 2015 – A group was formed to create Par-delà les événements, les injeux de l’ITI (Beyond the Shows: The Challenges of ITI), a documentation of ITI’s history from its creation up to today from the ITI archives stored in Liège and Paris. The result of this project will be presented at the Congress in Segovia. It will also be published as a booklet in three languages, English, French and Spanish.
• December 2015 – A group was established to respond to a call by the General Secretariat to participate in organizing an international gathering in Shanghai on ‘Community Theatre: How to Bring Theatre to People?’ A first meeting was held in December, with the event taking place in March.

Activities 2016

• 11-17 July – A IDEA (International Drama Education Association) group was formed in order to focus special attention on theatre education in vocational schools and in other levels of education such as secondary, primary and pre-schools, while also including other spheres. A similar group had existed previously, while many ITI Centres are also members of IDEA. Two members of the Belgian Centre will participate in the 9th Congress in Ankara.

Activities
Burkina Faso Centre of ITI (Africa)

Activities Report 2014-2017

Activities 2014 (Since the Yerevan Congress)

Meeting with the Minister of Culture and Tourism
Back from Yerevan, where he took part for the 34th ITI World Congress, the President of the Burkina Faso Centre of ITI, Dr. Hamadou MANDE, was received in audience by the Culture and Tourism Ministry of Burkina Faso to update them on the participation of Burkina Faso in this important meeting of the world’s largest organization for the performing arts. The Minister congratulated the Centre of Burkina Faso for its dynamism and encouraged it to continue this momentum.

FITMO 2014

Organized under the leadership of the ITI Burkina Centre, in partnership with ITI Centres in Mali and Niger, the 14th edition of the International Festival of Theatre and Puppets of Ouagadougou (FITMO) took place from 10 to 29 October 2014 in three West African countries (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger). Originally planned to be held in four countries, the festival was only held in three countries. The stop in Togo had to be postponed in 2015 due to political tensions in Burkina Faso. This 14th edition of the FITMO was held under the theme, ‘Artistic training and socio-professional integration of artists in Africa’, and mobilized 60 artistic groups which produced 109 performances. In addition to the qualitative and diverse performances and workshops, FITMO 2014 highlighted the decentralization of activities in each of the three host countries, the entertainment market, the showcase of theatre schools, the symposium on the theme of publishing and the holding of a meeting of the African Regional Council of ITI.

Activities 2015

Participation in a meeting of the African Regional Council of ITI

The Burkina Centre presided over the meeting of the ITI African Regional Council held on 8 March 2016 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, on the sidelines of the Arts Market of the African Show (MASA) 2016. During this meeting we held discussions regarding the implementation of the activities programme of the Regional Council.

World Theatre Day 2015

Continuing its commitment to make the ITI activities accessible to all performing artists in the country, the ITI Centre in Burkina Faso has decided to celebrate the World Theatre Day 2015 in the city of Fada N’Gourma, 220 km east from Ouagadougou, the capital of the country. The main activities carried out on 27 March 2015 were: holding of an ITI general assembly followed by a radio programme, a presentation of ITI carried out by the General Secretariat of ITI, the presentation of the Message Author 2015, the reading of the message by Mariam Thiamboua, an actress from Fada and a performance with the play ‘The price of happiness’ staged by Hamadou Mandé and interpreted by the Theatre of the Fraternity of the Cultural Centre Gambibo.
International Dance Day 2015
The celebration of the International Dance Day was held in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, on 9 April 2015. The Burkinabe Centre of ITI received a batch of French books to place in its library from the ITI General Secretariat, who were moving from Paris to Togo. This edition made it possible to achieve the 2014 step in Togo which had been postponed due to socio-political tensions. It allowed the festival to change its year of organization from even years to odd years. The FITMO 2015 took place from 21 to 24 April 2015, and it included radio broadcasts, a workshop on contemporary dance, a conference-debate and a workshop on puppetry. The celebration of the International Dance Day was held in Ouagadougou on 9 April 2015.

Activities 2016

World Theatre Day 2016
For the celebration of WTD 2016, the Burkinabe Centre of ITI has chosen the city of Ouagadougou. The activities of WTD 2016 included radio broadcasts, a panel discussion and performances. The Burkinabe Centre of ITI co-organized, with Tenkodogo Troupe Comitee, the Festival Artistic Youth Festival in Tenkodogo (TRAJEAT). A festival dedicated to the promotion of arts education. The 2016 edition was held from 21 to 24 April.

International Dance Day 2016
The Burkinabe Centre of ITI chose the city of Ouagadougou for the celebration of the IDD. But as every year, demonstrations are organized at the same time in several locations across the country. Participation at the 4th SACDAD in Maputo, Mozambique.

Activities 2017

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International Dance Day 2016
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Activities
Chad Centre of ITI (Africa)

Activities 2014-2016
The Chad ITI Centre for the 2014-2015 period conducted a variety of activities with arts institutions and theatre artists in Chad. These activities have focused on training workshops, professional gatherings, festivals and the World Days of Theatre and Dance. The activities have been carried out thanks to the goodwill of theatre professionals and a few rare partners. Here we describe the activities followed by a concluding round-up of our challenges and recommendations.

Training Workshops
Within the scope of training, two acting workshops led by theatre professionals were set up by the Chad ITI Centre for Young Artists in order to help young performers. These workshops, which are held once a year, saw a total of 38 participants and lasted for two-weeks. The aim here is to ensure that the workshops are sustainable and become permanent training sessions in a country where there currently exists no theatre school that can teach practical techniques to those aspiring to the theatre. At present, everything we do is done virtually without resources, and yet the will exists to succeed in ensuring that such training is sustainable. It is our hope that one day we shall have partners who will help us to build a theatre school in Chad.

Professional Gatherings
We organised professional gatherings with theatre practitioners in order to discuss agendas and important issues relating to our industry. During the past two years we have also created two gatherings along the following themes: the creation and diffusion of theatre and the status of theatre artists. These meetings have given theatre practitioners the chance to address issues and to offer solutions in the form of recommendations to Chad’s cultural authorities. This was also an opportunity for the theatre community not only to have a framework within which they can discuss their profession but also to meet up, get to know each other and initiate a synergy for solidarity.

Festivals
Along with the Théâtre Maoundôh-Culture, the Chad ITI Centre jointly organised the Festival International des Arts Dramatiques et Plastiques pour l’Union et la Paix (International Theatre Festival of Dramatic Arts and Plastics for Unity and Peace – FIADPUP), the 8th edition of which took place in N’Djamena from 3 to 10 November 2014. We welcome the fact that this biennial festival brought together so many theatre companies and artists. This latest edition also was part of the 25th anniversary celebration of the Théâtre Maoundôh-Culture.

The next edition of FIADPUP will take place in November 2016.

World Days
For some years now, in Chad we have been annually celebrating World Theatre Day and International Dance Day. For World Theatre Day we celebrated it as we always do with the participation of the entire Chad theatre community. The content was supported by the Minister of Culture and in the media, conferences, debates, readings of the Messages, artistic parades and shows in the city, and these activities were also carried out for International Dance Day. These days are opportunities for us to talk about our profession and, especially, to create a lobbying platform for our art with partners and the community.

We would like to conclude by saying that, no matter the situation, the Chad ITI Centre is committed to pursuing its activities with whatever resources it has to hand, despite the lack of partners, particularly theatre partners. We remain convinced that the evidence of our current activities in Chad’s cultural environment will bear fruit for the benefit of our cultural and artistic development.

We also remain convinced that in order to see the theatre regain its credentials as it had at the end of the previous century, it is imperative to create a strong synergy on a national, subregional and international level. Projects involving cooperation and exchanges of skills and especially advocacy work with the authorities and partners will allow us to develop the sector and to attract young people to the arts.
Activities 2014-2017

Activities 2015

Introducing Chinese Performances to Bangladesh
March: The Chinese Centre of ITI (China Theatre Association) introduced a traditional Caidiao (literally ‘melodious tune’) performance to the 2nd Dhaka International Theatre Festival in Bangladesh. Caidiao has a history of over 200 years. Popular in southwestern regions of China, it is listed as a national cultural heritage art form.

Visit to Hungary and Croatia
April: At the invitation of the Hungarian National Theatre and Croatian Centre, the Chinese Centre of ITI sent a delegation to visit the two countries and participated in the Madach International Theatre Meeting and Croatian Theatre Showcase respectively. Within the seven days’ visit, the delegation not only appreciated nearly 10 European contemporary theatre productions, but also established extensive contact with counterparts from all other countries via the platform of the two events.

Romanian Theatre Delegation in China
April: At the invitation of the Chinese Centre, Aura Corbeanu, executive vice president of the Romanian Association of Theatre Artists, and her assistant, visited China. During their stay, the delegation visited the National Centre for Performing Arts in Beijing, the Shanghai Theatre Academy and the Shanghai Dramatic Art Centre, where they conducted in-depth and extensive discussions with professionals of the Chinese theatre makers and artists.

4The Chinese Centre of ITI Introduced Three Monks to Germany
May/June: At the invitation of the Hungarian National Theatre and Croatian Centre, the Chinese Centre of ITI sent a delegation to visit the two countries and participated in the Madach International Theatre Meeting and Croatian Theatre Showcase respectively. Within the seven days’ visit, the delegation not only appreciated nearly 10 European contemporary theatre productions, but also established extensive contact with counterparts from all other countries via the platform of the two events.

Swedish Theatre Artists Conducted Children’s Theatre Workshops in China
July: At the invitation of the Chinese Centre of ITI, four Swedish theatre artists from Stockholm City Theatre visited China. The experts conducted children’s theatre workshops and related theatre exchanges in Chongde and Qingdao city.

Japanese Theatre Delegation in China
August: At the invitation of the Chinese Centre, a five-member Japanese theatre delegation headed by Masuyachi Sukeo, director of the Japan China Cultural Exchange Association (JCEA), board member of Senzenza Theatre Company and chair of the Japanese Drama Producers Association, visited China. During their visit, the delegation visited Beijing, Shanghai and Suzhou where they met with related theatre groups, watched theatre performances and conducted extensive and in-depth exchange with Chinese counterparts.

Hungarian Theatre Delegation in China
October: At the invitation of the China Theatre Association, a delegation headed by Attila Viharosly, president of Hungary National Theatre, visited Suzhou and Chongqing, observed performances of the 14th China Theatre Festival, and conducted negotiations with the Sichuan Opera Theatre of Chongqing concerning future cooperation.

Executive Council of ITI at the China Theatre Festival November: At the invitation of the China Theatre Association, members of the Executive Council observed the 14th China Theatre Festival in Suzhou at the end of the Opening Ceremony of the ITI Headquarters and the Executive Council Session of ITI in Shanghai.

Visits to Egypt and South Africa
November/December: At the invitation of Sameh H. Mahran, president of the Cairo International Contemporary Experimental Theatre Festival (CICEF), and Kurt Egelhof, Secretary General of South African Centre of ITI, a delegation from the Chinese Centre of ITI conducted exchange and cooperation negotiations with CICEF, the South African Centre and the organizing committee of the National Art Festival of South Africa.

Activities 2016

Main World Theatre Day 2016 Celebration, with Anatoli Vassiliev, in Guangzhou
March: Together with ITI and the Culture, Radio, Film, TV and Press Administration of Guangzhou Municipality, the Chinese Centre organized the World Theatre Day Celebration in Guangzhou with the presence of World Theatre Ambassador and 2016 World Theatre Day Message Author Anatoli Vassiliev. The Centre invited 25 representatives from Asia as well as various Executive Council members of ITI. This event included World Theatre Day Celebration, Asian Traditional Theatre Forum, Asian-Pacific Regional Council Meeting of ITI, Chinese theatre showcase and international theatre workshops.

The Chinese Centre Introduced an Art Troupe to Perform in Hungary and Romania
April: At the invitation of National Theatre of Hungary, Jokai Theatre of Békéscsaba and Ságygát Theatre Oradea, the Chinese Centre sent a 49-member art
Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts & Culture, the National Arts Festival of South Africa has been annually held in the small town of Grahamstown since 1974 and has become the largest arts festival in Africa.

The Chinese Centre introduced a Young Stage Director to the “Asian Directors Festival”

August/September: At the invitation of the Japan Performing Arts Foundation, the Chinese Centre of ITI sent a team headed by young director Ni Guangjin to the 5th Asian Directors Festival at the Toga Art Centre. Teams from different countries and regions attended the event, putting the piece Chairs by Eugène Ionesco on stage in various styles. The Chinese team made a version with strong Kunqu opera features, warmly received by the local audience and juries.

JCCEA Delegation Visited China

October: At the invitation of the Chinese Centre of ITI, CFLAC and Chinese Centre of ITI Komaki Kurihara, Japanese performing artist and vice president of the Japan-China Cultural Exchange Association (JCCEA), headed a delegation to visit China. During their stay, this delegation presented a monologue drama Sumako Matsui at the Juyin Theatre of Beijing People’s Art Theatre (BPAT). Sun Jiazheng, president of CFLAC, Guo Yunde, vice president of CFLAC, Dong Wei, vice minister of the Chinese Ministry of Culture, as well as well-known directors, actors and playwrights from within the Chinese theatre circle watched its premiere. CFLAC particularly organized an exchange meeting for the cast of this play, where experts, directors and actors from many theatre organizations such as ITI China, BPAT and the National Theatre of China conducted a warm and friendly exchange with Komaki Kurihara.

Artistic Directors of Theatre Festivals from 16 Countries in Central and Eastern Europe Visited China

October: A delegation of artistic directors of theatre festivals from 16 countries in Central and Eastern Europe, sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Culture and organized by the Chinese Centre of ITI, visited China for a two-week exchange period. The delegation observed the 18th Shanghai International Arts Festival, the 4th Wuzhen International Theatre Festival, the 1st Guangdong (International) Theatre Exhibition and the 11th China Arts Festival in Shanxi Province. In addition they conducted effective exchanges with many performing arts organizations in China. This visit has established a new platform for theatre festival cooperation and exchange between China and Central and Eastern European countries. During the visit, the Chinese Centre of ITI and the delegation jointly discussed and planned cooperation events for a 2017 China-Central-and-Eastern-European-Countries Culture Season.
Activities 2014 - 2017

Activities 2014 (after the Congress)
World Artists’ Forum for Peace
In Santa Marta, Colombia, the 2nd Foro de Artistas del Mundo por la Paz (World Artists’ Forum for Peace) took place between 15 and 19 September 2014, and included the attendance of national and international theatre figures. The event was held over three days at the Universities of Magdalena and Sergio Arboleda and was the setting for key artistic events and reflections on the themes of conflict and post conflict.

Activities 2015
Celebration of World Theatre Day
World Theatre Day was celebrated in Santa Marta, Colombia, through a series of artistic activities including performances by theatre companies, a reading of the national and international Messages, a parade of artists. The Message was supported and shared by the Ministry of Culture nationally and internationally.

Activities 2016
Cultural Entrepreneurship Management Diploma
The Colombian Centre, in a contract with the Colombian Ministry of Culture and the Corporación Unificada de Colombia from 5 March to 5 July 2016 set up this management diploma for 60 practitioners from the Caribbean Region.

Celebration of World Theatre Day
For the 2016 celebration of International Theatre Day, the Colombian Centre organized an artistic programme including theatre groups, with a reading of the national and international Messages made by the actor Carlos Rodríguez Cruz, shared on the Ministry of Culture website.

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Activities
Colombian Centre of ITI (Americas)

In Santa Marta, Colombia, 10 to 20 September 2016, the XXVII Festival International de theatre de la Caribbean, held in partnership between the Corporation International Festival of Caribbean theatre, Centro Colombiano ITI, the Ministry of culture, the district mayor of Santa Marta, the governorate of Magdalena and other entities, took place. 11 countries and more than 250 artists were represented, including representatives from the national ITI centres of Argentina, Brazil and the United States. There were educational and academic activities run by teachers affiliated with ITI, such as Peter Goldfarb, Zeca Ligeiro, Lidio Turle and rattan boy of the Brazilian Centre of ITI.

The Colombian Centre of ITI in agreement with the Ministry of culture of Colombia and the school of technique in arts of Fundam conducted during the months of March to July the second version of the diploma in integrated management of cultural enterprises, which aims to benefit 50 artists from the Caribbean region in the production and management of digital contents for cultural enterprises.

The Colombian ITI Centre in agreement with the Ministry of Culture of Colombia, governorate of Magdalena, Fundam and Fundepalma, made the first showings of Kaku Serankua, to be held during the month of May in 4 municipalities of the Department of Magdalena, an initiative that seeks to enhance and protect our country's intangible heritage through artistic presentations based on myths, legends and stories originating from the imagination of our regions.

Activities 2014 - 2017
Introduction
Traditionally, almost everywhere in sub-Saharan Africa, the financial dependence on other institutions and the absence of subsidies from the State are the two major handicaps that justify the insufficient visibility of the Congolese Centre of the ITI on the national stage. Hence, since 2012, the Office of the Centre is involved, with the cultural association L'Aarch de Ngoujel, in the implementation of an activity aimed at reducing, if not eradicating, this financial dependence. In this case, it is the competition called Ngoujel Prize for a Performance Critic, created in 2011, thanks to a UNESCO grant requested by the General Secretariat of ITI. These combined realities (financial dependence and the fixing of competitions) have meant that the Centre’s programme of activities are reduced to the essentials: participation in the celebration of World Theatre Day and the International Dance Day, the organization of the competition (all the editions of which remain „experimental“ and silent, because of the lack of sponsorship) and delivery of a message during cultural events whenever this opportunity is offered at the Centre's office (1). Political events (the constitutional referendum in October 2015, and the presidential elections in the second quarter of 2015) and the social unrest that followed them, put artists and the public authorities and even the public. However, as „there is no law without exception“, there is still a minority of „lucky“ in this morose climate.
Activities
Congo Rep. Centre of ITI (Africa)

Activities 2015

A. Contest, Three Experimental Editions

The organization of the competition for the criticism of a performance was based on the performances of the Cercle des jeunes artistes et créateurs (CIJ). On that occasion, the General Secretariat of the Centre was asked to elicit the public, at the opening of the festival, about the World Theatre Day. Jean Léopold Ngoulou was also one of the three members of the jury of the best Fairytale Show whose proclamation and award ceremony marked the closing ceremony of the festival. More than ten schools had presented theatre and dance performances.

Period 2015 to 2016: A season tarnished by the political climate

The IIT Centre, its partners, and the cultural community in general, had been taken aback by the government’s decision to spread the various elections in exactly the same period as the cultural season. The constitutional referendum was convened on 25 October 2015, which was originally scheduled for July, the presidential election was to be postponed to 20 March 2016. The political tensions that preceded and the riots that paralyzed part of the country after these votes left little room for cultural expression.

Nevertheless, the celebration of the International Dance Day took place on 29 April, within the framework of the FTS (School Theatre Festival). As usual, the Secretary General of the IIT Centre read the international message and the release of the opening ceremony and in the media. Exceptionally, World Theatre Day was celebrated in synchrony with the International Dance Day. The IIT Centre was pleased to find its partners who had become traditional in the organization of these events: L’Espace du Trentenaire of the Total E & P Company and the Théâtre Les Pétroliers, who presented Papa Zambu and the liberté des auteurs directed by Charles Baloukou.

C. Theatre School Festival

From 26 to 31 March, there was also the Theatre School Festival (FTS) organized annually by the Cercle des jeunes artistes et créateurs (CIJ). On that occasion, the General Secretariat of the Centre was asked to elicit the public, at the opening of the festival, about the World Theatre Day. Jean Léopold Ngoulou was also one of the three members of the jury of the best Fairytale Show whose proclamation and award ceremony marked the closing ceremony of the festival. More than ten schools had presented theatre and dance performances.

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Activities 2014 - 2017

2015

Siete Dramas Croatas Contemporaneos
The Argentine publishing house, Bíblia,* published translations of seven Croatian plays in Spanish, entitled Siete Dramas Croatas Contemporaneos. The tome’s translator and editor was Nikola Židek, winner of the prestigious Teatro del Mundo award in 2014. The compiler of the anthology was theatrologist Darko Lukić, and it includes plays by the following authors: Ivor Martinić, Dubravko Mihanović, Nina Mitrović, Ivana Saško, Tena Štivičić, Tomislav Žajec and Darko Lukić.

Festival of European Drama, Argentina
The Croatian Centre of ITI, with the financial support of Croatian House, participated at the Festival of European Drama in Buenos Aires in 2014, presenting the play My Son Just Walks a Bit Slower, written by Croatian playwright Ivor Martinić and directed by Guillermo Botić. The play was part of the repertoire of the Apacheta Sala/Estudio Theatre. After 20 performances, due to great public interest, the theatre requested the rights to perform the play for another two years, until June 2016. This makes My Son Just Walks a Bit Slower the only play of the festival which will continue to be performed in Buenos Aires.

Croatian Theatre Showcase, Zagreb, April 2015
The Croatian ITI Centre’s traditional programme, this manifestation is a showcase of specially selected Croatian theatre and dance performances, aimed at foreign selectors who arrive in Zagreb especially for this occasion. 17 theatre professionals from China, the United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Algeria, Turkey, Greece, Austria, Germany, Romania, Montenegro and Serbia visited the showcase, 10 theatre and dance performances were performed, and additional sideshow programs, as well as conversations with Croatian artists, were organized as well.

International Drama Colony, From text to Stage, Grožnjan, 2015
The International Drama Colony was organized in August 2015, in the picturesque medieval town of Grožnjan. As a coproduction with the PlayDrama independent theatre from Split, we performed a public reading of French playwright Frederic Soonrægg’s play George Kaplan, translated by Dora Slakoper, as part of a special presentation of French culture in Croatia, the Festival Rendez-vous.

Salon of Theatre Books in Madrid, November 2015
At the Salon, the Croatian Center of ITI presented its books and publications in foreign languages, as well as the Teatro Croata publication, published for this occasion, which contains five plays by Croatian playwrights translated into Spanish by Nikolina Židek, and an accompanying essay about the state of Croatian drama, penned by theatrologist Matko Blotić. The tome contains plays by Tomislav Žajec, Nina Mitrović, Dino Pelurić, Kristina Gavan and Ivor Martinić. Future collaborations were also arranged with Spanish partners regarding the publishing of new books in Croatian and Spanish.

Activities 2016

2016

Croatian Theatre Showcase 2016
The 11th edition of the Croatian Dance and Theatre Showcase. Selection is based on theatre and dance performances which might be of interest to selectors from abroad, possible foreign partners, critics or theatrologists who might select or write about these performances, or establish a collaboration with the Croatian theatre scene and present it abroad.

International Drama Colony: From Text to Stage, Grožnjan
The International Drama Colony is considered among one of the most attractive programmes of the Croatian ITI Centre. It was launched in 1999 with the ambition of exploring and promoting foreign and domestic plays through staged readings. The country guests/partner was Armenia. Croatian ITI Centre invited young Armenian director Nancer Petrossian and dramaturge Hovhannes Ishkhanyan.

Život/Kroz Dramatizaciju/ The Life Through Drama
The workshops were intended for young people from children’s home. The main goal of project is creative education about theatre performances and theories. Drama workshops were based on the Forum Theatre of Augusto Boal and lead by producer Nina Krizan.

2017

Croatian Theatre Showcase, April
The programme of the 12th Croatian Theatre Showcase focuses on the authorial and directorial works of Oliver Frljić, but includes other representative performances which will give you a clearer image of and insight into contemporary Croatian dramatic and authorial theatre. It happened in two towns: Rijeka and Zagreb. The participants were from Serbia, Macedonia, Austria, Poland, Israel, Bulgaria, Spain, Italy, Estonia, Hungary and France.

Dance Symposium 2015
A four-day dance symposium was held in Zagreb. Under the title From Ionesco to Stoppard or Theatre Workshop “Pozdravi”, 40 Years Later, it was dedicated to theatre director, dance pedagogue and university professor Ivica Boban.

Dance Symposium 2016
Symposium was about ballet dancer Mia Čorak Slavenska and her participation at the Berlin Dance Olympics in 1996.

Workshops “How to Write About Dance?”
The workshops were about critical writing about contemporary dance intended for young authors led by the dance critic, Ivana Slunjški.

Publishing Activities
Books
Sest Argentinških Drama (Six Argentinean Plays), 2014. Selected by theatre director Robert Aquirre and translated into Croatian by Nikola Židek, this tome contains plays by Lucie Depauw, David Lescot, Laurent Mauvignier and Frederic Sonntag, translated into Croatian by Ana Prpić, and Lada Kaštelan: Dva I Dvadeset/ Projekcije (Two And Twenty/Projections), 2015

Francuska Nova Drama (The New French Drama), 2015. This presentation of contemporary French playwrights contains plays by Lucie Depauw, David Lescot, Laurent Mauvignier and Frederic Sonntag, translated into Croatian by Ana Prpić, Ana Prpić, Lada Cašel, Dora Slakoper.

Lada Kaštelan: Dva I Dvadeset/ Projekcije (Two And Twenty/Projections), 2015
This play was the basis of director Zrinko Ogresta’s feature film Projections. The original text is accompanied by essays about the play and the movie by theatrologist Vjeran Zupa and Ivana Vuković.

Nina Mitrović: Drame/ Plays, 2016
The first published book of drama from Croatia...
Croatian Theatre Showcase 2016

Supervisory Board:
- Marko Bilić, playwright, theologist
- Tomislav Zajec, poet, dramatist, scriptwriter and a novelist
- Đurđa Luleić, thesaurist, dramaturg, drama writer and university professor
- Maja Đurinović, dance artist, choreographer, theoretician and a dance professor

Executive Board:
- Hrvoje Ivanković, theatre critic and dramaturge
- Snježana Banović, theatre director and university professor
- Darko Lukić, theatrologist, dramaturg, drama writer and novelist
- Tomislav Zajec, poet, dramatist and scriptwriter
- Matko Botić, playwright, theatrologist

Honouring Nikos Pantelides, a pioneer of theatre in Cyprus

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary since the death of Nikos Pantelides who is considered as the “father” of theatre in Cyprus, CCOITI, the Actors Union and the director Alexis Kleanthous organized two screenings of the documentary “Our dear Nikos”, on November 1-2 at the Zena Palace Cinema, in Nicosia.

Publications:

Twelfth International Symposium on Ancient Greek Drama

The CCOITI presented its new edition Δύο Φωνές/İki Ses (Two Voices) which includes two plays of the dramatist Aristophanes, a presentation of the documentary “Our dear Nikos”, on November 1-2 at the Zena Palace Cinema, in Nicosia.

Within the framework of the project, the organizers addressed an open call receiving new Cypriot plays or playwriting samples. A team of coaches and trained professionals, studied the plays and gave comments to the playwrights, also undertaking coaching with selected plays.

On the February 14-15, the CCOITI and THOC selected plays.

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With the aim of stimulating further debate on the usual problems faced by playwrights the two partner bodies invited Chrysa Spilioti from Greece to lead the playwriting workshop “Contemporary Cypriot Dramaturgy: Keys for playwriting”. The workshop, which was attended by 40 participants, took place as a parallel event of PLAY ON! on May 8.

The project was extremely well-received and successful.
Activities

Cyprus Centre of ITI (Europe)

Celebration of World Theatre Day 2015
In the context of the celebrations honoring World Theatre Day 2015, the CCOITI organized a one-day conference under the title “On Reading Playwriting” on 28 March in Nicosia. The conference was part of a series of initiatives, meetings and workshops open to theatre and performing arts professionals, aiming to support the dialogue within the theatre community. The conference aimed to shed light to the scientific dimension of direction, which is based on methodology and to open a creative dialogue between theatre people.

International Dance Day 2015
The CCOITI translated the international message and widely publicized it to the performing arts’ community of Cyprus.

2015 International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama
July 1-30: The theatre map in Cyprus was enriched during July with performances of ancient Greek drama in the context of the nineteenth organization of the “International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama” which is organized by the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, the CCOITI and the Cyprus Tourism Organization. The programme of the Festival included: Medea by Euripides (produced by Théâtre ENA in collaboration with Versus Theatre, Cyprus), Antigone by Sophocles (produced by the National Theatre in Belgrade, Serbia), Peace by Aristophanes (produced by Volantia Christodoulou Theatre Group, Cyprus), Hippolytus based on Euripides (produced by Induo Teatro Producciones, Spain) and Electra by Sophocles (produced by the Cameri Theatre of Tel Aviv, Israel). The performances were presented in open-air amphitheatres such as the Ancient Odeon in Paphos, the Curium Ancient Theatre in Limassol and the “Skalì” Amphitheatres in Nicosia. All foreign language performances were sur-titled in English and Greek and all Greek language performances had English surtitles.

The “International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama” has been recently honored with the EFEE Label 2015/2016, as one of the Europe’s finest festivals. Since 2014 all the performances of the Festival have been included in the official program “European Capital of Culture - Pafos2017”.

The “2015 International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama” was dedicated to the memory of the unforgettable Christakis Georgiou, a special man, writer and theatre critic, who served the CCOITI as a founding member and as the President of the Board of Directors since 1983 until 2011.

EFEE Label Ceremony
July 2, 2015 at the Paphos Ancient Odeon
The CCOITI, the Cyprus Hub of EFEE, organized a ceremony for the Cyprus EFEE Label 2015/2016 receivers, in order to celebrate the nomination of eleven Cyprus festivals. Mr. Hugo De Greve, EFEE Co-Director, honored the ceremony with his presence.

New Cyprus Theatre Voices
Staged Readings of Cyprus theatre plays in Athens
In cooperation with the Embassy of the Cyprus Republic and House of Cyprus in Athens, the CCOITI organized a series of staged readings of Cyprus theatre plays in Athens under the title “New Cyprus Theatre Voices”. The activity was launched on October 26 with the staged reading of Hungry by Charilambos Giamou, which was awarded with the Greek National Award of Playwright 2014, and was one of the plays presented in the PLAY ON! project.

Conference “21st Century Theatre in Cyprus”
December 15, at the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Athens
The CCOITI, the Embassy of the Cyprus Republic, House of Cyprus in Athens and the Faculty of Theatre Studies at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, with the support of The Greek Play Project platform and the Hellenic Theatre Studies Association, organized a conference entitled “21st Century Theatre in Cyprus”. At the conference, which was held at the House of Cyprus in Athens, academics and theatre practitioners discussed the Cyprus Theatre Play and the Cyprus Theatre in the 21st century. The conference was attended by academics, directors, actors, theatreologists, playwrights, theatre scholars and others from Cyprus and Greece.

Publications:
Theatre in Cyprus 2011-2012
The bilingual yearbook, in Greek and in English language, “Theatre in Cyprus” is one of the most important publications of the CCOITI. The edition Theatre in Cyprus 2011-2012 includes the Cyprus professional theatre and dance performances, which were presented in Cyprus during the period 2011-2012.

Activities 2016
PLAY ON! – the third edition
With the conclusion of the PLAY ON! project in May 2015, the CCOITI spared no efforts to visualize, design and organize the next phase of PLAY ON! After the decision of THOC to depart from the collaboration, CCOITI decided to continue, develop and reinforce PLAY ON!, aiming at furthering the development of contemporary playwriting in Cyprus.

“New Cyprus Theatre Voices”: Staged Readings of Cyprus theatre plays in Athens
in the context of the series of staged readings of Cyprus theatre plays in Athens “New Cyprus Theatre Voices”, the CCOITI in cooperation with the Embassy of the Cyprus in Athens, and the House of Cyprus in Athens, organized on January 25 2016, at the House of Cyprus in Athens, the second staged reading of the play Nitsa by Giorgos Trillides, on March 21 2016 the play Soulinia by Stephanos Stavrides and on May 24th 2016 the play Antroknosis or The Painter by Eurice Petkou and Savvas Poulopoulos. All the plays have participated in the PLAY ON! Project (2014-2015).

New Website www.ccoiti.com
The CCOITI has a new website that is being enriched on a regular basis with old and new material, concerning the activities of the CCOITI on national and international level.

theatres

CY NETWORK (Connecting Creativity)
The CCOITI inaugurated the theatreCY NETWORK (CONNECTING CREATIVE!), an online network that will offer to theatre practitioners in Cyprus a shared space for discussion, exchange of ideas, presentation of proposals, seeking assistance and promoting their artistic work. The network is hosted in the new website of CCOITI.

Celebration of World Theatre Day 2016
To mark World Theatre Day 2016, the CCOITI and the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture organized a lecture on “Translational reading of Neo-Hellenic works – Greek contemporary theater approaches” by Professor Constantin Bamba, Head of Roman, Slavic and Oriental Studies of the University of Athens. The lecture was held at the Kastelliotisa Hall in Nicosia, on March 29.

Celebration of International Dance Day 2016
The CCOITI translated the International Dance Day Message, KARARIA (A prayer), by Leoni Pontisso into Greek and circulated it, together with his biography to the press, dance and theatre groups and to CCOITI’s receivers, in order to celebrate the nomination of Giannou, which was awarded with the Greek National Award of Choreographer 2014.

2016 International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama
A rich, diverse programme of performances, based on the original texts of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Aristophanes, was presented at the Paphos Ancient Odeon, the Curium Ancient Theatre and the Makarios II Amphitheatre in Nicosia, from the 3rd until the 30 of July 2016. Limassol Theatre Development Company (ETHAL) opened the festival, presenting The Poet and the Women (Thesmophoriazusae) by Aristophanes, directed by Minas Tziklis. The Theatre Krefeld and Mönchengladbach gGmbH, the biggest theatre in the Lower Rhine region in the west of Germany presented the two parts of Aeschylus’ trilogy Oresteia, Agamemnon and The Libation Bearers (The Choephoroi), directed by Matthias Gehrt. Following these productions, the new Cyprus theatre group “Psychologia” presented Plutus (Wealth) by Aristophanes, directed by Kostas Silvestros and the theatre company de Roovers traveled from Belgium.
Activities
Cyprus Centre of ITI (Europe)

The "International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama" is co-organized by the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Cyprus Centre of the International Theatre Institute and the Cyprus Tourism Organisation and has been honoured with the EFFE Label 2015/2016, as one of the best Festivals in Europe. All performances were included in the official events programme of the Organisation "European Capital of Culture – Pafos2017".

International Symposium on Ancient Greek Drama
The 14th International Symposium on Ancient Greek Drama was organized by the Cyprus Centre of the International Theatre Institute and the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture on the 11th and 12th July 2016, at the A.G. Leventis Gallery, Nicosia. The topic of the fourteenth edition of the Symposium was "The Lament in ancient Greek drama". The participants explored the structure, themes, expressive conventions and the aspects of lament in ancient Greek drama, both in the dramatic texts and in their scenic representations in antiquity and modern times.

The International Symposium on Ancient Greek Drama started in 1990 as an activity of the Committee of Theatre Organisation, in Nicosia. The goal of this effort was to create a bridge between the Cypriot playwrights and the theatre groups in Cyprus, in order to reinforce the staging of Cypriot plays. Indeed, a new wave of productions is developing and the results have so far been very encouraging.

Publications:
Theatre in Cyprus 2012-2013
The bilingual edition, in Greek and English, Theatre in Cyprus 2012-2013 includes the Cypriot professional theatre and dance performances, which were presented in Cyprus at the theatrical period 2012-2013.

Thirteenth International Symposium on Ancient Greek Drama
The CCOTI published the proceedings of the "Thirteenth International Symposium on Ancient Greek Drama", which was held in Nicosia on July 7 and 8, 2014. The topic of the thirteenth Symposium was "Dramatic and Scenic Space in Ancient Greek Drama". The Symposium, organized by the CCOTI and the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture under the auspices of Mrs Androula Vaïkiou, Member of the European Commission.

Activities 2017 (until July)

PLAY ON! – the third edition (staged readings)
Six new Cypriot plays were chosen to undergo a coaching procedure and presented in staged readings on February 11th, 2017 at the Apollon THOC (Cyprus Theatre Organisation). In Nicosia. The goal of this effort was to create a bridge between the Cypriot playwrights and the theatre groups in Cyprus, in order to reinforce the staging of Cypriot plays. Indeed, a new wave of productions is developing and the results have so far been very encouraging.

"New Cypriot Theatre Voices": Staged Readings of Cypriot theatre plays in Athens
In the context of the series of staged reading of Cypriot theatre plays in Athens "New Cypriot Theatre Voices", the CCOTI in cooperation with the Embassy of the Cyprus Republic in Athens, House of Cyprus in Athens continues presenting the dramaturgy of Cypriot playwrights to audiences in Greece. The first presentation of the second edition of the project (2017) was the staged reading of Eva Koursoumpa’s play, Boon! on January 31, 2017 at the House of Cyprus in Athens, The play had participated in the Play On! Project (2014-2015).

Celebration of World Theatre Day 2017
The CCOTI translated the World Theatre Day Message and the biography of Isabelle Huppert into Greek and widely publicized it to the Media, the artistic community, the wider public and the members of the CCOTI.

Celebration of International Dance Day 2017
The CCOTI translated the International Dance Day Message and the biography of its author into Greek and widely publicized it to the Media, the dance community, the wider public and the members of the CCOTI.

Cyprus Digital Stage
The CCOTI will co-operate with the research team of the programme Cyprus Digital Stage of the Open University of Cyprus, Drama Department, as an associate organization. The aim of this effort is to begin the creation of a digitalized archive of performances staged in Cyprus.

2017 International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama
Enriching Cyprus theatre life for twenty years now, presenting wonderful performances based on the original texts of the three tragedians (Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides) and the comic Aristophanes, the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, the CCOTI and the Cyprus Tourism Organisation will work on this year’s edition of the Festival. As always, the festival will take place during the whole month of July in open-air amphitheatres, such as the Ancient odeon in Paphos, the Curium Ancient Theatre in Limassol and the "Skafi" Amphitheatre in Nicosia.

International Participations and co-operations
EFFE - Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe
Platform (www.effe.eu) Coordinating body: European Festivals Association (EFA)

The CCOTI participates in the project "EFFE – Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe", a new European platform, a festival community that was created to function as a meeting space for festivals that are deeply committed to the arts, interact with their communities and act as a European and global actor. EFFE is a gateway into Europe’s festivals specialized in everything cultural. It intends to broaden awareness of what’s going on in the festival world and to promote excellence and innovation.

EFFE platform is a European Festival Guide that gives the opportunity to festivals active in the 28 Member States in Europe to be recognized on EU level. Launched by the European Festivals Association (EFA), the new pilot project of the European Commission is funded by the EU. Eleven festivals organized in Cyprus are already included in the first generation of festivals that were
honoured as EFFE Label recipients 2015-2016, festivals that were recognized for their artistic quality, their community involvement and their European and International character.

The CCOITI was selected as a Festival Hub in Cyprus, acting as the contact point for artists, festivals, policy-makers and local audience and is participating in this ambitious effort again in the second phase of the programme for the EFFE Label 2017-2018.

The Greek Play Project (www.greek-theatre.gr)
The CCOITI joined forces with the Greek Play Project, a dynamic platform that was created with the aim to promote Greek theatre play to the wider public, in a cooperation that seeks to introduce Cypriot playwrights to the public of Greece.

Initially the Greek play project included in its website four Cypriot playwrights who represent different generations and trends of Cypriot dramaturgy: Giorgos Neophytou, Andreas Kouklides, Charalampos Giannou and Melina Papageorgiou. Dr Andri Constantinou initiated the academic dimension of this effort, by presenting her theoretical text on contemporary dramaturgy: Giorgos Neophytou and Melina Papageorgiou. Dr Andri Constantinou initiated the academic dimension of this effort, by presenting her theoretical text on contemporary dramaturgy: Giorgos Neophytou and Melina Papageorgiou.

The platform will be gradually complemented with the inclusion of more Cypriot dramaturgs. This is just the beginning of a cooperation that will strengthen the cultural, social and artistic bonds between the CCOITI and The Greek Play Project.

Other activities in Cyprus related to ITI
Monodrama Activities in Cyprus
International Monodrama Showcase, September 2015
Cyprus Monodrama Platform, May 2016
International Monodrama Paños 2017 Festival
In 2015, the European Capital of Culture Paños 2017 presented for the first time in Cyprus the First International Monodrama Showcase with 5 important shows from abroad, at the Paños Ancient Odeon. This pilot program aimed at introducing the audience of Cyprus to this theatrical genre which is being rapidly developed abroad in recent decades.

After the culmination of the First Monodrama Showcase in 2015 and the positive response of the audience, the European Capital of Culture Paños 2017 organized the First National Monodrama Showcase for Cypriots living in Cyprus or abroad and foreign creators residing in Cyprus, called as the Second Monodrama Showcase in 2016.

In October 2017, this process will reach its goals with the International Monodrama Festival Paños 2017. All three events are/were under the artistic direction of Minas Tsigalis (Active President of the Board of CCOITI) and representative of Cyprus in IMF.

Cyprus Centre of ITI
Board of Directors* (until May 2017)
Acting President/Vice President: Minas Tsigalis
Secretary: Leonidas Tzolitis
Treasurer: Manios Anastasiatos
Members: Machi Dimitriadou-Lindahl, Eleftherios Eth Erotou, Lea Maleli, Skevos Polycarpou, Maria Mannonikou-Karsera, Philippos Sorianos

*Since November 2014, Giorgos Neophytou was President until 1.9.2016, Athina Kasiou was Member until 11.2.2016 and Nikos Nourousis was member until 24.7.2015.

The seat of the Czech ITI Centre is in the Arts and Theatre Institute, a state-funded organization founded by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. It cooperates mainly with the International Cooperation Department of the ITI. The department’s main goal is promotion of Czech culture and especially theatre abroad and information about foreign theatre in the Czech Republic. It prepares the concepts, dramaturgy and production background for international and local projects, festivals, exhibitions, seminars, and conferences, and it also organizes such activities. It collaborates with Czech and foreign theatre and artistic organizations, institutions and universities. It actively participates in international networks and it develops Czech activities in the field of international and especially theatre abroad and information about foreign theatre in the Czech Republic.

The Czech ITI Centre acts as an important body for cultural advocacy as well.

Activities 2014-2017
World Theatre Day Celebration 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017
Translation and publication of WTD message, distribution via the Arts and Theatre Institute’s address list (professional and independent theatres, cultural organizations, media, publishers, art schools), the ATI website, and the ATI’s domestic and foreign address list (ca. 10 000 readers).
Publication of message in the catalogue for the Thalia Awards (announced by the Czech Actors’ Association), or reading during the awards ceremony at the National Theatre (March, annually). Reading of World Theatre Day message before performances at numerous Czech theatres, publication in theatres’ promotional materials, publication in the Czech media (annually).

International Dance Day Celebration 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017
Translation and publication of ITD message, distribution via the Arts and Theatre Institute’s address list (professional and independent theatres, cultural organizations, media, publishers, art schools), the ATI website, and the ATI’s domestic and foreign address list (ca. 10 000 readers), publication of accompanying materials related to the message (videos of works by the message’s authors), Distribution of message via Dance Vision Help spread information on International Dance Day in the Czech Republic (dance map, flashmob, teleconference with Czech Television, public events).

Activities 2014-2017
• Meetings of the Czech Council (usually 3x per year, also meetings of working groups).
• Nominations for Ministry of Culture Awards and participation on juries (ongoing).
• Membership on the Council of Professional Artists’ Associations and participation in the council’s activities (ongoing).
Activities

Czech Centre of ITI (Europe)

- Preparation of Czech submission to the ITI publication The World of Theatre (annually).
- Preparation of Czech submission to the Japan Yearbook (annually).
- Monitoring of grant issues in the area of art and culture in the Czech Republic, support for initiatives, proposals for change, evaluations.

2015

Comments on the proposed new State Culture Policy for the years 2015-2020 (with an outlook towards 2025), approved by the resolution of Government of the Czech Republic on 15 April 2015.

Board of the Czech ITI Centre

Táňa FISCHEROVÁ – president of the Czech ITI Centre
Paiva PETROVA – executive director of the ITI Czech Centre, director of the Arts and Theatre Institute
Mirka POTŮČKOVÁ – secretary of the Czech ITI Centre (2014-2016)
Martina PECKOVÁ ČERNÁ – secretary of the Czech ITI Centre (2017), Head of the International Cooperation Department, Arts and Theatre Institute

Members of the Board:

Jiří HROMADA – Herecké asociace / Actors’ Association
Eva MEDOCHOVÁ – Asociace profesionálních divadel CR / Association of Professional Theatres
Zdeněk PROKEŠ – Taneční sdružení CR / Dance Association of the Czech Republic
Karel KRAL – České středisko Mezinárodní asociace divadelních kritiků / Czech AICT/IATC Centre
Simona RHABANOVA / František FABIAN – Česká organizace scénografů, divadelních architektů a techniků / Czech CITAT Centre
Stanislav DOUBRAVA – České středisko Mezinárodní unie loutkářů / Czech UNIMA Centre
Sylva PRACNA – České středisko Mezinárodní organizace divadelních keramikov a muzet / Czech SIBMAS Centre
Daniela JOBERTOVÁ – Divadelní fakulta AVU / Theatre Faculty of the Academy for Performing Arts Prague
David DRGOŽ – Divadelní fakulta JAMU / Theatre Faculty of the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts Brno, České středisko FIRT / Czech IFR/FIRT Centre
Radimka HRONOVÁ – Jednota hudebního divadla / Union of Music Theatre
Vladimír HULEC – České středisko Mezinárodní asociace divadel pro děti a mládež / Czech ASSITEJ Centre
Martina SMOLÍKOVÁ – nezávislý / independent member
Yvonna KREUZMANNOVÁ – nezávislý / independent member
Jana NAVRATOVÁ – Vize tance / Dance Vision
Sára MARSKOVÁ – Cirqueon
Lenka KOLÍCHOVÁ-HAVLÍKOVÁ – Asociace nezávislých divadel / Association of Independent Theatres

Contact:

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Institut umění – Divadelní ústav
Arts and Theatre Institute
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http://iti.idu.cz
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Czech ITI Centre Secretary
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Arts and Theatre Institute
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M +420 775 858 794
E martina.peckova-cerna@divadlo.cz

Activities 2014-2017

2014

Visitors programme @ November Music 2014
In the context of the festival we had a visitors programme aimed at promoting new Dutch music, for 12 international guests.

2015

Visitors programme @ Cadance Festival/Korzo
Through the whole dance festival 46 international visitors saw the works of Dutch and foreign companies and choreographers.

Showcase and Visitors programme @ Classical: NEXT/die Doelen
We presented both a showcase and a visitors programme for international guests within the conference Classical:NEXT, held in Rotterdam. The aim was to promote classical music, attended by decision makers in the field of classical music.

Visitors programme @ Operadagen Rotterdam
Within the context of this festival, we took part in the organization of ‘Operation Music Theatre’, with pitches of young Dutch music theatre makers, and international guests.

Visitors programme @ Spring Festival Utrecht
In this festival we co-organized a programme about emerging theatre and dance makers, visited by international presenters.

Contribution to Prague Quadriennale
We supported the Dutch delegation of scenographers, winning the most important scenography price.

Contribution and side programme Ruhrtriennale
We supported the main programme of the Ruhrtriennale along with Dutch companies, and collaborated in the creation of a side programme of Dutch artists in the Refektorium in Bochum. This is part of a three year collaboration with the Ruhrtriennale.

Cultural mission to ACC, Gwangju, South Korea
We initiated a trip with six festival presenters and six young performing artists to South Korea to get acquainted with this festival and the South-East Asian performing arts scene.

Activities

Dutch Centre of ITI (Europe)

After the closure of Theater Instituut Nederland at the end of 2012, it took some time and research before the international tasks and the Centre of the ITI founded a new place in the Netherlands. By October 2014 the international activities for the promotion of Dutch performing arts were placed under the umbrella of the Performing Arts Fund NL. With it, the Centre of ITI the Netherlands, was placed here as well, meaning that all activities of this Centre are those of Dutch Performing Arts, and vice versa.

Activities 2014-2017

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Cultural mission to ACC, Gwangju, South Korea
We initiated a trip with six festival presenters and six young performing artists to South Korea to get acquainted with this festival and the South-East Asian performing arts scene.
Moving Meetings Dance
We initiated and created a big showcase platform for dance in the context of the Dutch Dance Festival, aimed at the promotion of Dutch dance abroad.

November Music 2015
In the context of the festival we had a visitors programme aimed at promoting new Dutch music, for international guests.

Conferences
We sent delegations of Dutch artists and decision makers to conferences and showcase festivals like WOMEX, Mama, Jazzzahead, Reeperbahn, and the North Side Festival.

Visitors programmes
We invited international guests to several festivals, like Eurosonic Nooderlag, Gaudaamus, Dutch Theatre festival, Rotterdam Beats.

2016
Visitors programme @ PopArts festival
During PopArts festival, the international festival for puppet and object theatre, presented pitch sessions and a visitors programme for international guests.

Visitors programme @ Classical:NEXT in combination with Operadagen Rotterdam
Because Classical:NEXT and Music Theatre Now as part of Operadagen Rotterdam were happening in the same period, we presented both a showcase and a visitors programme for international guests within these events, as well as the opening programme of Classical:NEXT. The aim was to promote both Dutch classical music and music theatre. Besides the delegates of Classical:NEXT a group of about 35 decision makers attended both showcase and festival.

Visitors programme @ IETM Amsterdam
During the IETM-edition in Amsterdam we strongly supported the programme with a financial contribution for more than 400 international artists and guests.

Dutch focus @ Norfolk & Norwich Festival, UK
We collaborated with this festival in the presentation of music and theatre performances, and a side programme with international visitors.

Visitors programme @ Spring Festival Utrecht
In this festival we co-organized a programme about emerging theatre and dance makers, visited by international presenters.

Visitors programme and showcase @ Moving Meetings Dance
We initiated and created a showcase platform with broad side programme for dance in the context of Julidans festival in Amsterdam, aimed at the promotion of Dutch dance abroad.

Dutch focus @ Theater aan Zee Festival, Belgium
We collaborated in the field of promoting young and upcoming Dutch theatre and dance artists by supporting this festival Theater aan Zee with a more clear Dutch focus.

Contribution and side programme Ruhrtriennale
We supported the main programme of the Ruhrtriennale with the programming of Dutch companies, and collaborated in the creation of a side programme of Dutch artists in the Refektorium in Bochum.

Project in Brazil
Together with several other Dutch cultural funds and organizations we initiated and organized in the context of the Olympics Games in Rio de Janeiro, an artist driven project, called HOBRA, in close collaboration with Tempo Festival.

Visitors programme and showcase @ Flemish theatre festival
Together with Flanders Institute for the Arts we organized Highlights from the Lowlands, an annual showcase and pitch programme about Flemish and Dutch theatre, meant for international presenters.

Showcase and visitors programme of children’s theatre with ASSITEJ NL
Together with ASSITEJ NL we created a showcase of theatre for young audiences, with the focus of cultural diversity, including a conference about this subject.

Visitors programme and showcase @ Dutch Delta Sounds
We created a showcase programme around World Music for international programmes.

Visitors programme and showcase @ October Music
We created a special focus on jazz together with Bimhuis Amsterdam and had more than 30 delegates from important international jazz venues and festivals.

Dutch Focus @ RomaEuropa festival
We supported a Dutch focus of 3 dance companies at the RomaEuropa festival, as part of a more-year Dutch collaboration.

Visitors programmes @ several Jazz festivals
We organized visitors programmes at important Jazz festivals, like Jazz International Rotterdam, North Sea Jazz, Zomerjazzfestival.

November Music 2016
In the context of the festival we had a visitors programme aimed at promoting new Dutch music, for international guests.

Conferences
We sent delegations of Dutch artists and decision makers to conference and showcase festivals like WOMEX, BabelMed, Jazzzahead, Reeperbahn, and PAYS.
Visitors programmes
We invited international guests to several festivals, like Gaudeamus, Noorderzon Festival, E-Moves, Eurosonic Noorderslag, ADE beats.

2017
Cultural mission to Platea of Santiago a Mil Festival, Chile
We initiated a trip with six festival presenters and two artists to Chile to get acquainted with this festival and the South-American performing arts scene.

Visitors programme @ Cadance Festival/Korzo
Through the whole dance festival 46 international visitors saw work of Dutch and foreign companies and choreographers.

Dutch focus @ Sick! Festival UK
In the context of this festival we supported, as part of a programme, the presentation of 6 artists from the Netherlands to perform in this festival.

Activities 2014-2016
Activities 2015
World Theatre Day 2015 Celebration
March 27: At the state theatre venue “El-Ayem” (floating theatre), the World Theatre Day message - translated to Arabic - was presented by the prominent playwright Lenn Elshamy in the presence of the Egyptian minister of culture.

Former secretary general of the Centre and prominent scenographer Hazem Shebl extended his duties to establish a union for Arab scenographers.

Play Reading program
October 2015: At the Centre’s premises, a programme of play readings was created, with readings taking place on a monthly basis. The first event was a reading of a play by Yasser Allam which was introduced by the secretory general of the Centre, Nora Amin, and this was followed by a discussion with the audience. The success of the concept inspired several theatre venues to implement a similar program, including the National Theatre.

December 2015: The second play reading event was presented at the Centre’s premises by playwright Mohamed Abouelseoud, who was introduced by the prominent theatre critic and poet, Girgis Shoukry (a board member of Egypt’s ITI Centre).

Activities 2016
Theatre Criticism Workshop
February 9-18: “Osiris for Arts and Training” (a newly launched independent performing arts space in downtown Cairo), hosted a theatre criticism workshop which was conducted by board member and theatre critic Dr. Mohamed Samir Elkhateeb.

Egyptian Participation at “Al-Fujairah Arts’ Festival”
February 2016: President of the centre, Prof. Dr. Nehad SelAlaha, along with board member and theatre critic Dr. Samia Habib, attended and participated in numerous events related to the ITI and its Arab and African sections.

World Theatre Day 2016 Celebration
March 27: The World Theatre Day message was translated into Arabic and was presented by the prominent theatre critic, Professor Hoda Wasfi, at the Hanagar Arts Centre.

Egyptian Youth Festival: “The South’s Creativity”
Artistic support was given to the first edition of the Egyptian Youth festival “The South’s Creativity” held in Upper Egypt on 13 April 2016, with the guest of honor being Essam Elayed, a prominent theatre director and Vice-President of the Centre.

Board
President: Prof. Dr. Nehad SelAlaha
Vice-President: Essam Elayed
Treasurer: Nasser Abdelmoneim
Secretary General: Nora Amin
Board members: Dr. Samia Habib, Dr. Hazem Azmy, Dr. Gamal Yekout, Dr. Mohamed Samir Elkhateeb, Girgis Shoukry, Hazem Shebl, Amr Kabeel (associate member)

Facebook page
https://www.facebook.com/ITI-Egypt-The-International-Theatre-Institute-Egypt-Center-1614519592112890/?fref=ts
Activities

Estonian Centre of ITI (Europe)

2014

The 2nd edition of the draamamaa.weekend showcase was held from 14-16 November. Guests from Finland, Sweden, Italy, France, Germany, Belgium, Russia, Austria, Slovakia were shown performances at Theatre NO99, Cabaret Rizome, Kanuti Saal and other Estonian theatres.

2015

27 March: World Theatre Day celebration took place in the National Opera building, and the national annual theatre awards were announced at the event.

29 April: International Dance Day was celebrated at the Viljandi Dance Week and in Tallinn. The next day, it was marked at the Theatre Vanemuine and on 3 May in the National Opera.

8 May: In association with the Estonian Architecture Centre, we hosted a conference on the theme of theatre|space

7 June: We welcomed international guests at the Tallinn Treff Festival which was held June 4-7.

September: The Baltic Theatre Forum was held in cooperation with Estonian Theatre Festival Draama, with new writing showcased for guests from Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Russia, Italy and the Czech Republic. A conference on the subject of new writing in three Baltic countries was held on 11 September.

September: The Yearbook Teatrielu 2014 was published in cooperation with the Estonian Theatre Union and was launched in Tartu.

September: Readings of new Estonian plays took place in Saint Petersburg (Russia) in collaboration with the Alexandra Theatre.

16 October: A conference on theme theatre|text was held on the premises of the Estonian Writer’s Union. After the conference, the winners of the national writing competition organized by Estonian ITI Centre, were announced.

November: The showcase festival draamamaa.weekend took place in Tallinn, in November 10 – 12. There were nine performances from eight Estonian theatres in the programme, for example NO99, Kanuti Saal, Tartu New Theatre, Theatrum and others.

2016

January: A conference theatre|choice was held in cooperation with the Estonian Association of Performing Arts Institutions.

March: A collaborative workshop was held in Helsinki in cooperation with the Finnish ITI Centre and Espoo Theatre.

27 March: World Theatre Day celebration was held in Theatre NO99 where the national annual theatre awards were announced.

September: Yearbook Teatrielu 2015 was published in cooperation with the Estonian Theatre Union. International guests were welcomed at the festival Draama 2016 in Tartu.

15 October: A conference theatre|translation was organized together with Estonian Writer’s Union and Estonian Drama Theatre.

November: The showcase festival draamamaa.weekend took place in Tallinn, in November 10 – 12. There were nine performances from eight Estonian theatres in the programme, for example NO99, Kanuti Saal, Tartu New Theatre, Theatrum and others.

2017

12 February: Readings of two new Estonian plays took place in Tampere Telakka theatre in Finland.

27 March: World Theatre Day celebration was held in the recently renovated and reopened theatre Ugala in Viljandi. The national annual theatre awards were announced.

Board of the Estonian ITI Centre:
Anu Lamp (President), Kirsten Simmo (Board member of Estonian Theatre Agency), Rina Viding (Estonian Theatre Union), Monika Larini (Estonian Association of Performing Arts Institutions), Katre Vali (Estonian Ministry of Culture)
Activities

Faroese Islands Centre of ITI (Europe)

Activities 2014–2016

The Faroe Islands received ITI membership in March 2014. This past year, our main focus has been to help prepare for the bi-annual “Nordic Performing Arts Days” festival (May 24-28, 2016), with the capital Torshavn as the host city. The festival is a diverse celebration of Nordic theatre, dance, workshops and seminars.

Even with a small theatre environment, as the Faroese, we undertook the great task of hosting this festival. This has been helped by some ITI board members participating in the management of the festival, while our closest ITI neighbours – the Nordic countries – are also supporters of the Festival.

See www.nordicperformingartsdays.fo for more information about the Festival.

To work closely together with all parties is the faroese way to do theatre; for ITI Føroyar, our main goal is to establish ITI as the obvious link between the Faroes and abroad.

Besides the Nordic Performing Arts Days, we are also working alongside the Faroese Actors’ Union with the Ministry of Culture to develop the professional circumstances for the arts in Faroe Islands in general. This work has been going on for a while, and we look forward to ITI as an external international organisation to assist us in this regard.
Activities
Finnish Centre of ITI (Europe)

Activities 2014–2016

The Centre is a Finnish theatre information centre acting on a national and international basis. TINFO cooperates with professional theatre artists, directors, producers and festival managers. TINFO facilitates artistic networks by organizing events, seminars, workshops, drama readings, and showcases in cooperation with different partners in Finland and abroad. TINFO publishes yearly Finnish theatre statistics. TINFO produces material and advice on international mobility, international networks, artist exchanges and Finnish theatres and artists. TINFO offers drama translation grants which are intended to support younger playwrights as well as translation of Finnish plays which have not been translated to any other languages. TINFO runs international and national projects and produces various publications on the Finnish performing arts. TINFO delivers electronic newsletters in Finnish, Swedish, English, and in German.

Selected Projects:
The Centre (together with the Theatre Museum) is responsible for the Finnish Theatre Database which collates all Finnish performances and maintains many national projects and produces various publications on the Finnish performing arts. TINFO delivers electronic newsletters in Finnish, Swedish, English, and in German.

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Professional staff throughout the year and have regular performance activities. The statistics include income and expenditure statistics, personnel statistics, performance and spectator statistics, statistics on theatres outside the financing law (free groups), dance and circus performance and audience statistics. TINFO has made several surveys on the status of freelance performing artists.

TINFO coordinated a Finnish-Russian theatre cooperation project “Caroil-Savotta” 2013–2015 supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture in Finland, Embassy of Finland in Moscow and the participating theatres in both countries. It consisted of two different forms of activity. Finnish partners meeting and organizing guest performances with independent theatre groups from St. Petersburg, Chekhov Moscow Art Theatre’s project “Finnish Theatre. First Time in Russian”. The continuation, “Savotta-DvA” project started in the year 2016.

Celebration of the World Theatre Day. Drama reading The Maidan Diaries (by Natalia Vorozhbyt) and panel discussion around The Revolution in the Theatre (seminar together with Finnish PEN, Juha Isokall, playwright and director of The Maidan Diaries, Natalia Vorozhbyt, Enno Baik, translator). Photo: Piia Volmari (TINFO).


Performance and Ecology – Case Finland (2015), Berlin. Organized by TINFO in cooperation with Theatre Academy of the University of Arts Helsinki, Performance Design on/at the Edge workshop with European partners in Prague (PQ) and in Helsinki, The Revolution in the Theatre (seminar together with Lainsuojattomat (Outlaw festival and Finnish Theatre Centre). The future of theatre work? (seminar together with other theatre organizations). TINFO organized TINFO Encounter expert meetings, and mentoring clinics and networking sessions and expert study trips abroad with international performing artists and their Finnish colleagues. #MYTheatre social media campaign which TINFO started to organize with other theatre organizations in spring 2016. Theatres, theatre groups and performing artists from across Finland joined audience members to celebrate #MYTheatre on Twitter. www.info.fi

Publications 2015 (also available digitally)

TINFO News – Sustainability, Resilience and Performance-Utopias
TINFO News - Bestandigkeit, Nachhaltigkeit und Performance-Utopien
Novosti TINFO – мысли и звуки финского театра
Performance Utopias


Activities
Finnish Centre of ITI (Europe)

Board (March 2017)
Maanti PYÖRÄ (Chairman of the Board)
Hanna HELAVUORI (Coordinator of TINFO)
Sari HAVUKAINEN (Press and Communications)
Jenni HEINÖNEN/ (Communication assistant)
Mikko KARVINEN (Research and administration coordinator)
Sari HAVUKAINEN (Press and Communications)
Hanna HELAVUORI (Coordinator of TINFO)

Delegates of the European Network of Information Centres of the Performing Arts (ENICA) in Helsinki for the annual Round Table Meeting in October 2015. Photo: Lotta Vaulo (CircusInfo Finland).
Activities 2015

140th ITI Executive Council Session

Fujairah, 20-22 February 2015

Fujairah ITI Centre hosted the 140th ITI EC meeting and session in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates. The sessions were presided by President Mohamed Al Afkham and his Vice-Presidents, and were attended by all Executive Council members.

World Theatre Day 2015 Celebration

Fujairah ITI Centre celebrated World Theatre Day by inviting the author of the World Theatre Day message – Polish director Krzysztof Warlikowski – to visit Fujairah and celebrate the event with local artists and theatre experts. The event included a screening of a short film (8 minutes long) by Warlikowski that was followed by a welcoming address delivered by ITI President Mohammed Saif Al Afkham. Krzysztof Warlikowski read the World Theatre Day message in English, and Naji Al Hai read its Arabic translation. The event also included a theatrical performance entitled “Ghadan” (Tomorrow), produced by Hamad Bin Abdullah High School and featuring a number of its students.

7th Fujairah School Theatre Festival 19-23 April 2015

The 7th cycle of the annual Fujairah Schools Theatre Festival was held during April 2015 and sponsored by H.H. Sheikh Dr. Rashid bin Hamad Al Sharqi, FCMA’s Chairman. The festival was organized by Fujairah ITI Centre, Fujairah Culture and Media Authority and Fujairah Educational Zone with participation from all the government schools in Fujairah (both males and females schools). The plays were staged in both Dibba Al Fujairah theatre and the theatre of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development in Fujairah with a Jury that comprised local and regional theatre experts. The festival ended with an awards ceremony attended by prominent Arab theatre artist Asaad Fidha.

Maintenance works at Dibba Theatre and Monodrama House Theatre

Fujairah ITI Centre funded maintenance works at Dibba Theatre and Monodrama House Theatre in Dibba city. The two theatres were also provided with new lighting and sound systems and equipment.

Winners of the 5th Arab Playwriting Award Announced

Organised by Fujairah ITI Centre and FCMA with 167 entries, the 1st prize (USD 15,000) was won by Jordanian Mefleh Al Adwan for the text “Elegy for the Fifth String”, 2nd prize (USD 12,000) was won by Egyptian writer Abdul Momen Abdul Aal for the text “Room on the Roof”. The 1st prize winning text was produced by FCMA and staged as the opening show of the 7th Fujairah International Monodrama Festival. Awards were distributed during the opening ceremony of the 1st Fujairah International Arts Festival.

Activities 2016

• New production in cooperation with Theatre Painted Bird Company “Rumination” – premiered 21/2/2016 as part of Fujairah International Arts Festival.
• New production “Elegy for the Fifth String” – premiered 23/2/2016 as part of Fujairah International Arts Festival.
• Fujairah International Arts Festival, February 19-29: The first edition of the Fujairah International Arts Festival was held during February 2016, and included the 7th Fujairah International Monodrama Festival. The festival began with a dance theatre show titled “Rise of Glory” and from 20-28 February fourteen monodrama shows from 11 countries were performed.
• Hosted the 142nd ITI EC meeting and the Joint Committees-EC meeting during the Fujairah International Arts Festival on 21/2/2016 and 22/2/2016.
• Hosted the first ITI Arab Council meeting on 23/2/2016 during which the Arab Regional Office of ITI was announced.
• The winner of the Fujairah “Valery Khazanov” Monodrama Award was Mr Pip Utton for his show “Playing Maggie” which was staged at the Dibba Theatre during the 7th Fujairah International Monodrama Festival. ITI President Mohamed Al Afkham and H.E. Thani bin Ahmad Al Zeyoudi, the UAE Minister of Environment, presented the award.

Fujairah ITI Centre Staff

Mohamed Saif Al Afkham
Abdulla Al Dhanhani
Hessa Al Falasi
Khalid Rashid Hamdan
Abdulla Rashid
Abdulaziz Al Hamoudi

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Activities
German Centre of ITI (Europe)

The 60th Anniversary of German Centre of ITI (Europe)

Activities 2014–2016

Board members

President:
Joachim Lux (Artistic Managing Director Thalia Theater Hamburg)

Vice Presidents:
Kay Wuschek (Artistic Managing Director Theater an der Parkaue Berlin)
Bettina Sluzalek (Member of Artistic Board, Radialsystem Berlin)

Board Members:
Matthias Gehrt (Chief Director, Theater Krefeld - Mönchengladbach)
Mascha Pörzgen (Professor at Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg)
Sven Schlötcke (Member of the Artistic/Managing Board, Theater an der Ruhr, Mülheim)
Sophia Stepf (freelancer, Artistic Director Flinntheater, Board, Theater an der Ruhr, Mülheim)

Eberhard Wagner (freelancer)
Jörg Vorhaben (Chief Dramaturge, Staatstheater Kassel)

Sofia Gbagoudi at the 60th Anniversary of German Centre of ITI
Photo by Arne John

Websites, info-platforms and project sites:

• www.iti-germany.de/theaterarchive
• www.tanzplattform.de
• www.playservice.net
• musictheatrenow2015.iti-germany.de
• www.iti-artistsrights.iti-germany.de
• www.mimecentrum.de
• www.theaterderwelt.de
• www.facebook.com/iti.germany
• www.iti-germany.de

Activities

2014

November–December: Europe for Festivals - Festivals for Europe (EFFE, EU-Projekt). ITI Germany served as the German hub and was forming and organizing the national jury to rate the German festivals applying for the European Festival Guide and the Festival competition (www.effe.org)

2015

• Whole year: Music Theatre Now competition
• March: World Theatre Day Prize was awarded to theatre scholar, Joachim Fiebach
• May: Translators’ Workshop, Mülheim with 10 participants from Argentina, Taiwan, Serbia, Belarus, India, Ukraine, Poland, Russia, Portugal and Estonia
• June: ITI Germany decided on Hamburg as the host city of the Theater der Welt festival in 2017
• July: Members Annual Assembly, 3 – 5 July in Hanover, Open Space with ITI members on the future of the ITI work
• September: Launched ITI Yearbook “Understanding – Verständigung”
• October: ITI/Goethe-Institute Round Table at Kammerspiele Munich with more than 50 representatives of German theatres, theatre groups, funding bodies and city administrations about the possibilities and capacities of theatres to welcome refugees in Germany
• November: Round table with EU-funded project representatives on European cultural funding programme “Creative Europe”, Structured feedback provided to the German federal government
• December: Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the German ITI centre, 26.11.2015, Berlin, Academy of Arts
• December: ITI Germany was the organizer of the first edition of the Federal German Theatre Prize 2016

2016

• January–May: Music Theatre Now documentation of the competition and presentation of the winners, while also archiving the entries.
• March: World Theatre Day Prize awarded to Swiss director and author Milo Rau
• April: Annual Members Meeting and board election
• May: 35th World Congress

Ongoing projects 2014 – 16

• The Role of the Independent Theatre in Contemporary European Theatre: Structural and Aesthetic Changes*, Research project funded by the International Balzan Foundation Topic Forms and Structures of Contemporary Independent theatre developed in Europe since the 1960s
• Touring Artists: Online information platform for touring artists in and to Germany “Touring-artists info”, connected with a free consultancy for artists and groups.
• Szenenwechsel: Funding programme in cooperation with the Robert Bosch Foundation to stimulate and establish lasting international partnerships between theatres and groups in the German-speaking region and partners from North Africa or Eastern Europe
• Mime Centrum Berlin: Studio for production, training, open place of cooperation and international exchange. A public media library offers access to extensive documentation on dance and theatre. The MCB is a permanent project of the German ITI centre
• Members in European networks: IETTA, Culture Action Europe, ENCPA, On The Move
• Membership in national networks: German Cultural Council (Deutscher Kulturrat), nationwide Coalition for Cultural Diversity at German UNESCO Commission (Bundesweite Koalition Kulturelle Vielfalt)

Support for ITI Committees and Forums

• Executive Council (Joachim Lux)
• MTC (Roland Quitt, Axel Tangerding, Christian Grammel), project Music Theatre Now
• CIDC (Matthias Gehrt, Alexander Stollmark)
• NPG (Günther Beelitz, Frank Düwel)
• Playwrights Forum (Andrea Zagorski)
• One Man Show Forum (Annette Doffin)
• IFF (Corinna Bethge)
• ACAR (Thomas Engell)
• UNESCO-Cultural Diversity (Dieter Wikel)
• Akt-Zent Research Centre of the ITI (Christine Schmalz, Jurij Alschitz)
Activities
Ghana Centre of ITI (Africa)

Activities 2014–2016
The National Theatre of Ghana is an agency mandated by Government to develop and promote the performing Arts in Ghana through cost-effective production of classical and contemporary live stage and televised performances which project positive national values and the African personality. The Ghana ITI operates in the domain of The National Theatre, operating with existing programs and creating new projects.

World Theatre Day 2014
As part of activities marking World Theatre Day, the National Theatre used the opportunity to launch the 2014, “Comedy Series” in Accra. It is a program for young talented comedians to showcase their works on stage with a live audience on a monthly basis. (www.ghanainthenews.com/the-ghana-national-theatre-celebrates-world-theatre-day-press-release/)

Children’s Theatre Programme
Funworld is a theatrical programme with performances created and performed by children for children. Funworld was initiated in the 1990’s to entertain and educate children through drama, music, dance, rap music, poetry recitals and quizzes, amongst others. It is presented on the last Sunday of each month, with selected themes that are prompted by the United Nations Day’s celebrations. The programme’s target groups are pupils in Basic and Junior High School between 5 and 16 years. The goals of this programme are to:

- discover young talent and nurture them into modern-day arts professionals
- entertain, educate and inform audiences on social issues through the arts
- grow an artistic pool for the entertainment industry
- teach young people to appreciate the arts industry.

Spoken Word Competition
TEEN SLAM GHANA is a spoken word competition for Junior and Senior High schools to encourage them to write and present insightful poetry, while inculcating a love of poetry and improving basic writing skills. The competition takes place during the schools’ academic calendar.

Indigenous Theatre
CONCERT PARTY, our flagship programme for years, is a presentation of an indigenous theatre performance that employs music, dialogue, dance and comedy in a drama backed by live band music to educate, entertain and inform audiences. Local languages are employed with the Akan dialect as the major language used.

It was introduced as part of the Theatre’s programming to:

- promote the good cultural traits of the Ghanaian personality
- discover, nurture and promote raw talents to create a talent pool for theatre and the local movie industry
- grow an audience base for all live stage performances in our various local dialects.

World Poetry Day
The National Theatre celebrated this day, March 21, 2015 by organizing the finals of the Teen Slam Ghana Series. Three schools from two areas in Ghana (Accra & Tema) were selected to partake in this finale on the theme for this year’s world poetry day.

World Theatre Day
World Theatre Day 2015 was observed with students from New Horizon Special School, a school for children with autism. The idea behind this was to create the awareness that theatre can be used as therapy and to affirm the statement that “Disablity is not inability”. The National Drama Company and the National Dance Company performed a sketch from R.A. Cantey’s “Ghana Motion” which touches on patriotism and solidarity amongst the youth and it was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts.

International Dance Day
The National Dance Company with support from the National Theatre of Ghana organized traditional dance performances at Accra Psychiatric Hospital on April 29, 2015. In fullfilment of our social responsibility, a workshop was also organized for patients, doctors, nurses and workers of the hospital on the rudiments of dance in addition to the donation of clothes, sanitary ware, etc from the staff of the National Theatre of Ghana.

Musical heritage
Agro the Fi Titi (Highlife Time Live Band Music) is a live band programme that partners the National Security Services Band under the Ministry of Interior and a highlife musician to showcase a live band musical performance in an Amphitheatre (open bar theatre setting). The aim of this programme is to re-introduce our old melodic musical genre back onto the music market by giving the old and prominent highlife musicians a platform to give the audience a taste of a cultural heritage that has placed Ghana on the global stage for many years.

Local to Global
The Ghana Centre came up with a plan to add some level of international appeal to our local content in terms of our staged performances. This led to the development of works like:

- NO RULES, an Afro contemporary dance piece based on Efo Kodjo Maxugbe’s “In the Chest of a Woman”, which was a collaboration between the National Theatre of Ghana, the French Embassy in Ghana and Institut Francais. This dance piece was choreographed by Joseph Akwa and was performed by dancers from Ghana and Ivory Coast. It was staged on April 30, 2015.
- MOTHER’S TEARS was a play written by the legendary Ghanaian writer Kwaw Ansah, directed by Vivian Agboe Boateng. This was a collaborative work between the National Theatre of Ghana, National Drama Company (Abibigromma) and the United Artists to celebrate our mothers on Mother’s Day. It was performed on May 9-10, 2015.
- DIEMA was a collaborative work between the National Theatre of Ghana, the National Dance Company, the National Symphony Orchestra with choreographers from the University of Ohio and Azaguno to produce three nights of explosive live staged Ghanaian contemporary dance performances and music. This was staged from June 18-20, 2015. Workshops were also organized for dance choreographers and dancers by artists from the USA and China.
- Flagstaff House: The National Theatre collaborated with the Hyl-offset Multimedia and Nyanasor Productions to stage a satirical play that will give young comedians the opportunity to showcase their talent on a bigger and grander stage. This was staged on July 3, 2015.

Activities 2015–2016

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Ghana Theatre Festival
Created by ITI Ghana, the 7-day festival (October 12-18, 2015) is supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts, with a three-fold programme:

- workshops for upcoming artistes to develop their skills in the Creative Arts
- to educate creative artistes on the importance of marketing works
- to showcase the best of works by professional artistes in the area and at the same time.
Activities
Ghana Centre of ITI (Africa)

Kiddafest (Accra International Kids Festival)
This annual festival has been in existence for the past 20 years and is supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Creative Arts and Ghana Education Service (GES). The programme is organized annually to help unearth new talents, nurture, motivate young talented kids and to also develop a young audience base that appreciates the creative arts. The 2015 Festival (December 17-19) was themed “Creating Harmony through Cultural Diversity”.

Board members
President: Atoosa Abdallah (Deputy Executive Director, National Theatre of Ghana)
Vice President: Amandzeba Nat Brew (Musician and General President of Professional Musicians of Ghana)
General Secretary: Abdul Karim Halbi (Theatre Practitioner and Executive Director GADDC)
Vice secretary: Esi Eserem Atase (Dancer and Dance Teacher)
Counsellors: Dr. Mohammed Ibin Abahdillah (Playwright and cultural consultant)
Hon. Dafa Gomashie (Deputy Minister, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts, Ebo Whyte (Playwright/Theatre Producer)

Upcoming Events for 2016
• World Theatre Day (30 March), a play on teen pregnancy with the emphasis on taking care of the baby post-delivery, will be performed by the resident drama company in a deprived community on Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016
• Nana Amponsah’s 50th anniversary in show business: the legendary highlife maestro Nana Kwame Ampadu will collaborate with the Theatre in celebrating this milestone on May 21, 2016
• Ghana Theatre Festival 2016 is scheduled from September 26th to October 2nd. Auditions for participating groups are underway.

Activities
Hellenic Centre of ITI (Europe)

Activities 2014–2016
Second and Third “Ekfrasi Athina” Festivals
The City of Athens and the Cultural, Sports and Youth Organization promotes new creations through this annual festival which was held from September 3 – 11, 2014 in the open-air theatre of Koumoundourou Square, and in 2015 from September 30 – October 4 in the Strefi’s Hill open-air theatre. The Hellenic Centre of the ITI collaborated with the City of Athens and the Cultural, Sports and Youth Organisation in these festivals. This joint action opened an artistic dialogue with the residents of deprived areas of the city through the free, public presentation of the works of young artists and theatre and dance ensembles. The “Ekfrasi Athina” Festival has acquired the EFFE Festival Label from the “Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe” programme, a new network which connects cultural networks and festivals through Europe.

Forum of Contemporary Dramaturgy
The Hellenic Centre of ITI organizes an annual Forum of Contemporary Dramaturgy in which the plays of international dramaturgy that have never been performed before in Greece, are presented as staged readings, in Greek with theatre professionals as the primary audience. The tenth Forum of Contemporary Dramaturgy is scheduled for spring 2016.

Post-Forum Student Festival
Following the Forum of Contemporary Dramaturgy, a Post-Forum Student Festival is held, and it includes new Greek plays. The second Post-Forum Student Festival was held on 21st December 2014 at the Michael Cacoyannis Foundation. Five new Greek plays were presented for first time in the form of staged readings by students of drama schools and theatrical workshops in Athens.

Hellenic ITI participates in the 13th Prague Quadrennial
The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space is the most important global exhibition in the field of Performing Space, Scenography and Stage Architecture. The Quadrennial has been held every four years since 1967 and the Hellenic ITI Centre has collaborated with the exhibition since 1991. In 2015, the 6th Hellenic participation in the Prague Quadrennial was under the auspices of the Hellenic National Commission for Unesco, the Greek Theatre Designers Association and the Hellenic Theatre Studies Association.

Between 18-28 June, Greece was represented by 20 artists participating in 27 projects, 240 students from 9 schools and three live performances.

International Dance Conference: Cut and Paste: Dance advocacy in the age of austerity
Dates and venues: June 8-9, 2015, Michael Cacoyannis Foundation and “Theatron”, Hellenic Cosmos Cultural Centre.
The Hellenic Centre of the ITI in collaboration with the organizations Society of Dance History Scholars (SDHS) and the Congress of Research in Dance (CORD), and under the auspices of the Association of Greek Choreographers, organized for the first annual International Dance Conference in Greece, with more than 350 academics, keynote speakers and teachers from Greece and abroad participating in the event.

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"From Practice to Theory of Performing Arts”

Athens System 2014, Hellenic Performing Arts Platform
The Athens System aims to promote Hellenic theatre and dance productions abroad. The 2014 platform (November 25-29) was the fourth time that it was staged since 2007. It was held under the auspices of EUHAC (European Union of National Institutes for Culture), and was attended by artistic directors and curators of international festivals, promoters and cultural organizations that have the ability to invite performances to their own countries.

International Actions for the Performing Arts
Staging Invisibility: 2014 – 2015
This programme aimed to promote a fruitful scientific dialogue to strengthen the exchange of the international performing arts community through three actions:

Conference : New spatialities: design for outdoors/open performance space
November 1st, 2014, Michael Cacoyannis Foundation.
The purpose of this one-day conference was to present recent performing arts projects that took place in outdoor and public spaces, these projects were part of the Hellenic’s National Participation at the 13th Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space.

Interdisciplinary Conference: The Performer in the 21st Century
March 30th, 2015, Michael Cacoyannis Foundation.
The main theme of this conference was the presentation of structural correlations between performance, visual arts, new technologies, science, bio-art and choreographic research in order to explore the transformations and the shifting role of the Performer in the 21st century.

International Dance Conference: Cut and Paste: Dance advocacy in the age of austerity
Dates and venues: June 8-9, 2015, Michael Cacoyannis Foundation and “Theatron”, Hellenic Cosmos Cultural Centre.
The Hellenic Centre of the ITI in collaboration with the organizations Society of Dance History Scholars (SDHS) and the Congress of Research in Dance (CORD), and under the auspices of the Association of Greek Choreographers, organized for the first annual International Dance Conference in Greece, with more than 350 academics, keynote speakers and teachers from Greece and abroad participating in the event.
The aim of the database is the identification and utilization of already recorded material from the archive of the National Centre for Theatre and Dance till its abolition in 2010, and further to strengthen research, data collection, the continuous updating of public and related bodies in Greece and internationally on Hellenic Performing Arts. The database is addressed to professionals and researchers of performing arts in Greece and abroad, and will be constantly updated to include the sub-archives: Artists, Institutions, Theatre Plays and Performances.

The database of Performing Arts in Greece covers theatre performances, Dance, Performance, Opera, Music Theatre, Cabaret, Mime, Puppet, Shadow Theatre and Circus.

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Activities
Indian Centre of ITI (Asia/Pacific)

Activities 2014–2017

On 17th November 2014 the Executive Council of ITI unanimously accepted a new member – a new Indian Centre of ITI. This centre was initiated by the International Association for Performing Arts and Research, a Pune based organization working in the performing arts.

International Association for Performing Arts and Research (IAPAR) is a network of artists and arts professionals seeking to exchange ideas, increase opportunity within the arts community and connect all within it. IAPAR encourages independence and openness for interdisciplinary thinking and action. It works as the Indian Centre of International Theatre Institute.

IAPAR is also the only Indian member institute of the ITI/ UNESCO Network for Higher Education in Performing Arts.

The Indian Centre of ITI is hosted by International Association for Performing Arts and Research (IAPAR), Pune. The primary objectives of the centre are:

- To promote international exchange of knowledge and practices in theatre, music, dance and other performing arts in order to consolidate peace and friendship between people, to deepen mutual understanding and to increase creative co-operation between all people in theatre arts.
- To promote social development, creativity and cross-cultural understanding by utilizing the performing arts in productions, training and exchange programmes, nationally and internationally.
- To abide by the Charter of the ITI and the organization’s core values, namely inspiration, inclusiveness, collaboration and transparency.
- To share the UNESCO goals of mutual understanding and peace, and support the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.
- To co-ordinate the activities of the centre with other international centres of ITI across the globe.

The initiators of this centre are senior actress and theatre practitioner Ms. Sushama Deshpande, senior theatre critic Dr. Ajay Joshi and Founder Director of IAPAR Shri. Vidyandheer Varanse (Prasad). The team is joined by senior playwright Shri. Abhiram Bhadkamkar, senior theatre director and teacher Shri. Aninditha Khutwad, theatre practitioners Devendra Saralkar, Nikhil Gadgil, Amrut Samak, Surabhi Natu, Tanmayee Ambekar, Anushka Vaze, dancers Rashmi Pandit, Addi Venkateshwaran, and painter Madhura Pendse.

Projects undertaken since the inception of the new Indian Centre of ITI

2015

World Theatre Day Celebration

The first World Theatre Day celebrations of the new ITI Centre were held in Pune on 27 March 2015. The World Theatre Day message delivered by Krzysztof Warukowksi was translated into Marathi and Hindi for this occasion. The celebrations included a book release of 'Pen, People, Performance', a compilation of articles, critiques, interviews, travel diaries written by senior theatre critic Dr. Ajay Joshi. A performance based on Marathi poetry was produced for the occasion.

Voice and Speech Workshop

The Indian Centre of ITI, in association with IAPAR, conducted a three month workshop that provided a basic understanding of voice in order to significantly improve oratory abilities. The participants critically examined their own speeches and the speeches of their peers while the basic focus of the workshop was understanding voice, speech and approaching text. The workshop saw participation from more than 30 people from varied backgrounds, including working professionals, performers and students.

Anandrang—Theatre and Arts Workshop for Children (2015-present)

Anandrang is a project for the development of children. The Indian Centre of ITI believes in a continuous process of development. The Anandrang project includes workshops and performances for children in the age group of 8 to 14. So far more than a thousand children have been a part of this programme. It provides opportunities for extra-curricular social experiences and expressive activities.

The Balancing Act (2015-present)

Performed in India and Sri Lanka (Colombo International Theatre Festival)

“’The Balancing Act’ is a play in gibberish. This play looks at violence as seen and experienced by young children. The Balancing Act was premiered at Colombo international theatre festival and is still performed at various artistic and social forums.

DNA (2015-present)

Performed in India, “DNA” a play written by Georgios Niofipoutsos, a veteran playwright from Cyprus. The play was translated in Marathi by Dr. Shyamala Varanse. In a break from the conventional practice that confines a play to a pre-determined venue, DNA is performed at intimate spaces, including in living rooms and several artistic recreational spaces. First presented on 2nd November 2015, it is still being performed. The production has completed more than 35 performances.

2016

World Theatre Day Celebration

The World Theatre Day was celebrated by performing the twenty fifth show of the play DNA. The World Theatre Day message delivered by Anatoly VASILIEV was translated into Marathi and Hindi for this occasion.

Dramatic Book Reading of “Our Sanctuary”

A story-reading session of the book titled ‘Our Sanctuary’, written by Minalinee Varanse, a young writer and environmentalist was organized for children, parents and teachers. The story revolved around a family and their efforts to incorporate wilderness in an urban setting. The programme was very well attended by several parents who brought their children, as well as story-loving adults.

Inner Voice, Outer Voice—Voice, Speech and Voice-Over Workshop

A workshop that focused upon the intricacies of the
element of voice in any presentation, along with the concept and how-to of voice over, was conducted and facilitated by Vidyanidhee Vanarase and Aditi Venkateshwaran. This workshop was attended by amateur performers, students as well as working professionals.

The Subtle Body - Workshop on Physical Theatre
A workshop covering several aspects of physical theatre was organized. It aimed to stimulate participants’ physical, emotional and imaginative abilities through a series of exercises and game structures. The workshop introduced the participants to the various levels of physical-muscular tension, dramatic structure, text and sub-text, which are essential for an actor-creator process. The workshop was facilitated by a young theatre maker, Abhishek Thapar.

Floating World - Movement Workshop
This was a workshop that provided introduction to contemporary movement for beginners, exploring elements of a wide variety of practices through movement, dance-making, readings, discussions and collaborative creation. The workshop focused upon conducting movement exercises which help individuals unmask themselves from their current role set and focus internally on the emotional, social and at times, spiritual movement. The workshop was facilitated by young dancer-actor performer Aditi Venkateshwaran.

Dramatic Book Reading of “Prateek”
A dramatic book reading session of “Prateek,” was organized for children, parents and teachers. It is a story of a little boy who finds an old coin, which takes him places he never imagined. The tale also talks about environmental issues caused by developmental initiatives that harm villages more than they benefit them.

IAPAR International Theatre Festival
Along with the several on-going projects Indian Centre of ITI decided to support the first IAPAR International Theatre Festival in November 2016. The focus of the festival was to showcase original and stimulating theatre work from across the globe. From 18th to 22nd of November, we were joined by artists from Austria, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Russia, Sri Lanka and of course India. The festival saw more than three thousand people in the audience. Community members in Pune had the opportunity to participate in several workshops and master classes, as well as watch wonderful performances.

2017

“In Transit”
Performed in India and Sri Lanka (Colombo International Theatre Festival).

“Theatre in Education
A detailed theatre training programme for children across various schools from the 4th to 9th grade is supported by the Indian Centre of ITI. The programme offers the children an opportunity to explore several aspects of theatre and performance. More than 350 students are registered for this ongoing project.
Activities
Iranian Centre of ITI (Asia/Pacific)

Activities 2014–2017

Dramatic Arts Centre of Iran (DAC) holds and supports many annual and biennial national and international festivals and activities. These festivals consisted of different programmes such as: Conferences, literature, round table critiques, discussions and meetings - each suitable and convenient to enable artists to exchange their experiences and new ideas.

The main activities in the international section are:

- 22nd International children and youth Theatre Festival: November 2016: 10 Troupes, 6 workshops, 16 artistic directors of international theatre festivals and Directors of Theatre companies.
- 35th Fajr International Theatre Festival-January 2017: 19 Troupes, 3 workshops, 11 lectures, 53 artistic directors of international theatre festivals and Director of Theatre companies.
- 11th Street International Theatre Festival-September 2016: 3 Troupes and 1 workshop.
- The first Meeting of West Asian Countries, General Directors of Performing Arts: 14 General Directors of Performing Arts from 12 countries to participate in this prestigious event.
- The first International Seminar Potential of Independent Sector in Theatre Tehran: 13 directors of company and theatre experts from 11 countries participate in this prestigious event.
- The Dramatic Arts Centre of Iran supports more than 32 troupes to participate in many international theatre festivals around the world.
- The Dramatic Arts Centre of Iran dispatches many representatives to participate in many international theatre festivals to aid bilateral collaboration.

Dramatic Arts Centre of Iran - Activities 2015–2016

Dramatic Arts Centre of Iran (DAC) holds and supports many annual and biennial national and international festivals and activities.

- 22nd International Children and Youth Theatre Festival - October 2015: 10 troupes, 15 workshops, 13 artistic directors of international theatre festivals and directors of theatre companies.
- 34th Fajr International Theatre Festival: 13 Troupes, 7 workshops, 30 artistic directors of international theatre festivals and Directors of Theatre companies.
- 10th Street International Theatre Festival: 3 Troupes and 3 workshops.
- 16th Ritual and Traditional International Theatre Festival: 1 troupe, 3 workshops and 3 seminars.
- Poland theatre week in Tehran - November 2015: 4 Troupes, 13 workshops and 4 lectures.
- The Dramatic Arts Centre of Iran supports more than 20 troupes to participate in many international theatre festivals around the world.
- The Dramatic Arts Centre of Iran dispatches many representatives to participate in many international theatre festivals for making the bilateral collaboration.
- Provincial Festivals of Iran’s Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance in 31 provinces
- World Theatre Day – Provincial Festivals of Iran’s Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance in 31 provinces
- Number of theatre productions in Iran: 4,401 performances
- Theatre audiences in Iran: 2,781,591 persons
- Number of theatres in Iran: 399
- Number of theatre festivals in Iran related to DAC or other departments: 206 festivals
- Poland Theatre Week in Tehran: 3 troupes, 4 lectures
- Publication of the Namayesh monthly magazine: 12 issues
- Home theatre magazines: 4 issues
- Publication of theatre books: 12 books

Dramatic Arts Centre of Iran - Activities 2014–2015

Dramatic Arts Centre of Iran (DAC) holds and supports many annual and biennial national and international festivals and activities.

- Dispatching 7 troupes and 15 theatre experts
- Publication of theatre books: 10 books
- Home theatre magazines: 4 issues
- Publication of the Namayesh monthly magazine: 12 issues
- Theatre audiences in Iran: 2,781,591 persons
- Number of theatres in Iran: 399
- Number of theatre festivals in Iran related to DAC or other departments: 78 festivals
- Dispatching 5 troupes

Dramatic Arts Centre of Iran - Activities 2014–2015

Dramatic Arts Centre of Iran (DAC) holds and supports many annual and biennial national and international festivals and activities.

- Number of theatre productions in Iran: 5,764 performances
- Theatre audiences in Iran: 3,526,370 persons
- Number of theatres in Iran: 399
- Number of theatre festivals in Iran related to DAC or other departments: 87 festivals
- Dispatching 7 troupes

Executive Board
President: Mr Mahdy Shafiee
Director of International Affairs of DAC: Dr Mehrdad Rayani (PhD. FIATC. FDAC. MATD) Principal lecturer, Theatre Critic, Dramatist & Director

Contact Details
Iranian Center of ITI (Dramatic Arts Center of Iran), Vahdat Hall, Ostad Shahryar Street, Hafez Avenue, Tehran 1133915484 IRAN
Phone: +98 21 66708861
Fax: +98 21 66708861
Email: dramatic.artscenteriran@gmail.com and mehrdadrayani@yahoo.co.uk

The 34th Fajr International Theater Festival participating productions
Above: Mavlawi Puppet Opera directed by Behrouz Ghaelipour
Below left: Memories and Nightmares of the Dressman directed by Dr. Ali Rafiei
Below right: Crime and Punishment directed, written and designed by Mehrdad Afsharian

The 34th Fajr International Theater Festival participating productions
Above: Mavlawi Puppet Opera directed by Behrouz Ghaelipour
Below left: Memories and Nightmares of the Dressman directed by Dr. Ali Rafiei
Below right: Crime and Punishment directed, written and designed by Mehrdad Afsharian
**Activities**

**Iraq Centre of ITI (Asia/Pacific)**

The Iraq Centre of ITI held a festival for the theatre groups from outside the capital Baghdad in April 2015. We intend to hold another one in April 2017.

The Centre held two symposiums under the topic “The Future of the Iraqi Theatre”, the first was on 27 March 2014 and the second on 27 of March 2016.

Three members of the Centre participated in a workshop in Paris, rehearsing Sophocles’ Oreste with French and Belgian actors and actresses during July 2015.

The Centre published two versions of its periodical “Our Theatre”

The Iraq celebrates World Day Theatre every year.

The Centre could not participate in the past meeting of Arab Regional Council in Fujairah due to visa problems.

**The Board of the Iraq Centre of ITI**

Sami ABDULHAMEED, President
Dr. Ikbal NAEEM, Vice President
Dr. Haithem ABDULRAZAK, Secretary
Aziz KHAYOON, Artistic Director
Dr. Imad AL-KHAFAJ, Project Officer

**Activities 2014–2016**

**2015 Activities**

A Celebration of Irish Playwright Máiréad Ni Ghráda
Irish Theatre Institute and Project Arts Centre, Dublin, March 11, 2015 (Partners: Foras na Gaeilge)

To mark the 50th anniversary of the premiere production of the Irish language play ‘An Triail’ (22nd September 1964) and its English language version ‘On Trial’ (19th March 1965), Irish Theatre Institute celebrated the contribution of Irish playwright Máiréad Ni Ghráda to Irish theatre with a bilingual rehearsed reading of On Trial /An Triail, directed by BAFTA award-winning director Dearbhla Walsh, followed by a panel discussion examining the play and playwright in its theatrical and historical contexts. Irish Theatre Institute also launched a dedicated microsite featuring interesting details on the playwright’s life and plays alongside video interviews with number of artists involved in previous productions of Máiread’s work.

url: Ócáid Chomórtha | A Celebration of Máiréad Ní Ghráda

World Theatre Day 2015 Celebration
Irish Theatre Institute, 17 Eustace Street, Temple Bar, Dublin, March 27, 2015

PRIME, continuing professional development

Activities 2014–2016

**2015 Activities**

A Celebration of Irish Playwright Máiréad Ni Ghráda
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World Theatre Day 2015 Celebration
Irish Theatre Institute, 17 Eustace Street, Temple Bar, Dublin, March 27, 2015

PRIME, continuing professional development

Partners: Age & Opportunity / BEALTÉNE Festival

PRIME: Continuing Professional Development (CPD) was a new pilot programme introduced between May and September 2015 and designed to provide career supports and training opportunities for theatre practitioners aged 55 to 80 years.

The focus of the programme was on the following strands:

- Physical and Mental Well-being: comprising daily warm-up and exploration of other physical and mental practices e.g. Introduction to Pilates, yoga, mindfulness, voice workshops, Alexander Technique
- Entrepreneurial Skills / Managing Yourself and Sustaining Your Career: including advice and information on social welfare and pensions, financial planning, grant application writing, self promotion in a technical age and networking.
- Coaching Sessions & Case Studies: designed to support professional theatre artists to discover new ways of working, collaborating and resourcing their practice.
Activities

Irish Centre of ITI (Europe)

Attendance at the Prague Quadrennial (PQ215)

Prague, 18th – 28th June 2015 (Partners: Arts Council Ireland)

Irish Theatre Institute with the Arts Council Ireland Travel & Training Awards programme, supported 14 Irish or Irish-resident stage designers to attend and actively participate in Prague Quadrennial 2015. Programme Co-Ordinator, Ewa Senger, also attended to represent Irish Theatre Institute. An open call with a set of criteria was issued and grants awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The designers who received support to attend the 11th edition of the Prague Quadrennial in June for professional development purposes were:

• Frank Conway (set, costume)
• Paul O’Mahony (set)
• Io Conway (costume)
• Dendre Dwyer (set, costume)
• Lisa Zagone (set, costume)
• Eoin Winning (lighting)
• Liadan Kaminska (set, costume)
• Sabine Dargent (set, costume)
• Conreth White (set, lighting, video)
• Sarah Jane Shiel (set, costume, lighting)
• John Comiskey (set, lighting, video)
• Bö Tarrant (lighting)
• Munel Douglas (set, costume)
• Stephen Dodd (lighting, video)

10th Annual Information Toolbox

(Partners: Culture Ireland, Tiger Dublin Fringe Festival)

The 10th edition of ITI’s networking event for Tiger Dublin Fringe - Information Toolbox – took place on Friday 19th September in the Spiegeltent at Wolf Tone Square, Dublin. In attendance were 15 artists from 16 companies / productions; 44 presenters representing 37 venues and organisations from Ireland as well as 12 international delegates from Canada, Germany, Ireland, Taiwan, UK and USA. Information Toolbox continues to provide an ideal environment for Irish artists to pitch work to venues and festivals and begin a dialogue with key funding agencies and support organisations. 11 attenders registered and an estimated number of 60 meetings took place. url: Irish Theatre Institute’s 10th Information Toolbox

22nd International Theatre eXchange (ITX) 2015

Dublin city, Dublin Theatre Festival, October 2-3, (Partners: Culture Ireland, Dublin Theatre Festival)

Irish Theatre Institute’s programme of pitching, showcasing and networking brings together Irish theatre artists programmed as part of Dublin Theatre Festival and invited international presenters and producers from around the world. In advance of the 2016 commemorative year an emphasis was placed on extending invitation to centres of the Irish diaspora, notably Australia and the USA. Irish Theatre Institute identified organisations that have a genuine interest in Irish theatre and have the capacity and the resources to present Irish work in future. For the first time invitations were extended in partnership with Mid-America Arts Alliance and the New England Foundation for the Arts. url: Irish Theatre Institute’s 22nd International Theatre eXchange (ITX)

Inaugural Pheim Donlon Playwright’s Bursary and Residency 2015/2016

Partners: The Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakprik, Co Monaghan

Irish Theatre Institute (ITI) and the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakprik announced Fiona Doyle as the recipient of the inaugural Pheim Donlon Playwright’s Bursary & Residency 2015/2016. The award is named in honour of Pheim Donlon, former Drama Officer at the Arts Council and a dedicated member of the first Irish Theatre Institute PLAYOGRAPHYIreland Advisory Panel, in acknowledgement of his valued contribution to Irish theatre. The award was officially announced by Dr. Pat Donlon, former Director of National Library of Ireland and the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakprik during a celebratory event attended by Pheim’s family, friends and former colleagues on 3 December 2015.

Stage & Screen Design Ireland

Funders & Partners: Year of Design ID2015, Irish Film Board/Bord Scannán na hÉireann, Culture Ireland

On Tuesday December 8, Costume Designer and Emmy award-winner Joan Bergin launched the new book and website Stage & Screen Design Ireland

2016 Activities

Australian Performing Arts Market (APAM)

Partners: Culture Ireland

Irish Theatre Institute Co-Director Siobhán Bourke attended APAM 2016 (February 22-26) in Brisbane. Siobhán, together with Kris Nelson, Festival Director of Tiger Dublin Fringe Festival and Jen Coppinger, Producer hosted a Round Table session focusing on Irish Festivals and Programmes at the Australian Performing Arts Market.

Irish Playwright Commission

Partners: Dublin City Council, San Jose Stage California

This is a 1966 commemorative commission awarded under the Dublin City Council Public Art scheme. The recipient of this commission is writer, theatre-maker Donal O’Kelly. Irish Theatre Institute is working closely with its partners to support this project throughout 2016.

World Theatre Day Celebration

Following the success of the World Theatre Day celebration 2015, Irish Theatre Institute will once again host an event at the organisation’s offices at 17 Eustace Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2, on Thursday 24th March. This will be an opportunity for colleagues from the theatre sector to meet informally and read the World Theatre Day message together. A recording of this reading will be published alongside other videos on Irish Theatre Institute’s website following the event. url: Irish Theatre Institute’s website

NEW Activities

Irish Centre of ITI (Europe)

• Stephen Dodd (lighting, video)
• John Comiskey (set, lighting, video)
• Sabine Dargent (set, costume)
• Conreth White (set, lighting, video)
• Sarah Jane Shiel (set, costume, lighting)
• John Comiskey (set, lighting, video)
• Bö Tarrant (lighting)
• Munel Douglas (set, costume)
• Stephen Dodd (lighting, video)

Activities

Irish Centre of ITI (Europe)

FINDINGS REPORT

Activities

Irish Centre of ITI (Europe)

Activities

Irish Centre of ITI (Europe)

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Irish Centre of ITI (Europe)

Activities

Irish Centre of ITI (Europe)

Activities

Irish Centre of ITI (Europe)
by female playwrights and employment statistics on female directors and designers in professional theatre in Ireland across the timeframe 2000 – 2014. A public meeting was held at the Abbey Theatre on November 12, gathering many of those who became associated with the grassroots movement of #WakingTheFeminists.

url: http://www.irishplayography.com/

#WakingTheFeminists event – International Women’s Day 2016
Liberty Hall, Dublin; March 8, 2016
This special event continues the conversation since the public meeting held on 12th November 2015 at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. The event will feature presentations and speeches from guest speakers, discussion on the issues facing women in the Irish theatre sector and an update on the work being undertaken by #WakingTheFeminists.

url: #WakingTheFeminists

Irish Theatre Institute Board
Chair: Catriona Crowe, Head of Special Projects, National Archives of Ireland / Manager of Irish Census Online
Damian Downes, College Secretary and Registrar, National College of Art & Design
Margaret Kelleher, Professor of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama, University-College Dublin
Bernardine Maloney, Corporate Communications & Public Affairs Manager, ESB

Andrea Martin, Principal, MediaLawyer Solicitors
Gian O’Brien, Artistic Director; Project Arts Centre
Gavin Quinn, Artistic Director, Pan Pan

Irish Theatre Institute’s websites:
www.irishtheatreinstitute.ie
www.irishtheatreathe.ie
www.irishplayography.com

www.stageandscreendesignireland.ie

activities

Irish Centre of ITI (Europe)

Jenny Traynor  Director Limerick Dance House
Steve Wilmer  Theatre Academic

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Bernardine Maloney, Corporate Communications & Public Affairs Manager, ESB

Andrea Martin, Principal, MediaLawyer Solicitors
Gian O’Brien, Artistic Director; Project Arts Centre
Gavin Quinn, Artistic Director, Pan Pan

Irish Theatre Institute’s websites:
www.irishtheatreinstitute.ie
www.irishtheatreathe.ie
www.irishplayography.com

www.stageandscreendesignireland.ie

Activities Irish Centre of ITI (Europe)

Founded in 2012, ITI Italia’s partners include Teatro Vascello (Roma), Accademia Amiata Mutamenti (Grosseto), La Mama Umbria International (Spoleto), Teatro Aenigma (Pescara), Astragali Teatro-Eufonia società cooperativa (Lecce), along with sociologists, philosophers, experts in management and cultural communication. The Italian Centre’s objectives include internationalising the stage and building international partnerships for research, exchange, and co-production projects, aimed at fostering intercultural dialogue and peace, with work highly oriented towards relationship and exchange with the global network of National Centres.

Activities November-December 2014
1. ITI Italy took part as a partner in the international project “WALLS-Separate Worlds”, supported by the European Union Culture Program 2007-2013, with partners from Italy, France, Cyprus, Greece, Turkey. The project featured also the involvement of the International Theatre Institute Directorate General and of the Cyprus Centre of ITI as partners, and the German Centre of ITI as associated partner. The project carried out activities in Sirince-Turkey, Zakynthos-Greece, Paris-France, Berlin-Germany, Lecce-Italy and Nikosia-Cyprus, and each locale included international theatre residencies, site-specific performances, meetings, conferences. The project dealt with the wound of walls that are still present in our societies and affect our lives in many forms.
2. We organized the National Assembly of Theatre Critics that was held in Lecce (Italy) in November and saw the involvement of the majority of Italian theatre critics, the implementation of an international meeting on the activities of ITI with the participation of the German Centre of ITI. Furthermore performances, seminars, and round-tables were made.
3. Participated in two international conferences on artistic residences in Europe and in the world, organized by the member Accademia Amiata Mutamenti. The first within the frame of the Tuscania Festival, held in Castel del Piano. It featured the involvement of operators from the United States, Bangladesh, Germany, Greece, and Cyprus. The second residence is organized by ITI Italy in Mesagne with the participation of Italian theatre residences networks.
4. Were involved in an international theatre residency held in Spoleto on the topic of ‘Theatre and Social Change’, organized by the member LaMama Umbria, that featured the implementation of international performances and meetings.
5. Supported, and continues to support, the artistic residency realized at Teatro Pascelli in Lecce by Astragali Teatro, a member of ITI Italy, hosting many relevant performances and artists from Italy and abroad.

Activities 2015
1. Supported the ROMA-PROJECT 2015-2016, promoted by Astragali Teatro A research and performing arts project on Roma culture. The performance realized within the project was played on 8 April in Lecce, to celebrate the “Day of Roma and Semi culture”.

Activities Italian Centre of ITI (Europe)
Activities
Italian Centre of ITI (Europe)

2. World Theatre Day 2015 Celebration Organized and coordinated the Celebration of the World Theatre Day in Italy (Markovics’s message) with many initiatives (performances, readings) all over the national territory, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture. Within the WTD initiatives it supports the 2nd National Day of Theatre in Prisons, promoted by Aenigma association (member of ITI Italy), with the support of the Ministry of Defence. It features performances and workshops for and with detained people, and played in prisons all over the Italian territory. It provided the auspices to many artistic initiatives responding to the goals of ITI, among which the VI National Day of Commedia dell’Arte.

3. Was involved in the National Convention on ‘Theatre and Social Change’, organized by an Aenigma association member of ITI Italy, with the support of the Ministry of Culture, held in Urbino in December, which focused on theatre in prisons and theatre in conflict situations, ultimately exploring how theatre can promote social change.

4. Was a partner in METAMORPHOSIS-PROJECT, in Turin, Aug./Sept. 2016, and in Astragalì Teatro Lecce, workshops, roundtables and special meetings about “Theatre in conflict zones”). The project was focused around gender-based conflicts and the tragic situation of migrations in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

5. Many presentations of the book “Theatre in conflict zones” by Fabio Tolledi, President of ITI Italy, were made in order to raise awareness on theatre in conflict zones through the work of Astragalì in Palestine, Iraq, Syria and other areas in conflict.

Activities 2016
Scrivere il teatro (Writing theatre) Together with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture, the Italian Centre of ITI promoted the call for short plays ‘Scrivere il teatro’ (Writing theatre), addressed to schools of all levels and degrees in Italy. The selected plays were rewarded in a ceremony related to World Theatre Day, held on 16 March at Teatro Vascello in Rome, in the presence of Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture representatives, ITI representatives, students and artists. The World Theatre Day message of Anatoli Vassilev was read by a student. This initiative is made within the frame of the Ministry of Education Table on ‘School and Theatre’ (a strategic asset in the new Italian educational system) of which the Italian Centre is a member. Furthermore the message was sent to all the schools that responded to the call (almost 150), as well as to the artists and theatres.

Within the World Theatre Day initiatives the Centre supports the 3rd National Day of Theatre in Prisons, promoted by Aenigma association (a member of the Italian Centre), with the support of Ministry of Defence. We provided the auspices to many artistic initiatives related to the goals of ITI, among which was the VI National Day of Commedia dell’Arte.

Ellen Stewart International Award The Centre supported the Ellen Stewart International Award, an award given to an individual theatre artist or theatre company whose work promotes social change and community participation with a particular focus on the engagement of young people. Named for La MaMa founder Ellen Stewart, The International Award celebrates her remarkable lifetime achievements in the theatre and her dedication to creating a world theatre which embraces all traditions and cultural identities.

Roma-Project 2016 The Italian Centre supported the Roma-Project 2016, promoted by Astragalì Teatro and Dilinò and Freamproductions. A research and performing arts project on Roma culture. The performance realised within the project was played on 8 April in Lecce, to celebrate the ‘Day of Roma and Sinti culture’. The activities on 6-10 April, made in Rome and Lecce, included a rich calendar with round tables, meetings, photo exhibitions, videos, and music concerts, made in collaboration with the Roma camp community of Panarea (Lecc). These activities were promoted in collaboration with the International Centre of Interdisciplinary Studies on Migrations – University of Salento; Dipartimento di Storia, Società e Studi sull’Omon – University of Salento and several cultural and Roma associations.

Artistic Residency The Centre supported the artistic residency realized at Teatro Piazzello in Lecce by Astragalì Teatro, member of the Italian Centre, by hosting many relevant performances and artists from Italy and abroad.

Young People for the Social The Centre collaborated on the project ‘Young people for the social’, with activities and a theatre workshops addressed to young people with disabilities.

Metamorphosis Project We contributed to the Metamorphosis Project, that featured, the presentation of the site-specific international and multilingual performance ‘Metamorphosis’ in several towns in the South of Italy, made by Astragalì Teatro Lecce, with Tunisian, Bulgarian, Turkish, and Italian performers. The activities, made in collaboration with Tunisian cultural associations, included workshops, roundtables and special meetings about ‘Theatre in conflict zones’ as we aimed to raise awareness regarding the Tunisian situation, Euro-Mediterranean migration and gender issues.

Activities 2017
Alchemies - the Distillery Nicola De Giorgi The Centre promotes the long-term community-based project Alchemies - the Distillery Nicola De Giorgi, aiming at the creation of an international artistic residency space (the space of a former distillery) in a small town in the South of Italy, for social empowerment and community care through performing arts. The project aims to realise an international residence for artists in this unique site. It features the implementation of theatre Summer Schools, workshops, performances, and community-based actions. Artistic residencies for performing arts is a core issue for the Centre. Among the projects: P.A.I.R. with partner residences from Cyprus, Germany and Belgium, the current project Alchimie with the recovery of a former distillery factory as an international artistic residency and new seat for the Italian Centre of ITI.

WorkTable The Italian Centre of ITI is part of the WorkTable promoted by the Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR), aimed at defining strategies and practices to promote theatre, music, and dance in Italian schools. Along with MIUR and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism (MIABCT), it promotes the call for participation Scrivere il Teatro (Writing Theatre), addressed to all students of all
Italian schools (from primary to high school), for the creation of short theatre plays and the promotion of theatre culture in schools. From 2016-17 more than 200 schools took part in this initiative. In 2017 the educational project features also the involvement also of UNESCO Giovani (UNESCO for youth).

Theatrum Mundi

The Centre is currently a partner in the international project Theatrum Mundi, supported by the EU ‘Creative Europe Programme’. The project focuses on some forms of theatrical traditions present in the countries involved, such as Italian ‘comedy’, Ancient Greek Drama, the storytelling tradition, and the meaning of these traditional theatre forms in contemporary multicultural urban contexts. The project features the implementation of a range of artistic activities, based on international mobility, exchange of artists and works of art as well as on audience development actions that are combined with a participatory research. Activities aim to improve artist’s professionalism and careers through the co-working between artists and cultural operators with diverse theatrical backgrounds and languages; involve the audiences in new enriching experiences, and bring them closer to artists. The activities are realized in Italy, Greece, Netherlands, and France. Main project outputs are: an international performance, presented and toured in the 4 countries; a series of audience development actions; a multimedia platform, including research results, artistic activities materials, archives; a publication on the participatory research and actions; a video on project actions.

Activities

Italian Centre of ITI (Europe)

Left: Roma Project, a research and performing arts project on Romani culture

Information

Website: https://italiancentre.wordpress.com/
Facebook: International Theatre Institute ITI - Centro Italiano

Office bearers: Roberta QUARTA (Responsible for International Projects and Relations), Ivano GORGONI (Organizer), Simonetta ROTUNDO (Educator), Marina COLUCCI (Webdesigner and Communication)

Board: Fabio TOLLEDI (President), Vincenzo Antonio TOTO (Vice-President), Giorgio ZORCU’ (Secretary).

Report submitted by: Roberta QUARTA (Responsible for International Projects and Relations)

Japanese Centre of ITI (Asia/Pacific)

Activities 2014 – 2016

2014
December
• Theatre Born in Conflict Zones, Series 6

2015
March
• Publication of Theatre Yearbook 2015
• The 2nd Grand Prix of Theatre Reviews by High School Students

June
• General Meeting of ITI Japanese Centre

July-October
• 9 lectures, in collaboration with Setagaya Public Theatre and Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre

August
• Reading Performance: These Children’s Summer 1945, Hiroshima Nagasaki

December
• Theatre Born in Conflict Zones, Series 8

2016
January
• Distribution of ITI Newsletter #126

February
• Arranging a Hayachine Kagura Troupe production at Fujairah International Arts Festival to introduce Japanese traditional performing arts. Also arranged a Festival to introduce Japanese traditional performing arts.

March
• Publications of Theatre Yearbook 2016
• Participated in the Asian-Pacific Regional Meeting of ITI in Guangzhou, China

July
• Lecture: Japanese Theatre professionals abroad; Series 6, Guest: Hara Sachiko (Actress), Deutsches Schauspielhaus Hamburg

August
• Reading Performance: These Children’s Summer 1945, Hiroshima Nagasaki

December
• Theatre Born in Conflict Zones, Series 8

2017
January
• Distribution of the ITI Newsletter #127

March
• Publications of Theatre Yearbook 2017

Activities 2014 – 2016

2014
December
• Theatre Born in Conflict Zones, Series 6. This is an annual event for introducing plays from abroad through translation, staged readings and talks. This event is also related to the publication of the Theatre Yearbook.

2015
March
• Publication of Theatre Yearbook 2015
• The 2nd Grand Prix of Theatre Reviews by High School Students

June
• General Meeting of ITI Japanese Centre

July-October
• 9 lectures, in collaboration with Setagaya Public Theatre and Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre

August
• Reading Performance: These Children’s Summer 1945, Hiroshima Nagasaki

December
• Theatre Born in Conflict Zones, Series 8

2017
January
• Distribution of the ITI Newsletter #127

March
• Publications of Theatre Yearbook 2017

Activities of the Japanese Centre. Right below: Workshop group photo with Ali Mahdi Nouri
Activities 2015 - 2016

Activities 2015
World Theatre Day 2015 Celebration
ITI, Jordan celebrated World Theatre Day at the Royal Cultural Centre and it was organized by “Ro’a’a” Independent Theatre Company. The event featured a play produced by Ro’a’a entitled “Wmubaher”, tackling the subject of the unrest and unknown future of the region. Directed by Nadera Omran. The World Theatre Day Message was read by Nadera Omran and translated to Arabic by Lina Attel.

International Dance Day 2015 Celebration
Dance Exchange Workshop, National Centre for Culture and Arts, 7 March 2015
NCCA, in cooperation with King’s Academy and Amman National School, held a world dance exchange workshop in contemporary, partnering, and character dance for 70 dancers from high schools and the NCCA dance department. The workshop was conducted by Rania Kamhawi, Waseem Al-razaz, Sevetlana Tahboub and Ryuji Yamaguchi.

The Amman Contemporary Dance Festival (ACDF)
14 – 25 April 2015
The 7th Amman Contemporary Dance Festival organized by Rania Kamhawi from NCCA hosted five International Companies from Switzerland, the United States, the United Kingdom, Spain and Norway.

34th Annual International Arab Youth Congress
3 – 9 August 2015, Amman – Jordan
Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, NCCA in cooperation with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and UNFPA held the congress under the theme “Investing in Young People as Agents of Positive Change for Human Development”, 150 youth age (13-17) from UAE, Pakistan, Tunisia, Sudan, Serbia, Iraq, Palestine, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Holland and Jordan participated in Music, Dance and Drama workshops that culminated into a performance presented at the closing ceremony at the Palace of Culture in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein.

NCCA was appointed by UNFPA to act as Y-PEER International Center for Youth Development
Monday May 11th, 2015
The Y-PEER International Center for Youth Development is a product of a unique collaboration between UNFPA, Y-PEER and the National Centre for Culture and Arts in Amman Jordan. The Center aims to be a pillar in promoting youth development and leadership. The Center provides training in theatre arts accredited by ITI, intervention in humanitarian settings, project management and civic engagement. The Center provides training in theatre arts accredited by ITI, intervention in humanitarian settings, project management and civic engagement. The Center provides training in theatre arts accredited by ITI, intervention in humanitarian settings, project management and civic engagement.

The arts activities were performed by NCCA in cooperation with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and UNFPA. The Center includes a UNFPA funded project known as “Agents of Positive Change for Human Development”, funded by the European Union.

Touring of the Interactive Play “Intersection”
Produced by NCCA, funded by the European Union
The play promotes coexistence and social cohesion between Syrian refugees and local communities, performed by NCCA National Interactive Theatre Troupe and 2 Syrian actors. “Intersection” toured to 20 areas in Jordan as well as Lebanon and Sweden.

Empowering Young Jordanian Women
Effective Participation in the Workforce (phase 2)
Funded by the Norwegian Embassy
The play promotes coexistence and social cohesion between Syrian refugees and local communities, performed by NCCA National Interactive Theatre Troupe and 2 Syrian actors. “Intersection” toured to 20 areas in Jordan as well as Lebanon and Sweden.

Our Culture... Our Identity
Funded by the European Union
To raise awareness to protect and preserve Syrian cultural heritage amongst young generation

Activities 2016 – 2017
Arts for Active Citizens “Artivism” Phase 1 & 2
Funded by British Council
• 150 young trainees, aged 18 to 30 trained in using arts for development and micro-project management.
• 6 projects selected and implemented by the participants.
• NCCA and British Council held an exhibition to showcase the local impact of the Social Action Projects (SAPs) on communities and use of creative models for community engagement and self-expression.
• The National Interactive Theatre Troupe performed “Iftalwazn” at the Grand Millennium Hotel in celebration of Jordan Activism event
• Visit Exchange to London.

Activities 2016 – 2017
Arts for Active Citizens “Artivism” Phase 3
Funded by the Norwegian Embassy
• Identified 20 emerging Jordanian and Syrian artists
• Conducted a creative writing skills workshop to develop monologues
• Conducted an interactive theatre techniques workshop including improvisation, role playing, voice and speech.
• Design and printing of monologues
• Dissemination of monologues to community centres
• Held a performance/play reading of the monologues in December at 3 locations

Empowering Young Jordanian Women towards Effective Participation in the Workforce (Phase 3)
Funded by the Norwegian Embassy
• 12 participants (7 female, 5 male) trained in interactive theatre techniques and formed Community Based Theatre Troupe (CBTT) to address women's role in the workforce (Irbid).
• NITT performed 4 performances in November in Amman and Irbid

Empowering Young Jordanian Women towards Effective Participation in the Workforce
Funded by the NGO Fontainebleau
• Conducted an interactive workshop entitled “Arab citizenship in the Arab world: How one defines oneself?”
• Conducted an interactive theatre techniques workshop including improvisation, role playing, voice and speech.
• Conducted a creative writing skills workshop to develop monologues
• Conducted an interactive theatre techniques workshop including improvisation, role playing, voice and speech.
• Design and printing of monologues
• Dissemination of monologues to community centres
• Held a performance/play reading of the monologues in December at 3 locations

Activities of the Jordanian Centre of ITI (Arab Countries)
The 35th annual International Arab Youth Congress
8 to 9 August 2016, Amman, Jordan

- 130 young participants aged 18 to 27 from United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Tunisia, Kosovo, Iraq, Palestine, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Holland and Jordan, participated in the 35th International Arab Youth Congress, under the theme “Innovation and Leadership”. A workshop was held under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein in partnership with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Ministry of Education. https://youtu.be/GgFp0XF7CM4

- The IAYC is a thematic event that utilizes creative activities to tackle global issues impacting the lives of youth. This year’s theme, “Innovation and Leadership” was selected in light of the prevailing transformations and challenges the world is facing politically, economically and socially and their impact on human life. Our aim through the activities of the congress is to enhance analytical thinking, decision making skills, respect of cultural diversity and to foster human values of love and cooperation.

- The delegates participated in creative workshops lead by professional artists including drama, dance, music and song, and visual Arts. https://youtu.be/VZ6jU7Q0gJg

- Each delegation presented a performance for 5 minutes at “the International Artistic performances” representing their national heritage and culture. https://youtu.be/9QZ6sJU7Q0g

- The event also featured a song by the guests of honor H.E. Mr. Muhamad Assaf UNRWA Goodwill Ambassador and the Jordanian Singer Ms. Farah Siraj.

Jordan Theater Festival 2016 – Ministry of Culture
From 14 to 24 November, at the Royal Cultural Center

- Featured 20 performance from 8 countries: Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Palestine, Oman and Jordan

- Sawsan Darwaza, Jordan, ITI president was in the Higher Committee of the festival

Creativity Children Festival 2016 – Ministry of Culture
From 22 to 31 August at the Royal Cultural Center

- Under the theme “Protection of Children from Violence and Extremism”

- Featured 5 performances from Jordan and 4 performances from Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia, and Palestine

- Lina Attel, Jordan, ITI Secretary General was in the Higher Committee of the festival

The board members of the National Centre of Culture and Arts (NCCA)
H.E. Mr. Nader Al LOOI
H.E. Dr. Adnan BADERAN
H.E. Ms. Laila SHARAF
Sawsan DARWAZA, President of the Jordan Centre of ITI
Lina ATTEL, Secretary General of the Jordan Centre of ITI

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P.O. Box 926687
Amman – Jordan
https://www.youtube.com/user/packhf
https://twitter.com/Packhf
https://www.facebook.com/NICCA.KHF
Activities
Kosovo Centre of ITI (Europe)

Activities 2014-2017
To the present, ITI Kosovo has had a great deal of cooperation with a lot of artistic and cultural institutions in Kosovo, as well as with other institutions in the region and globally.

Activities 2014
World Theatre Day Celebration in Pristina, with:
- Media Conference, Message of Brett Bailey, translated and read in the Albanian language
- Radio and TV interviews
- Young theatre makers perform excerpts of plays from ancient to modern playwrights
- Distributing flyers with the World Theatre Message

Activities 2015
• Premiere of “Twin Clowns” in the National Theater
• Media Conference, Prishtina

Activities 2016
• First International Festival of Arts in Fujairah, 2016, United Arab Emirates
• The International Festival of Monodrama in Kosovo “MonoAKT”, Peja, Kosovo 2016. The Worbling” – Premiere of Festival

Activities 2017
• Theatre Festival “Flaka e Janarit”, (“January Blaze”) in Kosovo. Mentor Zymberaj awarded with prize – best actor of the festival, with mono performance “Actor in the box”

Activities 2014
• The International Festival of Monodrama in Kosovo
• Fujairah International Monodrama Festival (guests conferences and awards
• Participation in international festivals, forums, conferences and awards

Activities 2015
• Premiere of “Twin Clowns” in the National Theater

Activities 2016
• Premiere of “Twin Clowns…!!”
• Premiere of Festival

Activities 2017
• Media Conference, Pristina
• Premiere “Anonymous Venice”

Participation in international festivals, forums, conferences and awards
- Balkanian Theatre Festival in Bursa, Turkey. With “Trojan Women”
- The International Festival of Monodrama in Kosovo “MonoAKT”, Peja, Kosovo. With “Trojan Women” & “Twin Clowns…!!”
- The International Festival of Monodrama “Twin Clowns in the Stage”, Trencin, Slovakia. With “Amok”
- “Scream”, O. Plaku, 30. Avgust 2016,
- “The Worbling”. Mentor Zymberaj – Premiere of Festival

Activities 2017
• First International Festival of Arts in Fujairah (President and General Secretary of the Kosovo Centre were invited to the Festival and the meeting of the International Monodrama Forum)
• “The Worbling”, Mentor Zymberaj – Premiere of Festival “MonoAKT”, Theatre “Istref Begolli”, Peja,
• “Scream”, O. Plaku, 30. August 2016,
• Day of the Disappeared in the World, Premiere in the Stage “Art Design”, Peja

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Participation in international festivals, forums, conferences and awards
Activities
Kosovo Centre of ITI (Europe)

General Remarks about the Kosovo Centre
• The ITI Centre of Kosovo, over the past years has collaborated with young artists from all over Kosovo, including minority communities (Roms, Ashkali, Egyptians, Serbs) etc. In the “Drama Colony”. Kosovino is represented by Kushtrim Mehmeti, during the activity Mehmeti introduces the “The Liar” monodrama, among the artistic experiences there is inspiration for the regional cooperation where there were participations from countries such as Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia and Macedonia.

• The involvement of minority communities as an added value of Kosovar society is the goal of the Centre of Kosovo, from many artists Fisnik Syka is distinguished and exceptional for participating in international festivals in countries like Colombia, Austria, Uganda and Rwanda, he forms a group of actors of minority communities and works in continuous cooperation and reserved support for ITI.

• The club of artists “Cult Club” in collaboration with ITI is already creating the “Summer Cult” festival in which is promoted the street’s art and also other theatre mediums. Unlike many other festivals Summer Cult is close to the public and engages them constantly in performance.

• The Kosovo Centre has excellent cooperation with the Faculty of Arts in Prishtina and from this cooperation we highlight some of the activities briefly:

1) Theatre worker, presentation of “Periods and styles”
2) Theatrical carnival, a number of more than 30 actors with different characters of the world drama come to the squares of the capital informing the people about their culture, the activity is still ongoing and has marked a great success in achieving the objectives, ITI and Beyond the Wall intend to expand the activity in other municipalities as well.
3) Mitrix culture in support of ITI develops theatre forum with young actors in all municipalities of Kosovo. Mariona Bektelli-Ferati part of northern Mitrovica inhabited by Serbian community, through the forum theater has achieved to unite in one place all communities performing their individual and social experiences through the forum theater.
4) Pro Art’s Creative has a number of the 114 young artists who successfully create future generations under the constant care of ITI and Mehmet Preteni, who comes from the Bosnian community. Preteni except plays organizes other drama workshop where young people get acquainted with writing a drama.

5) Kosovo Centre supports young people who aim to travel with their performances around the world: through ITI’s support, young artists traveled to countries like Macedonia, Croatia, Belgium, Uganda, Rwanda, Norway, Bulgaria, etc.

6) In continuous support, ITI has also created a phenomenon of the modern theatrical reality “Authors theatre as a phenomenon of the modern theatrical reality”.

The boundaries of interpretation. The Forum is dedicated to the 70th anniversary of UNESCO.

Activities 2014-2017

Activities
Latvian Centre of ITI (Europe)

Activities 2015

World Theatre Day 2015 Celebration
• Celebration of World Theatre Day with the reading of the translated message by Krzysztof Warlikowski.

Activities 2016

World Theatre Day 2016 Celebration
• Celebration of World Theatre Day with the reading of the translated message by Anatoli Vassiliev.

International Dance Day 2015 Celebration
On the International Dance Day free and open workshops on contemporary dance were held at the I-Deja house in Riga, accompanied by events in Sigulda and other cities.

International Dance Day 2016 Celebration
On the International Dance Day free and open workshops on contemporary dance were held at the Latvian Academy of Culture in Riga.

Activities 2017

Activities 2016

International Monodrama festival 2016

Activities 2017

International Theatre festival, Sirenos 2016 Vilnius, Lithuania.

Participation
• International Theatre festival, Sirenos 2016 Vilnius, Lithuania.

International Exchange
• International Theatre festival, Sirenos 2016 Vilnius, Lithuania.

Participation
• International Theatre festival, Sirenos 2016 Vilnius, Lithuania.

Activities 2016

International Dance Day 2016 Celebration
On International Dance Day free and open workshops on contemporary dance were held at the Latvian Academy of Culture in Riga.

Participation
• Fujairah International Arts Festival and Fujairah International Monodrama festival 2016

International Dance Day 2016 Celebration On International Dance Day free and open workshops on contemporary dance were held at the Latvian Academy of Culture in Riga.
Activities
Latvian Centre of ITI (Europe)

Planning
Preparations for the 1st Asian Festival in Riga 2018

Activities 2017
World Theatre Day 2017 Celebration
• Celebration of World Theatre Day with the reading of the translated message by Isabelle Huppert.
• A commemorative letter was sent to the Latvian theatres and media outlets.
• A ceremony of Special Theatre Awards was held at the Eduard Smilgis Theatre Museum in Riga on the 27th of March.
• The World Theatre Day was celebrated by all Latvian theatres, featuring special performances and events.

International Dance Day 2017 Celebration
Celebration of International Dance Day with the reading of the translated message by Trisha Brown.

International Exchange
• Recommended Latvian performances to be invited to 2017 International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama.
• Recommended Latvian performances to be invited to 2017 China CEEC Culture Season.

Planned Participation
• International Theatre Festival Varna, Bulgaria 2017
• Sibiu Performing Arts Market and Sibiu International Theatre Festival 2017. Sibiu, Romania.
Activities Macedonian FYROM Centre of ITI (Europe)

Activities 2015 - 2016

Activities 2015

The Macedonian FYROM Center of ITI is still in its pioneering stage.

World Theatre Day 2015 Celebration

The Macedonian theatre artist of the year 2015 is the theatre director Nela Vitosevic, a young, talented, active, and outspoken person. She wrote the national message talking about the damages made by political parties and the resulting imbalance of the creation of art in theatre that favours the rise of mediocre performances with symbolic self-censorship. It pushes away the audience by making the theatrical arts pointless.

The international message by Krzysztof Warlikowski was translated into Macedonian by Nela Vitosevic. www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.896531927056522.1073741850.697139220328826&type=3

International Dance Day 2015 Celebration

Igor Kirov was the Macedonian dancer and choreographer who wrote the national message. His attitude toward the art of dance is that it must be full of life, full of breath, full of passion and honesty. The international message by Israel Galván was translated into Macedonian by Ivana Stojkovska. www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.193134485195946.1073748571.697139220328826&type=3

Drama Colony / Theatre Workshop: Shakespeare Sonnets

In collaboration with the Croatian Centre of ITI and the National Theatre Bitola, 22 to 28 July 2015,

Workshop Shakespeare Sonnets

Lecturer: Randall Martin (Canada)

Participants/Colaborators

Biljana Krajsčić, Dramaturgist, Macedonian National Theatre MNT Bitola Jovan Ristovski, Theatre Director, MNT Bitola Angelcho Ilievski, Theatre Director, MNT Bitola Mima Rustanovski, Playwright / Dramaturgist, Croatian Ivan Stojkovska, Performer / Social Scientist

Actors / Actresses / Directors, MNT Bitola

www.facebook.com/theatrabitola?fref=photo

Actors / Actresses / Directors, MNT Bitola

Facebook

www.facebook.com/ITI-Macedonian-Center-of-International-Theatre-Institute-697139220328826

Actors / Actresses / Directors, MNT Bitola

Workshop Program

23 July 2015

Lecture by Prof. Martin Randall (Academic)

Working with Mitchell Thomas (Actor And Director)

24 July 2015

Working with Ivan Ristovski (Theatre Director)

Working with Angelcho Ilievski (Theatre Director)

25 July 2015

Performing in Ohrid with Antony and Cleopatra by John Blondell (Ohrid Summer Festival, 2015)

26 July 2015

Working with Jeff Mills (Actor and Director)

Final Workshop

www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.952705681478574.107374858.697139220328826&type=3

Activities 2016

The Macedonian Centre is in the process of preregistration: New address, new chapters, new elections (2017-2020).

Executive Board

Ivanka Apostolova, Head

Igor Panev, General Secretary

Program Board

Kristina Pesева-Dimovska (Opera Section)

Oliver Balaburski (Opera Section)

Dejan Poshev (Opera Section)

Biljana Galvaninova (Film Section)

Ines Efremova (Visual/Performing Arts Section)

Velimir Zemrovi (Visual/Performing Arts Section)

Arija Stopanovska (Theatre Section)

Kristina Trajanovska (Theatre Section)

Milos Andonovski (Theatre Section)

Traje Georgiev (Theatre Section)

Vasil Mihail (Theatre Section)

Dance Board

Biljana Tanuzovska (Performing Art Festivals)

Ivana Kovcevska (Dance)

Sonja Dzeparska (Education)

Aleksandra Mijalkova (Dance)

Iska Shukatova (Dance Education)

Kire Mladinovski (Dance)

Facebook

www.facebook.com/ITI-Macedonian-Center-of-International-Theatre-Institute-697139220328826

Activities Mexican Centre ITI (Americas)

Activities 2015 - 2016

2014 November

V International Fair of Theatre (1-7 Nov): Presentation of the best companies from the National Meeting Lovers of Theatre in several cities in the state of Chapas.

The Mexican delegation participated in the 34th World Congress of ITI in Yerevan, Armenia, and included Master Isabel Quintanar, Sonia Enriquez, Ramón Verdugo and Raúl Quiñónez who contributed to different committees.

December

The General Convention of the Mexican Centre was held at the El Granero Theatre in Mexico City on 8 December, where Master José Solé was honoured with the status of Honorary Member of ITI, as bestowed by the World Congress in Yerevan.

2015 January

XXVII National Meeting Lovers of Theatre (9-26 Jan): Theatre Julio Jimenez Rueda in Mexico City hosted presentations by 18 companies from around Mexico, with an overall attendance of 18,000.

March-April

World Season for Performing Arts, Quetzalcóatl 2015, including the celebration of the International Theatre Day for Children and Young People, the International Puppets Day, the World Theatre Day and the International Dance Day.

21 March International Theatre Day for Children and Young People, ASSITEL, Mexico, where a Children’s Theatre Marathon took place in five scenic spaces of the Centro Cultural del Bosque del INBA, Mexico City.

21 March International Puppet Day, with a Puppets’ Parade and presentation of artworks in public spaces in the historical centre of Mexico City.

21-28 March Celebrations for the World Theatre Day occurred in several states of the Mexican Republic.

The National Theatre Fair of Toluca was organized by the Mexican Centre of ITI in the state of Mexico.

World Theatre Day, Mexican Centre ITI and UNESCO, Theatre El Galeón, Mexico City: included the presentation of the work “Hijas Picadas” by Mario Picachi, starring actress Terena Solma; an award of the Medal “Mi Vida en el Teatro” (My life in the Theatre) to the Venezuelan and Mexican actress Terena Solma and readings of the Messages of the International Theatre Day for Children and Young People, the International Puppets Day, the World Theatre Day and the International Dance Day.

29 April International Dance Day was celebrated in several states and venues across the country.

August

On 22 August, the XI Taller de Dramaturgia Comunitaria Mexicana (XI Dramatic Art Workshop Mexican Community), organised by CIDA, took place.
Activities

Mexican Centre ITI (Americas)

Occurrences were coordinated by the UNESCO representative in Mexico, placing special emphasis on the relation with the Mexican Centre of ITI. It took place in Fortress of Chapultepec Castle, Mexico City.

From 22-25 October, the XI Festival of Mexican Communal Dramatists took place on the theme “Homenaje a pueblos en extinción” (Tribute to villages toward extinction), organised by the CIDC. This took the form of the presentation of written works in the Dramatic Communal Mexican Art Workshop in Amecameca, Mexico State.

The Mexican ITI Centre visited the City of Cajeme, Sonora from 30 October to 2 November, and celebrated the 10 year anniversary of the career of Master Carlos Valenzuela in the theatre of Sonora.

2016

January

From 8-31 January, the XXVII National Meeting of Lovers of Theatre took place in Theatre Julio Jiménez Rueda, with 54 companies from across Mexico, and an audience of 22,000.

March

World Season for Performing Arts, Quetzaltenco 2016

• 19 March: The official celebration of World Theatre Day was organised by the Mexican Centre of ITI and the National School of Theatrical Art in the National Centre of Arts, presenting several works from across the country in 5 public spaces simultaneously, including the best works from the National Meeting Lovers of Theatre 2016.

• The Children and Youth Theatre Marathon marked International Theatre Day for Children and Young People, organised by the Mexican Centre of ITI and ASSITI in the Centro Cultural del Bosque.

And acknowledged the participation of playwrights in the workshop from 28 February to 8 August.

October to November

The 70th anniversary of UNESCO was celebrated and organised by the UNESCO representative in Mexico, placing special emphasis on the relation with the Mexican Centre of ITI. It took place in Fortress of Chapultepec Castle, Mexico City.

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December 2016

We present the 25th edition of the magazine TEATRO at Teatro El Granero Mexico City. It includes ten articles of different authors. It is distributed for free.

That day the Mexican Centre of ITI held its General Assembly and elected the vice-presidents of our General Assembly, Mario Ficachi replaced Renato de la Riva.

2017

January 2017

Created and organized the XXXI National Encounter of Theatre Lovers at Jiménez Rueda theatre, January 7-31. With 37 companies from all over the country and an audience of approximately 25,000.

March 2017

As Part of the World Season of the Scenic Arts Quetzaltenco 2017

• World Theatre Day For Children And Young Adults
  • Marathon of 40 performances ON March 18th at Cultural Centre “Del Bosque”. We celebrate this day with its message.

International Puppet Day

On Sunday March 19 UNIMA Mexico headed a parade in celebration of the art of Puppetry at Azcapotzalco which is a traditional and ancient pre-Hispanic district of Mexico, as an intervention with artists to promote the union and peace between all the cultures of the world. Its message too was disseminated nationwide.

World Theatre Day

• On March 25 the Mexican Centre and the National School of Theatrical Art celebrate the WTD with many activities at the National Centre of Arts, conferences, performances and workshops.

• March 27 the Mexican Centre held the Gala for awarding various personalities with the medal “My Life in Theatre” and the Prize “El Atrio de Theatre in Mexico” as well as a Posthumous Homage for
Mr. José Solé, at Julio Castillo Theatre in Mexico City. The message by Isabelle Huppert was disseminated nationwide.

International Dance Day
With the diffusion and mention of Trisha Brown and her message, we celebrated with many dance spectacles at different places to raise the profile of the event.

Board
Isabel QUINTANAR, President
Medardo TREVIÑO, Vice-President
Mario Ficachi, Vice-President
César Christo MUÑOZ, Secretary General

Report submitted by
César Christo MUÑOZ (Secretario General)
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Activities
Mexican Centre ITI (Americas)

Activities
Mongolian Centre ITI (Asia/Pacific)

2015 Activities
ITI Mongolia Centre and “Saint Muse Academy” organized “Saint Muse 12” International Theatre Festival (May 17-23) - that awards the best theatrical works and artists - in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Artists from Mongolia, Russia, Germany, Switzerland, South Korea, Kosovo, Estonia, Buryatia of Russian Federation and Inner Mongolia of People’s Republic of China participated in the festival in the categories of ‘Musical drama’, ‘Children’s play’, and ‘Monodrama’. There were 21 performances in these three genres competing with each other to win the awards for best artists and the Grand Prix for the best performance. Plays like “King Galdan Boshigt” (Mongolia), “Wind of the Past” (Buryatia), “Black Silk Vest” (Inner Mongolia), and “Open Couple” (Mongolia) were performed in the genre of ‘musical drama’. In the category of children’s play, the performances of “The Twelve Months”, “Naughty Wolf-puppy Who Hid the Moon”, “After”, and “Aladdin’s Lamp” were premiered to the Mongolian audience. In the monodrama category, Elmaz Nura (Kosovo) received the award for best director; M. Boroldoi (Mongolia) took the award for best scenographer; and Nikolai Gorokhov (Russia) and D.Oyunzul (Mongolia) won the awards for best actor and best actress respectively. The Grand Prix of the festival was awarded to the artists who participated in the performance “King Galdan Boshigt”, the historical musical drama.

“Saint Muse 12” International Theatre Festival organized the “Mono Days” event as an integral part of the festival that included two separate trainings for professional artists. The first training was conducted by Mentor Zymberaj, President of ITI Kosovo Centre and the director of “MonoAkt” festival in Kosovo. Mentor Zymberaj participated in the “Saint Muse 10” International Theatre Festival with his play “Actor in a Box” and won the award for best actor. He conducted the training on “Acting and directing of monodrama”. The second training was led by Nina Mazur, the vice-president of ITI’s Monodrama Forum and a member of ITI’s German Centre. She has also worked as the jury member for the festival. She conducted a training on “How to Write a Monodrama”.

Besides the trainings, ITI Mongolia Centre and Saint Muse Academy organized an event to introduce the idea of ‘Ger Theatre’ to provide a glimpse into the Mongolian traditional art and culture. More information and photos of the previous festival can be found at: https://www.facebook.com/gegeenmuza/?fref=ts, https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100003617073607&fref=ts.

Saint Muse 13 International Theatre Festival is scheduled for May 1-7, 2016. Besides organizing this festival, ITI Mongolia Centre is undergoing some structural changes and is moving forward to involve more of the young artists in its activities.

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Saint Muse 13 International Theatre Festival is scheduled for May 1-7, 2016. Besides organizing this festival, ITI Mongolia Centre is undergoing some structural changes and is moving forward to involve more of the young artists in its activities.
Activities 2014-2016

The Philippine Centre of ITI uniquely works in close coordination with all its committees for synergized national and international activities that are linked to the UN family and other private sector partners in its dynamic use of theatre and its electronic off-springs to reach millions in an initiative to strengthen artistic activities while promoting a culture of social justice, peace and sustainable development. This has been possible because of the ITI President and Director of Earthsavers UNESCO DREAM Centre, Cecilia Guidote-Alvarez through her dynamic leadership of instituting Cultural Caregiving Services to vulnerable groups, performances and complementary broadcast and theatre repertoire.

Since Yerevan, all the proposals of the ITI Centre have been fulfilled or are in the process of execution. The Philippine Centre has highlighted International Theatre Institute in the global arena. Philippine ITI President has been personally invited by the UNESCO Theatre Institute in the global arena. Philippine ITI Centre through its Secretary General, Dr. Hugan Cruz, organized the competition with 31 entries from all the continents. Members of the jury included Dr. Cruz with International Theatre Institute Director-General, Tobias Bancroft and IFP President, Andrea Zagorski.

The winner from Slovenia, Barbara Anderič, came to Paris and was presented with the UNISDR prize. She was also interviewed at the official UN Media Centre. Joining Mrs. Guidote-Alvarez was CDC Social Change Network Vice-President, Viktor Sebek of Colombia, Pakistan CEO of Climate Institute, Nasir Khattak, Kenya Presidential Adviser, Ali Mohamed; and Tzu Chi Foundation Vice-President, Debra Bordeaux. The international panel was chaired by Philippine Climate Change Commissioner Heiserson T. Alvarez

At the COP21 Conference in Paris, the ITI-Earth Savers booth was hailed as “the most colourful and a big hit” in showcasing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through paintings and poetry of handicapable artists and digital arts creation by out-of-school youth. The booth also featured video performances of the Earthsavers Ensemble with the Seoul Institute of the Arts copped by relevant messages with songs by Mr. Peter Yarrow from the famous folk-singing group Peter, Paul and Mary.

Philippines had the unique distinction to mark the UN Day for Persons with Disability on the 3rd of December 2015 where Mrs. Guidote-Alvarez was interviewed at COP21 by the Climate Change Studio, besides being selected as the lone Southeast Asian panelist in a UNESCO Headquarters ceremonial panel discussion of inclusivity and connectivity led by UNESCO Director-General Bokova.

All these are accessible in the UN archive. The link below is attached:

December 5, 2015 Link

December 3, 2015
COP21: Cecilia Guidote-Alvarez (International Day for Persons with Disability)

Paris was successful in forging the global deal for survival of humanity and planet earth but the task of fulfilling the agreement to prevent Armageddon can be undertaken by a creative army of artists-teachers in the ITI to conscientize, inform and motivate about the collective action required to affirm life. Thus, in Manaus, Brazil, it is planned to give a dramatic reading of the global warming play on climate change “A Continental Divide”

Throughout the year, the committees are active. CDC-Social Change Network with the Communications Committee runs our multi-awarded Raady Balintataw of classics and contemporary plays from different parts of the world and original soap opera on relevant themes like women’s rights, air pollution, drugs, the plight of indigenous communities, the elderly and other health issues. We have introduced plays translated in our language from Cyprus, China, the Arab monodrama winning plays, Nigeria, Mexico, India, Indonesia, Korea, Chekhov, Shakespeare and Strindberg.

The Music Theatre Committee chaired by Gardy Labad has experimented with music drama in a cockpit site. Musical theatre on history, like the Japanese occupation and the life of Pope Francis, has been presented these past 2 years. Opera is kept alive by co-chair Fides Cuypers Asensio. We have held a broadcast competition to keep alive a native music theatre tradition, the Kundiman.

The Educational Theatre Committee chaired by Nick Lizaos, also a member of the board, is assisted by Arthur Cassano in colleges and communities. Monodrama has been popularized by our Committee Chair, Fray Paolo Casurao, who brings it to the community including prisons complemented by creative industry workshops to generate livelihood. A competition for monodrama is planned in the mid-year.

Festivals are organized by every province and city featuring their foremost industry or product. The Bambanti Festival in the province of Isabela features their foremost industry or product. The Bambanti Festival in the province of Isabela including prisons complemented by creative industry workshops to generate livelihood. A competition for monodrama is planned in the mid-year.

Left: Cecile Guidote Alvarez with the Director General of UNESCO and other UNESCO Artists for Peace

Right: Cecile Guidote Alvarez and the Earthsavers.
activities
philippine centre iti (asia/pacific)
the action at COP22

Cecile Guidote Alvarez in action at COP22

coordinated by Nilo Agustin was given a high approval rating. Recently, a featured rap-musical on climate change written by Frank Rivera involved a thousand youth participants from different municipalities of the province supported by the governor and the provincial board.

The highlighted project with UNESCO approval is the planned Music Theatre Peace Concert with artists from claimant countries on the conflicted China Sea and the Spratly Islands on the West Philippine Sea. The event is a cultural diplomatic initiative to lower the decibel of confrontation and aggressive behavior. It is proposed late this year before the COP22 event of the United Nations in Morocco.

We have a Design Technical Committee chaired by Joey Nombres and a Philippine linked OISTAT event on costumes held in a heritage site in Vigan. Our Centre is also active in the UNESCO Movement, Unite4Heritage.

Our Techno Arts Camp modelled for UNESCO on climate change last July 2015 with collaboration of the Seoul Institute of the Arts, is a ground-breaking initiative that deserves to be watched closely. It builds on the Conference on the Role of ICTs for Persons with Disabilities, organized by the Government of India and UNESCO in November 2014, and the World Education Forum in Incheon this May. It will not only empower vulnerable youth with the opportunity to use technology creatively, but also give them the chance to acquire new skills and together, to feel more integrated and confident. In action-research style, learning modules will be developed that can then be shared widely. This innovative partnership also encourages youth to express themselves on the impact of climate change on their daily lives, and to appeal for everyone, together, to act to protect our shared planet. I thank the Earthsavers Dreams Ensemble and Cecile Alvarez for their generous vision and all partners involved in this initiative. I wish every success to all those who are part of this wonderful adventure that enriches each and every one us.”

Contact details
EarthSavers UNESCO DREAM Centre / Artist for Peace
International Theatre Institute (ITI)
ASEAN-Pacific Bureau
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Natividad Lopez Street, Ermite, Manila 1000
Telefax: +632 524-6662
Mobile number: +63915-898-9947 or +63999-977-7771
dreamcentrephilippines@yahoo.com.ph

activities
romanian centre of iti (europe)

UNITER awards gala.

UNITER – The Romanian Association of Theatre Artists

UNITER is a professional, apolitical, non-governmental and not-for-profit organization, resulting from the free association of artists from the theatre industry. As an active cultural element of national standing, UNITER is involved in supporting and developing Romanian theatre, in the use of national and universal heritage. Its activities form a network of quantifiable processes which fulfil the goals that form the basis of its existence, and the basis is a principle common to all professional organizations in the world: that is, running cultural programmes and projects that will benefit theatre professionals. UNITER develops its activities based on projects and programmes, the common principle of all professional organizations throughout the world.

The Romanian Centre of ITI – The International Theatre Institute

Since 1990, UNITER hosts the National Romanian Centre for the International Theatre Institute. The President of the Romanian Centre is Ion Caramitru, a famous Romanian actor and former Minister of Culture. The Centre does not have a fixed structure. Everyone working in the theatre industry may benefit from its services. The Centre offers professional assistance to foreign theatre people visiting Romania for research purposes.

HOP” – Young Actors Gala

The Young Actors Gala is part of the efforts made by UNITER to refresh Romanian theatrical life within a stimulating framework offered to young professional actors, who are thus discovering a possibility of becoming better known and appreciated. It represents the most important Romanian programme dedicated to young professional actors. The event consists of an annual contest which takes place at the end of summer on the seaside, and lasts for a week. It represents a chance offered to young graduates of public and private universities to assert their own personality in a competition with their colleagues and it also constitutes an important “barometer” of young valuable actors. The last three editions were held under the guidance of the talented and charismatic director, Radu Afrim.

17th Edition: September 9-12, 2014
18th Edition: September 8-11, 2015

The World Theatre Day & the National Campaign “Artists for Artists”

27 March 2015, reading of the message of Krzysztof Warlikowski, Poland
27 March 2016, reading of the message of Anatoli Vassiliev, Russia

In addition to the International Message, the National Message written by Ion Caramitru was read on every Romanian theatre stage. The Artists for Arts Campaign was started in 2002 with the aim of sensitizing public opinion in view of raising funds for the older artists dealing with health and living problems throughout the country. The Campaign takes place every year, between March and April, this period being defined as one of theatrical
solidarity, taking into account that March 27 is the World Theatre Day. “Artists for Artists” was founded not only as a means of financial support, but also as a stimulator of artistic solidarity and as a signal for the theatre audience and the authorities.

The theatre solidarity component is ensured by the participation of artists in the creation of a charity show, which represents the top moment of the fundraising campaign, and also through the participation of theatre and artistic institutions in Romania, which collaborate with UNITER throughout the year.

Beyond the goal solidarity, UNITER also tried to attract donors, services and sponsorships, a component which managed to grow over the past few years, so as to make the “Artists for Artists” programme possible due to the already-established partnerships.

2015: Life Moments 3 at National Theatre Bucharest, attendance 1000 persons
2016: Magic Beings: The Actors at National Theatre Bucharest, attendance 1000 persons

Best Romanian Play
This is a permanent and annual project of UNITER aimed at the encouragement of autochthonous dramaturgy and to giving impetus to new texts for the theatre. Subsequently, the winning script is published in its own volume by UNITEXT Publishing House. The award is handed on the evening of The UNITER Gala Awards.

Fools’ Time by Stela Giurgeanu was selected as Best Romanian Play for 2014

The Uniter Awards Gala
The 23rd edition on May 25th at National Theatre Bucharest
The 24th edition on May 9th at “Regina Maria” Theatre in Oradă

THE UNITER Awards Gala is one of the most important programmes of the Romanian Association of Theatre Artists. It is organized every year, starting in 1991, and it awards the distinctions for the previous calendar year. It is the unmatched theatrical event of the year. The awards are given according to the principle of nominations made by a selection jury. From these nominations, another jury decides, on the night of the Gala, by secret vote, the winner of each award. The excellent collaboration with the Romanian Television – National TV Theatre, the Department for Music and Entertainment, and the Romania Cultural Radio Station of the Romanian Broadcasting Company makes it possible for the Gala to be broadcast live on TV and radio.

The Romanian National Theatre Festival
The Romanian National Theatre Festival, a cultural event of national and international importance, is organized every year by the Romanian Association of Theatre Artists (UNITER) in partnership with the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of Bucharest. Support is given – in varying degrees - through numerous public institutions, media and cultural institutes active in Bucharest.

The Romanian National Theatre Festival is the most important showcase of Romanian theatre and brings together the most relevant productions of the previous season, as well as valuable names of theatre globally. It has also proven to be a platform to send Romanian shows to the greatest stages of the world such as Edinburgh International Festival, Globe Theatre in Tokyo, Festival d’Avignon, Lincoln Centre Festival and many others.

After six years, Marina Constantinescu - theatre critic, essayist and writer who has been dealing with the analysis of the theatrical phenomenon in Romania and beyond since 1990 - has come back to the helm of the festival.

The programme is composed like a puzzle, out of the remarkable figures of Romanian theatre direction, their energies, the energies of the actors, of the set designers they worked with, their feelings, and their stylistic and human obsessions. (www.fnt.ro)

The House of Artists Programme
This unique programme offers social services to artists who experience difficult life situations due to old age, poverty or poor health. The programme aims, first of all, to satisfy the needs of the beneficiaries as soon as possible, and the creation of a social assistance and moral support framework. To fulfill its purpose, the partners in the project created a professional structure comprising specialized working instruments, specific human resources, a system of communication and collaboration relationships and rules, skills, knowledge and a set of values adaptable to the particular needs of our beneficiaries.

The objectives of the programme are:
• To develop social assistance at home, comprising several services which would compensate the lack of the day care centre (physiotherapy, medical assistance, social counselling);
• To create a structure of club-type activities, which could be carried out without the existence of a club-type facility/support groups with the beneficiaries, trips, birthday anniversaries, watching shows);
• To develop artistic and educational activities suggested by the beneficiaries with the programme’s logistic support.

The House of Artists’ Home also proved the fact that the offered social assistance services cannot reach their normal destination, namely the retired artist, without the support of the artistic community and the help of other elderly artists acting as mediators. The monthly number of assisted beneficiaries fluctuated between 65 and 80.

The UNITEXT publishing house
The only editorial structure in Romania focusing on theatre exclusively, was founded and registered as a UNITEXT publishing house in 1989, aimed at supporting the development of written drama in anticipation of the collapse of books of, and about theatre, given the economic context after 1989. Starting from the premise that it is important for Romanian theatre also to have a written cultural foundation through the coherent and scheduled publication of different titles, albums, etc, UNITER assured the role of supporting this important segment of national written culture – theatre books – and the UNITEXT publishing house is the instrument through which this provision is put into practice. The publishing house was conceived as a specifically distinct structure of the Romanian Association of Theatre Artists in Romania. It does not function as a legal entity of its own, it works as a department within UNITER, with its economic activity being carried out through the Association’s complex structure.

The monthly number of assisted beneficiaries fluctuated between 65 and 80.
Activities

Russian Centre of ITI (Europe)

Activities 2014 – 2016

Activities 2014
- A visiting team of Russian ITI and the Guild of Theatre Managers of Russia went to Novosibirsk (May 20-28, 2014) for a presentation of ITI and to participate in the “New-Siberian Transit” Inter-Regional Festival.
- A visiting team of Russian ITI and the Guild of Theatre Managers of Russia went to Nazran (May 16, 2014) for a presentation of ITI and the opening of the Southern group of the Russian Centre of ITI.
- 6 publications of ITI-info magazine were produced for both Russian and foreign readers (Russian and English).
- A monthly newsletter was distributed to members of the Russian ITI Centre with inside and outside information.
- A Board meeting was held on March 28, 2014.

Activities 2015
- March 27: Celebration of the World Theatre Day. Russia ITI distributed publications, posters and flyers among theatre people, theatres and performing arts schools.
- April 29, 2015: Celebration of the International Dance Day. Publications, posters and flyers were distributed among theatre people, theatres and performing arts schools.
- “The Tightrope” by Simon Brook was screened for theatre Moscow and invited regional representatives on June 6 and 7 with the participation of the film director at the conference hall of Raikin Plaza Hotel.
- 6 issues of ITI-info magazine for both Russian and foreign readers were produced (Russian and English).
- A monthly newsletter was distributed to members of the Russian ITI Centre with inside and outside information.
- A Board meeting was held on March 30, 2015.
- Russia ITI published “Four New Swedish Plays” in Russian as a joint project with Swedish ITI Centre.
- Participated in the International Cultural Forum, Saint Petersburg, December, 14-16.

Planned activities 2016 (until Congress)
- World Theatre Day celebration (as above).
- International Dance Day will be held with the premier show of the dance performance “Spanish Fantasies” at The Higher School of Performing Arts.

Board
- President: Yury Solomin, Art Director, Maly Theatre
- Vice-President: Anatoly Polyanin, Theatre Manager, Satirikon Theatre
- Members: Tamara Mikhailova, Director General, Maly Theatre; Boris Lyubimov, Principal, Mikhail Schepkin Higher School; Irina Savenko, Director-General (Top-Union), Moscow; Pavel Tserepko, Theatre Manager, Orenburg Maxim Gorky State Drama Theater; Mikael Bazorkin, Theatre Manager, Russian State Music Drama Theatre of Republic of Ingushetia.
Activities
Saudi Arabia Centre of ITI (Arab Countries)

Activities 2015

1st Abha Theatre Festival
17 April 2015
Organized by King Khalid University in cooperation with Abha Arts and Culture Society, this festival comprised theatre performances from seven colleges: Education, Dental, Applied Medical Sciences, Business Administration, Social Sciences, Science, and Information Technology.

Urban Theatre Competition
15 July 2015
Organized by Medina Municipality in cooperation with the Saudi Arabian Society for Culture and Arts (Medina branch), this event attracted competitors that included the Culture and Arts Society Theatre Group, Medina Stars Theatre Group, the Hail Culture and Arts Society Theatre Troupe, the Medina Theater Company, the Medina Knights Theatre Troupe, Farafish Al Madina Theatre Troupe, and Muhtaref Kaif Theatre Group from Jeddah.

Nine Theatre Productions at the Eid Festival
3-17 July 2015
Organized by Riyadh Municipality, the Eid al-Fitr Festival included 9 new theatre plays, 3 of which were for men only and 2 for women only. The plays were performed by a number of TV and theatre celebrities from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region, and were very well received by the local community of Riyadh.

3rd Youth Welfare and Theatre Groups Festival
13 October 2015
Under the patronage of HHHR Prince Abdulaziz bin Musaid bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia’s General President of Youth Welfare, the third edition of the Youth Welfare and Theatre Groups Festival started its activities at the King Fahad Cultural Centre on 13 October 2015. Eight theatre groups from Youth Welfare Centers around the Kingdom participated in the festival.

Hajr Theatre Nights for Youth
Held at Ahsa and organized by Saudi Arabian Society for Culture and Arts (Ahsa Branch) in collaboration with the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, four local plays were produced and performed by youth artists competing to win the grand prize.

Other activities
• The Saudi ITI Centre funded and supported 9 theatre productions all around the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These productions were staged across the country in several national and cultural events. Some of these productions were “Nostalgia” written by Saleh Zamanan and directed by Sultan Al Ghamdi; “Will I see you?” which was produced especially to be staged during the Jeddah International Book Fair, and “The Treasure” a children’s play written by Fahad Al Asmar and directed by Sami Al Zahrani.
• Saudi ITI Centre represented the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in several international theatre events through a number of plays, such as “The Mask” in Cairo, Egypt; “Paranda” in Kuwait; “Out of Control” in Sharjah; “Two in One” in Tunisia, and “Silence of the Brooms” in Cairo.

Activities
Saudi Arabia Centre of ITI (Arab Countries)

Saudi ITI Centre Staff
Director: Ibrahim Assiri
Deputy Director: Nayef Al Baqmi
Secretary General: Sami Al Zahrani
Members: Yasser Madkhali, Jama’an Al Thuwaibi, Sultan Al Nuwa

Contact Details
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Postal Code/ZIP Code: 21944
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Email: Ibrahim Assiry@hotmail.com
Activities
Serbian Centre of ITI (Europe)

The cover of one issue of Medjucin, an internet theatre arts magazine launched by Serbian Centre of ITI

Activities 2014-2016

2014

Internet magazine for theatre arts “MEĐUČIN” (Interlude)


2015

Internet magazine for theatre arts

Members of the Serbian center continue to work on publishing the internet magazine for theatre arts “MEĐUČIN” (Interlude). In March 2015, Vol 1 was issued, for more information, kindly visit: http://www.snp.org.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Medjucin2015-01/index.html#0.

Small Town Festival with a World View

August 23-25 as a part of the Waves Festival in Vordingborg, Denmark.

Dušana Todorović participated as a Board Member of ITI’s International Festival Forum at the seminar and presented the IFF and its work together with other IFF Board members (for more information kindly see the IFF Report).

2016

Seventh Fujairah Monodrama International Festival

February 18-25, Fujairah UAE

Dušana Todorović participated in the Joint EC Committee Meeting that took place on February 22, 2016 in the frame of the Seventh Fujairah Monodrama International Festival, as an IFF representative.

World Theatre Day Celebration in 2015 and 2016

The WTD Message was translated by the Serbian ITI Center and forwarded to all the theatres in Serbia; it was read on March 27 prior to the performances on that day, and was published in the daily newspapers.

Office Bearers

President: Svetislav Jovanov
Secretary General: Dušana Todorović
Members: Jelena Kajo, Dijana Milosavljević, Nenad Ranković

Activities 2014-2016

1. World Theatre Day Celebration 2016
Theatre Institute Bratislava 2016 / Photo Call for the 3rd Theatre Photography Biennale Competition

The aim of the biennale is to present theatre photography as an independent artistic form, to increase the awareness about it and by presenting photographic works and their artists to create an atmosphere for professional confrontation. The student section of the biennale gives an opportunity for a significant forming of this segment of theatrical documentation for the future.

2. Project Istropolitana
June 2016 – Bratislava (various venues)

Project Istropolitana is absolutely unique among all festivals in the Middle Europe and provides a special opportunity for young theatre artists to be involved in an international confrontation of their work, opinion and production. It creates space for professional confrontation. The festival with its atmosphere for professional confrontation. The monthly filled the empty space for theatre critics and the absence of a platform for reflection and opinions of theatre artists. In its rubrics it presents the newest performances whether as reviews, critics, essays or interviews with artists. The authors of the articles are renowned Slovak theatre theoreticians and practicians as well as contributors from the Czech Republic and other European countries. The monthly filled the empty space for theatre critics and the absence of a platform for reflection and opinions of theatre artists. In its rubrics it presents the newest performances whether as reviews, critics, essays or interviews with artists. The authors of the articles are renowned Slovak theatre theoreticians and practicians as well as contributors from the Czech Republic and other European countries.

In ked the readers can find profiles of artists, local and international festivals’ reviews, information about international theatre scene, comments and remarks on cultural policy, studies from history and theory of theatre and drama, fragments or whole theatre texts and dramatisations.
It is also a place for the promotion of activities and projects of Theatre Institute and all professional theatres in Slovakia. kød is interesting not only because of its content, but also because of its trendy graphics and various and rich photographic material. There are 10 issues published annually in a monthly circulation of 400 pieces. kød is available in theatres, bookshops and literary cafés throughout Slovakia.

4. Except this the Slovak ITI Centre is responsible for translation and promotion of the ITI message of the World Theatre Day, International World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People and the International Dance Day (2015 - 2017). The Centre is also responsible for providing the contribution to the World of Theatre series of publication (2016).

Board of the Slovak ITI Centre:
President: Mr. Martin Porubjak – till March 27th, 2015
Vice-President: Mrs. Darina Kárová
Secretary General: Ms. Diana Selecká

Activities
Slovak Centre of ITI (Europe)

Activities
Slovenian Centre of ITI (Europe)

March
The Slovene Repertory Theatre – Trieste (Slovensko stalno gledališče Trst) was announced as the winner of the Uchimura Prize 2014, with a lot of attention in the media both in Slovenia and Italy, where the Slovenian theatre company is based. The Jury marked a production Five Modern No Plays by Yukio Mishima as a performance that breathes with a very unique theatre language that reminds an audience of the Japanese tradition, but also of our modern times, both in Japan and Eastern Europe.

March 27, 2015
The Festival of Slovenian Drama in Kranj was opened with the stage reading of the World Theatre Message, accompanied with the awarding of annual prizes for achievements in theatre. WTD was promoted in the media and theatres in cooperation with the Slovenian Dramatic Artists Association.

April 29, 2015
International Dance Day: a translation of the IDD message was distributed to all media in cooperation with the Slovenian Association of Ballet Artists.

October 15-25
Maribor Theatre Festival in the scope of the international festival programme German Centre ITI presented a media installation project Transforming Acts which shows the processes of inspiration and transformation in the last three decades of the 20th century in impressive pieces by exemplary protagonists of performing arts.

November 2015
Aleš Valič, representative of the Ljubljana Academy for theatre, radio, film and TV attended the inauguration and the General Assembly of ITI Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts, in Shanghai, China.

December 5, 2015
Play “A Continental Divide” by Barbara Anderlčik of Slovenia was announced as the winner of the 2015 ITI Global Playwriting Contest, created by the Earthsavers / UNESCO Artist for Peace, under the direction of Cecile Guidote Alvarez, through the auspices of the ITI, as part of the worldwide celebration of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. Prize was delivered on December 5 2015 at a United Nations Conference side event in Paris. Slovenian Centre ITI offered home media attending both to the author and this important international competition.

December 18, 2015
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Activities 2015
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Activities Slovenian Centre of ITI (Europe)

26-31 October, 2016
In the scope of the 15th event in Beijing, Sašo Kalan, sound designer, and Tatjana Ažman, dramaturge, hold a workshop.

Activities 2017

29 April, 2017
In the scope of the International Dance Day Summit in Shanghai Duet 16, produced by the Dance Theatre Ljubljana, performed by Rosana Hribar and Gregor Luštek, was included in the international program, artists also presented their work in the scope of the workshop sessions.

General 2014 – 2017
Slovenian Centre ITI organized or participated in all activities connected with ITI events on the Global scale. Both messages were regularly translated by centres partners and the support at promotion of World Days was given (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017). World Theatre Day: opening of the Festival of Slovenian Drama in Kranj with stage reading of the World Theatre Message, accompanied with annual prize for achievements in theatre promotion of the WTD in media and theatres in cooperation with The Slovenian Dramatic Artists Association. International Dance Day: translation of the message was distributed to all media in cooperation with the Slovenian Association of Ballet Artists.

Centre offered all international information support for its members and national performing arts practitioners; centre participated information and articles for international ITI publications (Theatre in Japan – Theatre Abroad, The World of Theatre) and supported international activities of the Slovenian EC member Tatjana Alman, who was active in EC, attended several events organized by colleague ITI Centres abroad and local theatre community, was active in ITI committee activities, participated in the process of the project of the World Performing Arts Capital and actively collaborated with GS in Congress preparations.

Slovenian Centre ITI is at the present (May – June 2017) in transition to become an Association of Nongovernmental Institutions, unifying the most important performing arts nongovernmental organizations, such as associations, festivals and independent theatres, supported also by the main Slovenian professional theatre and performing arts organizations.
Activities
South African Centre of ITI (Africa)

Activities 2014 – 2016

National Consultations with South African State
January – November, 2015:
- We participated in 6 national consultation sessions with the SA government’s Department of Higher Education initiative known as CATHSSETA (Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Education Training Authority), an apex state collective of funding and strategy advisors, whose limited knowledge of the various sectors required expertise from civil society to contribute to the effective redefining of the new models required for further success.
- The Department of Arts and Culture convened an elective conference to assign a task team to advise the Minister of Arts and Culture on remedies required to contribute to the effective redefining of the new models of the sector, to accumulate information with which the Committee on Arts and Culture consulted with the ITI Centre to advise the Department of Arts and Culture on the outcome of this training project and the scripts work books were processed into a hands-on practical handbook.

Eastern Cape Youth Theatre Project: Theatre-making Handbook
An 8-month youth drama project was developed and executed from February to August 2014. In 2015 all the relevant documents, lectures, curricula, and work books were processed into a hands-on practical training manual for youth theatre groups to create productions from scratch, including all aspects of theatre-making. This manual is now available from PANSA for distribution throughout the world and especially in the SADC region. 5 complete plays were the outcome of this training project and the scripts exist for schools and professional companies to adopt as they wish.

Young Performer’s Project:
In 2015, PANSA acquired funding to implement a Young Performers Project aimed at school-going performers. The project was implemented in two of the country’s nine provinces in 2015 and 2016. One production was called Soldiers in the City, staged in Durban in 2015, and the other was Bat Boy, staged in Port Elizabeth in 2016.

The Mushoh Festival
Musho! is an annual national festival that takes place in January in Durban. It runs for just over a week, hosting one-and-two hander shows. Performers participate from around the SADC region, with sponsorship from local government and private enterprise. The eleventh annual Mushoh Theatre Festival was successfully staged in Durban from January 13-18, 2016. The event was hosted and organized by the Performing Arts Network of Southern Africa (PANSA), and made possible through generous sponsorship from the KZN Performing Arts Trust, the KZN Department of Arts and Culture, The Daily News, Pro-Helvetia and the Swiss Development Council, Twist Theatre Development Projects and the Catalina Theatre.

International Visitors
- Dorr Feller – a Jewish artist activist for the Palestinian cause, visited Cape Town and held a workshop and presentation in the ITI SA centre (PANSA studio), on his work and the reach of an artist in the society he occupies. The workshop was attended by approximately 10 artists, musicians and poets. The aim was to promote the perception of an artist as a social change agent. The engagement took the form of a lecture, a workshop and a musical and performance art improvisation session. He was arrested soon after leaving Cape Town, on a protest against the Israeli occupation of Gaza.
- The South African ITI centre was invited to the Fujairah Monodrama Festival in October 2015. The ITI centre provided a platform for unexposed and first-time artists to participate in the Cape Town Fringe Festival, who would not otherwise have had the opportunity to present their work. An open platform was used to select the best performers throughout the year, in 8 minute slots, and the selected performances were staged on a PANSA platform free of rental charge to the artists. The process was managed by the National Chairperson, Natalia Da Rocha, through the association between PANSA and her training initiative, https://www.facebook.com/275597964639/photos/a.10150674234399640.11528.275597964639/1015390470229640/?type=3

Fujairah Monodrama Festival
The South African ITI centre was invited to the 2016 Fujairah Monodrama Festival. Much will have been publicized about this wonderful event in the Arabic and other media already. The SA Centre has independently recorded many hours of interviews with participating artists and guests, and is editing this footage into a video documentary for publication online.

National Arts Festival 2016
In June of 2016, we hosted a delegation from Zimbabwe at the 2016 National Arts Festival in Grahamstown. Some of the delegates were attending this event for the first time, and were extremely excited to be a part...
of this event. We were also extremely pleased to have Lloyd Nyikadzino from ITI Zimbabwe in the group. The delegates attended about 3 productions per day, as well as the central event – the PANSA Director’s Indaba. The aim of this two-day symposium was to identify new theatre directors, as well as new ways to create opportunities for these new directors to enter the market.

Cape Town Fringe Festival 2016
In October of 2016, PANSA hosted two events at the Cape Town Fringe festival. One a Monodrama Workshop facilitated by our very own National Coordinator Kurt Egelhof. The three-day workshop resulted in the beginnings of four new individual plays based on the autobiographical stories of the actors who participated. We are hoping to facilitate the development of these plays into a mini Monodrama festival later in 2017. Included in the program was the Cape Town leg of the Director’s Indaba held at Grahamstown earlier that year, which developed a proposal for funding and execution of the project in the course of 2017.

Festival of Reading of New Writing 2017
PANSA is in the middle of rolling out another edition of the Festival of Reading of New Writing. This Festival is rolled out nationally, starting with a writer’s workshop to assist new writers with the genre of writing for theatre. Then a request for new scripts from the theatre community is put out. These scripts are judged by a panel, and actors and directors are contracted to read / perform this scripts on stage in a national final. The winning play is awarded a production budget and assisted in its development to become a fully-fledged production for performance at any viable theater center.

Activities
South African Centre of ITI (Africa)

Activities
Sri Lanka Centre of ITI (Asia/Pacific)

Creating a Culture of Qualitative Dramas
• Drama & Theatre 3-day’s workshops for developing drama productions for Sinhala & Tamil Students and teachers in March, July & September of 2015 and July, September & November of 2016.
• Award ceremonies of Inter School Sinhala Drama Competition – 2014/15 and Tamil Medium Short Drama Competition – 2014/15 were held in April 2016 at Tower Hall, Colombo.
• An Inter School Sinhala Drama Competition – 2016 and Tamil Medium Short Drama Competition – 2016, Final Round will be held in March 2017 at Tower Hall, Colombo.
• In Sri Lanka, the excellent and wide spread National Art of Drama had it’s beginning with the creation of the Drama ‘Maname’ in 1956 by the renowned Dramatist late Professor Ediriweera Sarathchandra. The 60th anniversary of this marvellous creation was held on 3 November 2016 at the Lionel Wendel Theatre in Colombo.
• The Drama ‘Ramayanaya’ an epic of the past was recreated after 38 years by the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation. This Drama went on the board on 24 to 26 January 2017.
• The Drama ‘Medea’ created by the world famous Dramatist Euripides was produced with the participation of the scholars attached to the Tower School of Drama and Theatre and it was staged in February 2016, at the Tower Hall. This Drama has been selected in the Final Round of the National Drama Festival and for this purpose the Drama ‘Medea’ was staged on 18 February 2017.
• The Tower Drama and Theatre School gave its contribution to the National Drama Festival and Youth Drama Festival 2015 and 2016.
• Gampath Perera, Assistant Director participated in the seminar held by the World Theatre Forum, which was held in parallel to the Grand ‘Bharath Rangakala Mahothsav’ of the National School of Drama in India in the month of February 2016 in New Delhi.
• The Drama ‘Sakkaya Ditti’ produced by the Tower School of Drama and Theatre of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation participated in the ‘Spandan’ International Drama Festival held in Odessa, India, in 2014. This Drama which was written by Professor M.H. Gunathilake was directed by Douglas Sinawastane.
• The Drama ‘Muhudu Lihiniya’ adapted from the renowned Russian Dramatist Anton Chekhov’s ‘The Sea Gulf’ was produced by the Tower School of Drama and Theatre of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation and staged in March 2015. The Script by Drama was translated and written by Anyarathne Vetana and Directed by Sampath Perera.
• The Commemoration Festivals of Dr. Ariyawansa Ranaweera and Lawyar John de Silva – both renewed Dramatists were held in the months of January and February 2016.
• Three Workshops were conducted for the teachers who were involved with the production of drama for the Inter School Drama Competition in Sinhala.
Activities
Sri Lanka Centre of ITI (Asia/Pacific)

Commemoration of the Tower Hall

- 104th and 105th Commemoration Festivals of the Tower Hall, which was constructed on 16 December 1911 as the very first permanent theatre.
- The Commemoration ceremony in memory of the Late President Ranasinghe Premadasa, the founder of the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation was held in June, 2016.

Other Activities

- A conference was held in March 2016 at Guanzhou, China, of the member ITI Centres of the Asia Pacific Regional Council. A report of the Traditional Art of Drama in Sri Lanka was submitted at their conference by the participants from Sri Lanka.
- A workshop on the “Maintenance of Facilities for Drama and Theatre” was held in Beijing China, during the months of November and December 2015. A delegation consisting of 6 members from the Tower Hall Theatre foundation, participants at their workshop.
- The Bhathkande Examination for the awarding of the Degree in Music and Dance were held in December in the years 2015 and 2016.
- 215 old artists and eminent personalities of art of yesteryears were given the monthly allowances new year gifts and also were taken an annual tour in the years 2015 and 2016 as well.
- The film ‘Rekawa’ – a creation of Lester James Peries – the celebrated Doyenne of the Sri Lanka National Cinema was produced in the year 1956 and the distinguished patronage of the Honourable Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.
- Programmes were held on account of the World Theatre Day to the years 2015 and 2016. A message in Sinhala, Tamil and English regarding the World Theatre Day was printed and distributed among the Artistes. In addition a monthly journal under the name ‘Tower Ranga Reka’ was also issued.
- Several Programmes of Bodu Bathi Gee, Noorthi Drama Songs, Songs of appreciations were held in Colombo and out stations with the participation of drama and theatre artistes.
- An Eye clinics for the Artistes were held on 15th of the month of August 2016, under the joint patronage of the Honourable Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.
- Programmes are underway for the Island wide presentations of the Dramas ‘Mahudu Lihiniya’, ‘Ramayana’ya’ and ‘Medea’.
- A Directory commenting of the Names of Drama and theatre artists. In addition a monthly journal under the name ‘Tower Ranga Reka’ was also issued.
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- An Eye clinics for the Artistes were held on 15th of the month of August 2016, under the joint patronage of the Honourable Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.
- Programmes are underway for the Island wide presentations of the Dramas ‘Mahudu Lihiniya’, ‘Ramayana’ya’ and ‘Medea’.
- A Directory commenting of the Names of Drama and theatre artists. In addition a monthly journal under the name ‘Tower Ranga Reka’ was also issued.
- Programmes were held on account of the World Theatre Day to the years 2015 and 2016. A message in Sinhala, Tamil and English regarding the World Theatre Day was printed and distributed among the Artistes. In addition a monthly journal under the name ‘Tower Ranga Reka’ was also issued.
- Several Programmes of Bodu Bathi Gee, Noorthi Drama Songs, Songs of appreciations were held in Colombo and out stations with the participation of drama and theatre artistes.
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- Programmes are underway for the Island wide presentations of the Dramas ‘Mahudu Lihiniya’, ‘Ramayana’ya’ and ‘Medea’.

Programmes which are being implemented at present

- Upgrading and modernizing the Rukmani Devi Memorial Theatre in Negombo to commemorate the memory of the Late Drama and Cinemas Artiste, Rukmani Devi.
- Modernizing of the ‘Elephantine Theatre’ a premier Theatre in Sri Lanka, which is owned by the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation.
- Preliminary arrangements are underway for the production of the Drama ‘Romeo and Juliet’ by the Scholars of the Tower Drama and Theatre School.
Activities

Sudan Centre of ITI (Arab Countries)

Activities 2015 – 2016

World Theatre Day Celebration
March 27, 2015
An event to mark World Theatre Day was organized in cooperation with the Al Buggaa International Theatre Festival and ITI UNESCO, and was attended by Ali Mahdi Nouri - ITI Secretary - and a number of local and regional theatre artists and experts.

Al Buggaa International Theatre Festival
March 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017
The 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th editions of the Al Buggaa International Theatre Festival were held with participation from Arab, African and International theatre groups.

Sudanese folk dance in Rome, Italy
27 May 2015
Sudan Folklore Group performed Sudanese folk dances during the Africa Day celebration in Rome, Italy. The event was organized by the Sudanese Embassy in Rome and attended by all the ambassadors of all African countries. The Sudan Folklore Group also performed in the streets of Rome.

1st Sudan Contemporary Theatre Festival
10-15 December 2015
Contemporary theatre Sudan Festival
In cooperation with the College of Music and Drama and The ITI Centre of Sudan, the festival featured performances, intellectual forums & Lectures held on theatre and heritage.

Workshops and Training
Organized in cooperation with the College of Music and Drama, the National Theatre and Al Buggaa Theatre, training sessions were organized for Sudanese theatre groups, and trainers were invited from the USA and Holland.

Other activities
- Sudan ITI Centre sponsored Al Buggaa Theatre performances in Paris during the Annual Meeting of the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors, and another performance in the Arab World Institute, Paris.
- Sudan ITI Centre representatives participated in a number of regional theatre events, such as the Theatre Without Borders forum in Addis Ababa, the African Council meeting in Addis Ababa, and the Censorship and Theatre conference in Cairo, Egypt.
- Ali Mahdi Nouri was invited by the Japan ITI Centre to do a lecture and workshop about theatre in conflict zones. He also carried out a workshop on Theatre in Sudan and South Sudan in cooperation with the University of London.

Sudan ITI Centre Board and Staff
Honorary President: Ali Mahdi Nouri
President: Fadlalla Ahmad
Vice-President: Mostafa Ahmed Al Khalifa
Secretary General: Sayyid Ahmed Ahmed

Sudan ITI Centre address
College of Music and Drama
Sudan University for Science and Technology
Khartoum
Republic of Sudan

Activities

Sudan ITI Centre hosted a number of cultural activities in cooperation with the UNESCO, the Arab States, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and others.

Swiss Centre of ITI (Europe)

Activities 2014 – 2016

Activities 2014
The implementation of the new federal law on culture in Switzerland has led to the cutting of state funding for many organisations, including SuisseTHEATRE–ITI. Faced with this situation, the organisation has rethought its structure and redefined its programme of activities, and it has thus opted to concentrate on its strong points.

In order to ensure that SuisseTHEATRE–ITI’s potential and skills are more effective in Switzerland, we have modified our statutes to encourage individual memberships while maintaining the memberships of organisations. We have defined the priorities of the new governance in three directions:
- To develop effective tools for stage actors at national and international levels and to promote improved exchanges between the linguistic regions of a Switzerland level and improved outreach internationally.
- To develop projects in partnership with other cultural organisations existing in Switzerland.
- To initiate projects at national or international level in partnership with other ITI Centres.

Activities 2015
Developing tools – Our statutes have been revised and the website has been redesigned. Developing projects in partnership with other associations based in Switzerland – A study group made up of members of SuisseTHEATRE–ITI and the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors, and another performance in the Arab World Institute, Paris.

Activities 2016
- UNIMA is working on a project for a new Swiss Puppet and Mask Museum.
- Initiating projects at national or international level in partnership with other ITI centres – New working groups have been established:
  - Street Theatre and Circus Group
  - Theatre Mobility in Switzerland Working Group
  - Theatre in Conflict Zones Working Group
- In collaboration with the Centre.

Clowns sans Frontière
One of its members already has experience from working with theatre in conflict zones, notably in Palestine/Israel and Burkina Faso. This group is developing a new project in Burkina Faso in coordination with the Centre.

Activities

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  - Theatre in Conflict Zones Working Group
Activities
Swiss Centre of ITI (Europe)

• 2nd Swiss Theatre Encounter
Theater Winterthur, from 28 May to 6 June 2015. SwissTHEATRE–ITI participated in this major theatre event, the only one to bring together Switzerland’s different linguistic groups. SwissTHEATRE–ITI organised a masterclass with Omar Porras, Swiss-Colombian director and winner of the Prix du Théâtre 2014. Students of the Bachelor and Master degree courses at Switzerland’s four Hautes Écoles de Théâtre participated in the event, which was followed by a presentation on the different activities of ITI.

Activities 2016
Continuation of the projects initiated in 2015.
Launch of ‘Macbeth’ in Burkina Faso, a project in which the ITI Centres of Switzerland, Italy and Burkina Faso are collaborating. The production will be staged in each of the three countries and, it is hoped, at the ITI Centres of Switzerland, Italy and Burkina Faso.
Activities November 2014 – May 2016
Teaterunionen – Swedish ITI – is the forum for co-operation and information within Swedish performing arts and a centre for contact and exchange across the borders. Teaterunionen’s members are institutions and organisations that work professionally within the Swedish performing arts. We are funded through members’ fees and with an annual contribution from the Swedish Arts Council. Teaterunionen represents Sweden in the Network for the Performing Arts, and is a member of the IETM (International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts).

Teaterunionen has a council, which meets annually, a board, an education committee, a cultural policy committee and a number of working groups on various issues.

We are engaged in activities of common interest to our members, providing information, documentation, encouraging education and international relations.

Every second year we produce Scenkonstbiennalen, the Swedish Biennial for Performing Arts, with one of the country’s professional theatres as a host. Scenkonstbiennalen is Sweden’s largest festival for performing arts and is an important gathering place for those working within the profession. For international visitors, it also serves as a window into the world of Swedish performing arts. The next edition of the festival will take place May 23-28, 2016 in Norrköping.

We administer a database, www.scenkonstbiennalen.se, documenting all professional stage performances useful for compiling statistics. We publish an online calendar of productions opening in venues all across the nation.

Together with ASSITEJ Sweden, we organize SWEDESTAGE, the Swedish showcase for performing arts. SWEDESTAGE is the opportunity to experience the very best of Swedish performing arts for children, youth and adults. During three days in Stockholm, we will present exclusively selected Swedish performances, able to tour and available for an international audience. The next edition will take place October 23-25, 2016 in Stockholm.

Some major events 2014-2015:
• The Swedish Biennial For Performing Arts, May 26-31 in Malmö, included performances, seminars, workshops and meetings with around 2,000 participants, among whom were international guests from more than 30 countries.
• SWEDESTAGE, October 23-25 2014, a showcase of Swedish performing arts for children, youth and adults arranged in cooperation with Swedish Assitej. This showcase was arranged for the first time in 2012 and the third edition will take place in November 2016 in Stockholm.
• A Cooperation Project with the theatre in Pskov, Russia, financed by the Creative Force Programme in the Swedish Institute. The programme included organising a Sweden Week in Pskov from 23-27 March, and included guest productions, readings and presentations. Readings of Swedish plays in St Petersburg from 15-19 December were organised within the framework of this project.
• Meetings with the Ministry for Cultural Affairs and other bodies on visa issues, on developing the Swedish database and on building capacity for a new information office for touring Swedish artists abroad were also held.

Publications
• MÅNADENS PREMIÄRER/INFORMATION, monthly information newsletter to all members, media and subscribers in Sweden, giving information on coming premières
• A monthly NEWSLETTER in English on Swedish performing arts
• In cooperation with Russian ITI, we published an anthology of Swedish contemporary plays in Russian.
• An update of the webpage: www.teaterunionen.se now includes an English version.

Activities
Swedish Centre of ITI (Europe)

President: Ulrika Holmgård, managing director of Swedish Performing Arts
Director: Ann Mari Engel (until 31 November 2015)
Ulrica Johnson (from 1 December 2015)

Call for applications
Academic year 2016/17
Accademia Teatro Dimitri
Bachelor and Master of Arts in Theatre
Physical Theatre

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Daniel Bausch – Vice President
Ursula Werdenberg – Member

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Activities
Uganda Centre of ITI (Africa)

Acknowledgement

The Executive of the Uganda Centre for the International Theatre Institute acknowledges the support extended to them in the implementation of their vision, objectives and activities in the period 2014-2016.

First, we thank the Uganda National Culture Centre (UNCC) for their support throughout the different activities (the election of the current executive, through the launch of the revitalized Uganda Centre for ITI, workshops, celebration of World Theatre Day and the staging of various ITI-supported performances). Special appreciation goes to the Department of Performing Arts and Film (PAF) of Makerere University who have continued to host our Centre and often have allowed us to use their teaching space to conduct training workshops for young theatre artistes. Our Centre’s collaboration with PAF has enhanced the speed of achieving our aim and mutual enlightenment.

We highly appreciate the other offices that were very instrumental in keeping us advancing forward e.g. the offices of the National Association of Book Trust, Uganda (NABOTU), the Young Theatre Practitioners and the Chairperson of Uganda National Theatre Union Mr Benoni Kibuuka. These partners made it possible for the Centre to achieve much in the shortest time.

We are indeed grateful to theatre artists and students who volunteer with our Centre; they have played a key role in the execution of various activities in the period since October 2014. We are very grateful to the media houses who have continued to support our activities by offering free publicity, coverage and reviews of our events.

Lastly, we would like to thank ITI Sudan (Mr Ali Mahdi) and ITI Germany (Dr Thomas Engel) who relentlessly encouraged us to reinvigorate our then ailing Centre. As a Centre we are truly grateful to these two Centres who shared their resources in mentoring the current leadership.

Jessica A. Kaahwa (PhD)
President
Activities 2014 – 2016

The Journey of the Uganda Centre of ITI

Uganda became an ITI member in 1976 but was deregistered in the same year following the alleged murder of the country’s best actor and playwright, Byron Kawadwa, by Mr Amri’s trenches. The country was readmitted in 1986 under the leadership of Jackson Ndwulwa who remained President until 15 January 2015 when he handed over the reigns to Dr Jessica Anwooki Kaahwa.

This brief report covers events from the ITI World Congress at Yerevan, Armenia (November 2014) to the memorable re-launch of the Uganda Centre for ITI (UCfITI) on January 15, 2015 and the subsequent planning for World Theatre Day 2016 celebrations.

December 2014

Having completed the registration earlier in August, the Uganda Centre for ITI was a beehive of activities preparing for the re-launch of the Centre in Uganda. This included media campaigns, writing of invitation letters to theatre artistes and supporters from allied fields of culture and communication.

January 15, 2015

The Uganda Centre for ITI was re-launched after decades of inactivity. The day brought to light many theatre enthusiasts’ profound expectations such as the need to promote international exchange of performing arts knowledge and practice, stimulate artistic creation and increase co-operation among thespians. Another priority identified was the need to streamline the systems that guide theatre artists in Uganda and to know practitioners within the sector and their competencies in order better to network and support one another. The launch also exposed the growing yearning for professionalism in the performing arts industry.

Post-launch of the Uganda Centre for ITI

Since the re-launch, the Centre has been overwhelmed by the artistic and moral support extended by the veteran and new theatre artists. They have also expressed their expectations that the Centre must be steered by active theatre practitioners capable of translating the needs of the artists into tangible actions.

February 2015

This period at the Centre was marked by marathon planning for combined theatre activity. The Centre chose to sponsor the first-ever week of “Theatre Festivities” (March 23 – 27) leading up to World Theatre Day on March 27.

March 23– 27, 2015

The Centre’s first outing was made possible by support from the Uganda National Cultural Centre, National Association of Book Trust, Department of Performing Arts & Film (Makerere University), Uganda Performing Groups Association, Young Theatre Practitioners, Uganda New Vision Group, Central Broadcasting Station, East African Newspaper, Theatre Factory, Foursum Comedy Group, Bakajimbara Diamactors and the Ministry of Culture, Gender & Youth.

The programme included technical production training, dramaturgical training, workshops on copyright and publishing, the staging of plays by schools, Young Theatre Practitioners and professional theatre groups leading up to World Theatre Day, the celebration of which included matching, speeches, performances and exhibitions.

Other activities in 2015

• For the National Heroes Celebration in June, Young Theatre Practitioners took the lead at Kiboga Boma Ground.
• From August-October, we contributed to public awareness of political agendas and electioneering through the sponsorship of a play “Our Husband Has Gone Mad Again” by Ola Rotimi that aired on provoking dialogue among the publics.
• PAF’s “Our Husband Has Gone Mad Again” was staged again on October 11-12 to great public appreciation, while it boosted the Department of Performing Arts & Film, which had been off the national stage for fifteen years.

World Theatre Day 2016

To mark this day, UCfITI has planned training workshops and encouraged partners to prepare productions that address social issues in our society.

Achievements since the re-launch of ITI in Uganda

UCfITI has registered great trust from her partners especially the UNCC, Theatre Groups and PAF who are the trainers and custodians of the theatre edifice in Uganda. As the Centre, we are also enjoying the support and the networks of the former executive led by Mr Jackson Ndwulwa. We have been able to rally most related institutions, offices and Young Theatre Practitioners (YTP); by so doing, we have increased...
public awareness of ITI and its local chapter's role. On the whole, the Centre has achieved most of its annual projected activities such as organizing symposiums, festivals, workshops, training and supporting staged performances.

Notwithstanding these achievements, the Uganda Centre for ITI has much to do in terms of enhancing artistic collaboration synergies between Ugandan theatre practitioners and building relationships with the Ugandan public. We also have to find ways to move beyond the expressed challenges and create avenues and opportunities that will unleash the potential in Ugandan artists.

Future Plans

• Week of theatre activities and awareness, March 23-27
• General Assembly to elect the new executive to steer the Centre’s activities for 2016—2018 (July)

The Centre in conjunction with UNCC is planning a conference to revisit the issue of the “Guild System” to enhance cohesion and fairness in execution of various theatre specializations (October).

Contact details

Uganda Centre for International Theatre Institute
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Chuss,
Makere University,
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Kampala
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Tel: +256 77 2567910

Links to reports on our activities

http://www.observer.ug/lifestyle/37064-uganda-celebrates-world-theatre-day

www.theafrican.co.ke/magazine/14a-Rotimi-s-play-still-relevant-49-years-later-/a34746/2897904/-/e2831v/-/index.html

Activities 2014 – 2016

Since 1999, Theatre Communications Group (TCG) has served as the U.S. Centre of ITI, fully complementing TCG’s existing programming. Global Citizenship is one of TCG’s four core values (Artistry, Advocacy, Diversity and Global Citizenship), underscoring TCG’s belief that the future of the U.S. professional not-for-profit theatre requires a connection to the larger international network of theatres, artists and other cultural leaders.

Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for theatre, and the Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics (the Lab), based in Washington, D.C. at Georgetown University, announced in February 2016 a partnership to establish the Global Theatre Initiative (GTI).

By combining the unique reach of TCG’s international programming with the Lab’s distinctive experience in humanizing global politics through the power of performance, GTI will strengthen, nurture, and promote global citizenship and international collaboration in the U.S. professional and educational theatre fields. Through the alignment of their programming and resources, the GTI partners will serve as a hub of global exchange with three core areas of focus: connecting practitioners with resources, knowledge, and partnerships to strengthen their work; promoting cultural collaboration as essential for international peace and mutual understanding; and innovating new strategies to maximize the global theatre field’s opportunities and impact.

Activities Centre of ITI (Americas)

GTI will also take on the collaborative leadership of the U.S. Centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI—U.S.), a role previously held by TCG alone.

Programmes and Activities Highlights

• ITI-U.S. has a long history of convening meetings to nurture, develop and share knowledge about international exchange. In June 2016, GTI’s first project was a Global Pre-Conference with performances at the 2016 TCG National Conference in Washington D.C. Held on Wednesday, June 22 at the Davis Performing Arts Centre at Georgetown University, the Pre-Conference curated by GTI launched a stream of programming around global citizenship and exchange throughout the subsequent conference, June 23-25.

• ITI-U.S. regularly celebrates World Theatre Day and identifies a significant artist as the U.S. author. The 2014 U.S. address was given by Diane Rodríguez, noted theatre practitioner and President Obama appointee to the National Council on the Arts. In 2016 Ping Chong, veteran generative artist and recent recipient of the National Medal of the Arts (the highest award given to U.S. artists), delivered the address.

• The Global Connections grant programme was designed by TCG and is funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Recipients regularly post blogs on TCG’s Circle to share their learning with colleagues across the U.S. and globally. Go to http://www.tcgcircle.org/category/global-connections/ to see posts from recent grant recipients.

• TCG has a robust history of regularly facilitating delegations of U.S. theatre practitioners to travel...
Activities
US Centre of ITI (Americas)

Global Theatre Initiative Board Committee
• Michael Rosenberg, GTI Board Committee Chair and Managing Director, La Jolla Playhouse
• Joshua Dachs, President, Fisher Dachs Associates
• Blake Robinson, Artistic Director, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park
• Nikkole Salter, actor/dramatist/educator/activist
• Meeyin Wang, Director, Devised Theatre Initiative
• Joshua Dachs, President, Fisher Dachs Associates

Global Theatre Initiative Staff
The Global Theatre Initiative is coordinated by:
• Teresa Eyring, executive director, TCG
• Derek Goldman, co-founder, the Lab
• Kevin Bitterman, associate director of artistic & international programs, TCG
• Emilya Cachapero, director of artistic & international programs, TCG
• Jojo Ruf, managing director, the Lab

Activities 2014-2015
• Radio-theatre for all with the programme ‘Theatre Out Loud’
• September 2015 - Course at the Theatre Estable de Villa de Cura, in Maracay
• November 2015 – General Assembly of the Centre.

Activities 2016
• March
  • Celebration of International Women’s Day: performance of the play ‘Teresa de Calcuta’ (‘Mother Teresa of Calcutta’) by Yahaira Salazar in a production by Teatro Ángelus Company.
  • Annual presentation ‘Fedecino García Lorca for Everyone’ by Isbelia de Alcala.
  • Celebration of World Poetry Day: performance of Federico García Lorca’s collection ‘A Poet in New York’ with students of literature from San Francisco de Asis College, Anzoategui State.

Activities 2017
8 March
International Women’s Day
• Gathering of the new ITI Centre in Caracas, Venezuela, ‘Situation of the Last Decade of Venezuelan Theatre’, in Caracas.

Activities 2017
8 March
International Women’s Day
• Participation of the Venezuela ITI Centre in the 35rd ITI World Congress in Manaus, Brazil.
• Stage presentation during the Congress of ‘Hombres de maiz’ (‘Men of Maize’), adapted from the novel by Miguel Angel Asturias.

Activities 2017
April – May
• Camp of the Venezuela ITI Centre in the 35rd ITI World Congress in Manaus, Brazil.
• Celebration of International Dance Day: Performance of ‘Flamenco and Federico García Lorca’.

Activities 2017
May – June
• Participation of the Venezuela ITI Centre in the 35rd ITI World Congress in Manaus, Brazil.

Activities 2017
Venezuela Theatre people in action. Below right: Yahaira Salazar, President of the Venezuela Centre

to other countries. This travel plays an integral role in strengthening theatre’s power and relevance as a universal art form and enhances TCG’s ability to unite theatre workers globally. Recent delegations include the Havana International Theatre Festival, Fujairah International Arts Festival, Festival Iberoamericano de Teatro de Bogotá, and the Santiago a MI Festival.

• TCG’s American Theatre magazine (print and online) features a regular ‘Global Spotlight’ column, and the May/June 2014, 2015 and 2016 issues again previewed theatre festivals worldwide and featured articles by U.S. theatre artists abroad.

• As a publisher of new plays and emerging playwrights, TCG Books, representing over 1,600 titles, has a dual objective: to bring new literary voices to public attention and to cultivate individual relationships with playwrights that nurture their careers. TCG serves as the exclusive U.S. distributor for Playwrights Canada Press of Toronto and London publishers Nick Hern Books, Aurora Metro Publications and Oberon Books. The English-language translation of Chilean playwright Guillermo Calderón’s Neva was released in 2016 and Inside/Outside: Six Plays from Palestine and the Diaspora was published in 2015.

• The Lab has just completed its two-year Myriad Voices: A Cross Cultural Performance Festival, a series which focused on increasing understanding of Islam and Muslim majority populations, supported in part by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Association of Performing Arts Presenters. As part of Myriad Voices, the Lab hosted work from the Syrian refugee crisis, presented a satirical comedy from Pakistan, curated timely panels, forums, and meetings, produced an innovative multi-media performance with Georgetown University students and youth from Egypt, Syria, Afghanistan, Sudan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Qatar, and Iraq, hosted a Portal on campus which linked people in Washington, DC and Herat, Afghanistan, and developed a new play with Heather Raffo.

Activities
Venezuela Centre of ITI (Americas)

Venezuela Theatre people in action. Below right: Yahaira Salazar, President of the Venezuela Centre

Venezuela Theatre people in action. Below right: Yahaira Salazar, President of the Venezuela Centre
Vietnam Centre of ITI (Asia/Pacific)

Activities 2014 to June 2016

2014
In celebration of World Theatre Day, March 27, 2014, VSAA and the Vietnamese centre of ITI organized two activities at the National Puppet theatre:

• The scientific seminar: “Creating Puppet repertoires which convey conception value and bringing about highly artistic value in new phase”
• Traditional water puppet programme.

VSAA and the Vietnamese centre of ITI organized the “1st Capital Theatre Festival” in October 2014 in Ha Noi.

Le Tien Tho, President of VSAA, director of Vietnamese Centre of ITI and Le Chuc, Deputy President of VSAA and Le Quy Duong, General Director of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) and his assistant in Hue city (Vietnam), in April 12, 2014.

2015
To mark World Theatre Day, VSAA and the Vietnamese Centre of ITI organized a business trip to China for officials and artists from October 27-November 2.

VSAA and the Vietnamese Centre of ITI appointed Meritorious Artist Nguyen Bich Tan (from Vietnam Tuong Theatre) to take part in the inaugural China – Asean Traditional Theatre Gala, from December 2-5, 2015 at Nanning, China. In this event, Mrs Nguyen Thi Bich Tan performed an excerpt from “Hoa Nguyet Co hoa cau”.

2016
To celebrate World Theatre Day, VSAA and the Vietnamese Centre of ITI will organize arts activities in Ha Noi.

Le Tien Tho will take part in the World Theatre Day celebration event, the ITI Asia-Pacific Regional meeting and Traditional Theatre Forum in Guangzhou, China from March 26 to 30, 2016.


Zimbabwe Centre of ITI (Africa)

Activities 2014 to June 2016

Activities 2015

The Centre has established an African scholarship fellowship with Dell’Arte International School of Physical Theatre in the United States, which provides a professional educational opportunity for Zimbabwean theatre practitioners to study in the United States of America for a year and develop their theatre skills.

Established in 2012, the African Fellowship exists to promote the development of Physical Theatre and collaborative theatre making in Zimbabwe.

African Fellowship Grants: Recipients were Tafadzwa Bob Mutumbi (2014); Nyaradzo Nhongonhema (2015) and Teddy Mangawa (2016).

World Theatre Day has been celebrated with performances and discussions.

The Centre established and conducted a train-the-trainer workshop in partnership with Girls High School in Harare, for teachers of drama. The workshop was a preparation for creating plays in 13 schools from the Harare Province.

We also piloted and facilitated a drama training workshop and mentorship project for actors in Harare with over 40 students from 15 different schools.

Planned Activities:

The Centre established and conducted a train-the-trainer workshop in partnership with Girls High School in Harare, for teachers of drama. The workshop was a preparation for creating plays in 13 schools from the Harare Province.

We also piloted and facilitated a drama training workshop and mentorship project for actors in Harare with over 40 students from 15 different schools.

Planned Activities:

The Centre will host World Theatre Day Celebrations on March 24, 2016. We intend to celebrate the occasion with performances and a national seminar that ensures that artists’ rights are promoted inline with the UNESCO Recommendation on the rights and status of artists, and to facilitate access to information and opportunities and promote dialogue on issues that contribute to the development of Zimbabwean Culture.

There will be a series of discussions where theatre professionals and experts will present papers under the title: “Is the prevailing environment paving the way for the creation and sustainable of classical work that can be celebrated beyond their times?” Journalists, theatre professionals, representatives of government departments and bodies as well as members of the public will be invited to attend and participate in the discussion. The presentations and responses will be recorded and published on the ITI Zimbabwe blog and MeTambo Newsletter.

International Dance Day

IDD 2016 will be hosted at the National Dance Trust of Zimbabwe and will feature 10-minute dance presentations by 15 dance groups from a diverse range of backgrounds.

Training

From April 20-May 2 2016, we will host Ronlin Foreman, a former director of the Dell’ Arte International School of Physical Theatre, long time director of pedagogy and training and partner in the devising of the MFA program in Ensemble Based Physical Theatre. Ronlin will meet with creative practitioners to discuss theatre in Zimbabwe, and how to create relevant and thought -proving work in our time and environment.

Board

Zane E. Lucas (Chairperson), Jo Powell (Vice-Chairperson)

Members:
Daniel Maphosa
Jason Mpopo
Stephen Chifunyise
Elizabeth R. Muchemwa
Leony Gono
James Jinga
Eunice R. Tava
ITI Committees (Networks, Forums, Groups, etc.) are doing international projects in their field of interest. Their activities are bringing value and visibility to ITI. Their goals are mainly artistic, educational or humanistic, but even if they are concentrating on one of the goals, for example artistic goals, the other goals - educational and humanistic - are integrated in their activities. Recently, ITI Committees changed their name to Network, Forum, and Project Group to indicate that they are more open and freer in their choice of structure.

But no matter how a Committee, Network, Forum or Project Group calls itself, it is a group of people. A group can be defined as two or more people who interact with one another, share similar characteristics, and collectively have a sense of unity. The sense of unity may come about through the goals the group pursues together and the short- and long-term activities and projects they are instating and creating together. An important part of the group is that each group member considers herself or himself to be a member of the group and is actively participating in the group. A true group has members that communicate with each other so that each of the members knows what is going on.

Those ITI Committees, Networks, Forums and Project Groups that are result-oriented, that are doing projects and activities together in their field of interest and that are following the vision, mission and goals that were formulated for their group, are working well. They are in communication with each other. Those that lack one or the other important ingredient are not as successful as they could be and should introduce the missing points.

At the moment there is an increasing number of Committees, Networks, Forums and Project Groups within ITI. With an increasing number of Centres there is nothing wrong with increasing the number of such groups. If each of them is following the spirit of a good group, the humanistic, artistic and educational value of ITI is increased.
Activities — Committees, Forums, Networks
Action Committee for Artists Rights ACAR

Activities 2014 – 2016

Working Group
Office Bearers
Ann Marie ENGEL (Sweden), President
Thomas ENGEL (Germany), Coordinator

Members
Fray Paulo CASURADO DIOZDADO (Philippines)
Kevin BITTERMAN (USA)
Hanna HELAVUORI (Finland)

Corresponding Members
Cheikh ODDOUR (Algeria), Ambrose MIA (Cameroon), Alexandra RCE (Belgium), Fanyia WILLIAMS (United Kingdom), Hamadou MANDE (Burkina Faso), Gad KAHNAR (Israel), Tatjana AŽMAN (Slovenia)

2014

October–December
Implementation of new Word-Press based website and implementation of a professional mailing system for the newsletter (12 ACAR members, 42 subscribers, plus forwardings by members and the General secretariat). Both systems are hosted and maintained by the German ITI Centre. 2 newsletters with the recent entries of the ACAR news, calls for action and cases from the website were produced and mailed on 10 November and 4 December respectively.

2015

January, Brussels (Belgium)
Ann Mari Engel and Thomas Engel attended the Winter Camp of the Artists Rights Justice (ARJ) international working group. ACAR became a member of ARJ. ARJ has presently 20 international member organizations, 3 alliances and 5 individual members. ARJ is an independent cross-sector working group (arts and human rights) set up in 2012 under the framework of the European civil society dialogue platform, “Access to Culture” (see: http://culturalactionsurope.org/milestone/arj-arts-rights-justice)

The committee ARJ became a valuable source for information exchange on violation of artists rights and for exchange of experiences in the field.

May, Cairo (Egypt)
ACAR was invited for a conference on Theatre and Censorship in Cairo (Egypt). Thomas Engel attended and gave a lecture on the work of international Censorship in Cairo (Egypt).

September, Brussels (Belgium)
Members meeting of ARJ. Ann Marie Engel and Thomas attended and added an ACAR board meeting.

Offices

October, Berlin (Germany)
Thomas Engel introduced to members of the German Parliament the growing problems in worldwide artists mobility and the unsatisfying visa issuing practice in Europe as a failure in fulfilling Article 16 of the UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity.

5 newsletters were produced and mailed
6 January, 16 February, 3 March, 24 November, 21 December 2016
February, Dibba (Fujairah, UAE)
Ann Mari Engel and Thomas Engel attended the ITI Joint Committee Meeting.

April
Ann Mari Engel compiled the March-April 2016 ARJ Newsletter with information and cases

7 September, Berlin (Germany)
Thomas Engel represented ACAR at the first consultation with the German Foreign Office on Visa questions and artist’s mobility with the cultural sector. The consultation was initiated by the German UNESCO commission.

6–9 October, Beirut (Lebanon)
Thomas Engel represented ACAR at the ietm Satellite Meeting on “Freedom of Expression” and was guest speaker at the opening panel.

5 November, Valencia (Spain)
Bettina Suzuki, board member of ITI Germany, attended the ARJ meeting at the IETM summit.

6 newsletters were produced and mailed
5 February, 11 March, 15 May, 4 July, 23 September, 20 December 2017
January
ACAR has sent out a call to all European ITI centres for submission of cases of artists’ rights violations in Europe with an emphasis on Poland, the Netherlands and Spain for the United Nations Special Rapporteur and UN Committee on economic, social and cultural rights.

February
ACAR has sent a letter to the Turkish government expressing ITI’s deep concern about the dismissals of colleagues – professors of the theatre department of the Ankara University as well as all the many Turkish artists and intellectuals being suspected and threatened within the past months.

1 newsletter has been sent out on 17 March.

ACAR cases:

• Tania Bruguera (visual artist and performer, Cuba), was arrested on December 30, 2014 for staging Tatlin’s Whisper 86. (Letter of support)
• Miha Turič (director and co-founder of the Culture and Space Technologies (KSEVT) in Vitanje, Slovenia), went on hunger strike on 1st of October 2015 for better financing of culture. Report.
• Mariam Diarra (dancer and choreographer, Mali), was refused on 18 December 2015 an entry visa to the French territory for a concert and a masterclass at the Africolor festival (Seine-Saint-Denis). Report.
• Mohammed Abu Sakha (Palestine), performer and trainer was arrested by Israeli military and sentenced by a military court to administrative detention, without any charges. (Report, petition, follow up until 2017).
• Jelili Atiku (performer from Lagos, Nigeria) was arrested on Monday 18 January 2016 and arraigned on criminal charges of “constituting public disturbance, and inciting the public with his performance”. (Report)
• Alfonso Lázaro and Raúl Garcia from the group Tierras desde Abajo (Rapports from Below), Granada (Spain), have been imprisoned for a street theatre show on February 6th, 2016. Both were released from jail on February 10, but are still under investigation. (Report, petition).
• Pyotr Pavlensky, performance artist from Russia, was charged in Moscow with vandalism for setting fire to the main doors of the headquarters of the Federal Security Service on 9 November 2015. On 26 January 2016 he was detained in a psychiatric hospital in Moscow and is being denied access to his lawyer and the outside world. Pavlensky was released on June 8, 2016. (Report)
• Silvano Muzdvo, theatre actor and producer from Zimbabwe, was arrested in Harare on April 18, 2016 for staging his new one man play “Wishing Diamonds, I Need My Share”. (Report)

Cases and information on violation of artists’ rights have been reported partly by ACAR members, partly ARJ and by other information sources. All published information has been double checked for available original sources.

Report submitted by Thomas ENGEL, Germany (Coordinator)

www.artistsrights.iti-germany.de
Activities – Committees, Forums, Networks
Dramatic Theatre Committee DTC

Activities 2014 – 2016
Office Bearers
Hakob GHAZANCHYAN (Armenia), President
Reinhard AUER (Austria), Secretary

Board Members
Syed DULAL (Bangladesh)
Sarantuya SAMBUU (Mongolia)
Douglas SINWARAANJA (Sri Lanka)
Shuji SOTA (Japan)
Giorgio ZORCU (Italy)
Corresponding Members
Guillaume EKOUME (Cameroon)
Leandros TALIOTIS (Cyprus)
Saman ZOYSA (Sri Lanka)
Shuji SOTA (Japan)

Activities 2014
No activities, conference or board meeting were held.

Activities 2015
No conference or board meeting was held.

The intended and announced project “PAiR” (by Giorgio Zorcu) was cancelled due to lack of support and funding.

Activities 2016
No conference or board meeting has been held at the time of writing.

The intended and announced project “Prospero” (by Hakob Ghazanchyan) was realized at Yerevan and should travel to the ITI World Congress in Segovia, if funds are available for travel for the artists.

Remark: In recognition of the continuous increase of war and violence thus leading to millions of refugees around the world, the DTC should pick up the stimulation of the Director General, Tobias Biancone, and make the theme “Peace by/through Theatre” as the central subject of one of its future projects.

DTC is presented on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/476713939014681/?ref=tf

Activities 2014 – 2016
Office Bearers
Apostolos APOTOLIDIES (Cyprus), Coordinator, apostolo@apes.org
Marine LARD (Belgium FR), General Secretary, marine@theatreetpublics.org

Project Leaders
Berthui LEGLOIRE (Botswana); Viktor MELNIKOV (Denmark); Envre EREIM (Turkey); Sxvd NAMSRAI (Mongolia); Hamadou MANDE (Burkina Faso); Boris DAUSSA-PASTOR (Spain); Ismail SHAHEEN (Bangladesh); Andrea PACCOTTO (Italy)

Members
Jeffrey SCHIL (USA); Anu LAMP (Estonia); Christine SCHMALOR (Germany); Ulla SVEJDIN (Sweden); Shafii AHMED (Bangladesh); Mikkel FYLVHOLM (Denmark); Derek GOLDMAN (USA); Samia HABIB (Egypt); Kevin MOORE (USA); Jihad ASSAD (Colombia); Alberto GARCIÁ (Spain); Zelimir MESSIC (Croatia); Alain CHEVALIER (Belgium); Djamel KABER (Algeria); Hamiza BOUKIR (Algeria); Maria HORNE (USA); Naum PANOVIĆ (USA); Taiwo AFOLABI (Nigeria); ANG LI (China); Jean-Henri DREIZE (Belgium FR); Carlos CELDÍN (Luda)

Activities 2015
Chekhov International School (Melikhovo, Russia):
Master Classes
The project was facilitated by Viktor Melnikov, Russia. During 2015, through educational laboratories at Chekhov International Theatre School in Melikhovo (Russia), we offered two educational programmes: The Art of Characterisation with Ulrich Meyer-Horsch (Germany) and The Alchemy of Perception with Slava Kokorin and Zoya Zadorozhnaya (Russia). The main aim of this offering is to provide a platform for sharing knowledge and practices of theatre professionals in an effort to renew dialogue at the international level towards the Theatre of the Future. 30 theatre practitioners from different countries for establishing an annual conference on how to involve people from different target groups in community theatre as participants of the performance. The experts in the specific field presented their experiences from different projects with videos, presentations, speeches, surveys, open dialogues. The whole event enhanced the mutual understanding and the best ways of cooperation for achieving the goals of how to bring theatre to people within the dynamics and possibilities of the cultures of the East and the West.

Chekhov International School (Melikhovo, Russia):
Creative Residency Workshop
The project was facilitated by Andrea Paciotto, Italy. The Piazza project: June 17-29 (La MaMa Umbria, Italy) A two-week creative residency on site-specific performance with veteran directors/choreographers/site artist Stephan Koplowitz and award winning composer and sound designer for theatre/film/dance Quentin Chappetta.

La MaMa Umbria - International Symposium for Directors
The project was facilitated by Andrea Paciotto, Italy First session: 27 June –11 July; Second session 13 – 27 July (La MaMa Umbria, Italy)
A training program for professional directors, choreographers, actors and others where internationally renowned theatre artists conducted workshops and lecture/demonstrations.
http://lamama.org/programs/la-mama-umbria/-international-symposium-for-directors/

The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space
The project was facilitated by ITI Belgian FR Centre and ATPS (Association de Techniciens Professionnels du Spectacle), Prague

The largest scenography event in the world that explores a range of scenographic practices – from stage design and costume design to lighting design, sound design and new scenographic practices such as site-specific, applied scenography, urban performance, costume as performance, and much more.

The Gold Medal PQ 2015 for the Best Exhibition Design went to the Belgian national exposition, MovingLab, which took a fresh and stimulating approach to presenting the creation and realization of a scenographic project in a collaborative environment.

How to Bring theatre to People
December 2015 in Shanghai
The project was facilitated by Apostolos Apostolidis, Jean-Henri Debou, Boris Pastor, Tobias Biancone (ITI), Chen Zhongwen (Director for Collaborations ITI), theatre representatives from the Jing’an District and the Shanghai Theatre Academy.

An event on exchanging thoughts and ideas between specialists from different countries for establishing an annual conference on how to involve people from different target groups in community theatre as participants of the performance. The experts in the specific field presented their experiences from different projects with videos, presentations, speeches, surveys, open dialogues. The whole event enhanced the mutual understanding and the best ways of cooperation for achieving the goals of how to bring theatre to people within the dynamics and possibilities of the cultures of the East and the West.
Activities – Committees, Forums, Networks
International Dance Committee IDC

Office Bearers

President: Andromachi DIMITRIOU-LINDAHL (Cyprus)
Vice Presidents: Marcia DE LA GARZA (USA), Nicolle VIEIRA (Brazil)
General Secretary: Andromachi DIMITRIOU-LINDAHL (Cyprus)
Contact: lindahl@cytanet.com.cy

Board Members
Alberto GARCIA
Luis LLERENA (Spain)
Julien MENSAH (Togo)
JUN Hong-jo (South Korea)
Honorary Member: Georgette GERBARA (Lebanon)

Activities 2014 – 2017

Office Bearers

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Activities 2014

• The selection of the candidates for the International Dance Day message author 2015
• IDC Skype meetings deciding to embrace the 5th International Dance Symposium, as an IDC long time joint project, to be implemented during the 35th ITI World Congress in Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil, between 1 and 3 June 2016. The 5th Symposium’s theme “Dancing in the Body of Nature”.

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Activites 2016

• Meeting of the IDC board member’s working group for the 5th International Dance Symposium. Present: Andromachi Dimitriadou-Lindahl (Cyprus), Marcia de la Garza (USA), Nicolle Vieira (Brazil), Luis Llerena (Spain), Alberto Garcia (Spain), Georgette Gerbara (Lebanon) in Fujairah during the celebrations of the IDD in Shanghai and to participate in a Conference.

Activities 2017

• The selection of the candidates for the International Dance Day message author 2017

IDC did an open call to all its members, to propose names for the pre selection of the candidate authors of the IDD message. We created a list of names, and all members of IDC voted to select three names. We presented the names of the IDC to the Executive Council of ITI for the final decision. Mrs. Trisha Brown (USA), IDC’s first choice, has been selected by the EXC to write the message for the IDD 2017.

Grand Finale at the International Dance Day 2014, with Mourad Merzouki and friends on stage, at the main hall of UNESCO in Paris.
Photo: Olivier Hoffschir

Activities 2014 – 2017

Office Bearers

President: Andromachi DIMITRIOU-LINDAHL (Cyprus)
Vice Presidents: Marcia DE LA GARZA (USA), Nicolle VIEIRA (Brazil)
General Secretary: Andromachi DIMITRIOU-LINDAHL (Cyprus)
Contact: lindahl@cytanet.com.cy

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For the board of the IDC

Andromachi Dimitriadou Lindahl
Activities – Committees, Forums, Networks
International Festival Forum IFF

Activities 2014 – 2016
Office Bearers
Susanne DANIG (Denmark), President (until February 2016)
Tatjana AZMAN (Slovenia), Interim-President (February 2016 to May 2016)
Corinna BETHGE (Germany), Vice-President
Ouedraogo ABLAS (Ivory Coast), Vice-President
LE QUY Duong (Vietnam), Vice-President
Dušana TODOROVIĆ (Serbia), Secretary General,
dusanatodorovic@gmail.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/IFFcommittee.

Joint EC Meeting
With International Festival Forum and International Monodrama Forum, February 17-22, 2015, Fujairah
Susanne Danig, Corinna Bethge, Tatjana Altman and Le Quy Duong represented the IFF and Mohamed Al Mlikhan and Olga Pozeli participated on behalf of IMF to discuss the creation of a joint artistic research project called “I-WHERE-NOW Memories and Visions”. Corinna and Olga were mandated to develop the artistic frame based on interviews about cultural identity with local people at different places of the world. The aim is to present these in a public art project focusing on civil society and people’s dreams for the future, with the role of theatre and festivals in promoting these dreams as a supplementary aim. This project will be developed as a tool that IFF and/or IMF can present at festivals attended by ITI members, thereby integrating festival professionals, international artists and local communities. The project is closely connected to the spirit of ITI and the cultural diversity ITI is aiming at. The different editions of the project will be collected and presented digitally in collaboration with the Fujairah Culture and Media Authority.

Joint IFF/IMF Meeting
At the Prague Quadrennial, June 19-25, 2015
Corinna Bethge of IFF and Olga Pozeli of IMF met at the Prague Quadrennial to develop the planned joint project “I-WHERE-NOW: Memories and Visions”. The conclusions and proposals were sent out to IFF and IMF members, as well as some ITI Centres to solicit feedback and further improve the project. We especially thank Ursula Wedenberg (Switzerland), Tatjana Altman (Slovenia), Mascha Pössgen, Eberhard Wagner and Annette Doeffin (Germany) for their detailed feedback.

Joint IFF / IMF Meeting and “Small Town Festivals with a World View” Seminar
23 to 25 August 2015 as a part of the Waves Festival in Vordingborg, Denmark
The seminar was organized by Susanne Danig in cooperation with Waves Festival and IFEA Europe, and focused on the challenges facing festivals based in smaller cities. The artistic programme of the Waves Festival was also a part of the seminar schedule. Existing speakers and representatives for different European festivals were present including ITI President, Mohamed Al Mlikhan. Together with Olga Pozeli he represented IMF. Susanne Danig, Corinna Bethge and Dušana Todorović presented the IFF and its work to an international audience during the Seminar.

7th Fujairah International Monodrama Festival
Fujairah UAE, February 2016
Corinna Bethge, Tatjana Altman, Le Quy Duong and Dušana Todorović were present alongside the Executive Council meeting that took place. The IFF presented its past work and future plans with the focus on the artistic research project “I-WHERE-NOW: Memories and Visions”. IFF expresses is deep thanks to Susanne Danig for her contribution to IFF’s work during her presidency from 2013 - 2016.

Activities – Committees, Forums, Networks
International Monodrama Forum IMF

Activities 2014 – 2016
Office Bearers
Mohamed AI Mlikhun (UAE), President
Annette DOFFIN (Germany), Vice-President
Nina MAZUR (Ukraine/Germany), Vice-President
Olga POZELI (Korea), Secretary
olga.pozeli@gmail.com

Members
Jolanta Sutowicz (Germany)
Kim Jong-ck (Korea Republic)
Fray Paolo Maria DODODADO CASARAO (Philippines)
Alfira ARSLANOVA (Russia)
Pascal VANOU (Benin)
Steve KARRI (Luxembourg)
Alexandre RUBINOVAS (Lithuania)
Antonina MIKHATSOVA (Belarus)
Marija TANANA (Lithuania)
Kyrylo BULKOV (Ukraine)
Mentor ZYMBERAJ (Kosovo)
Tatjana AZMAN (Slovenia)
Kurt EGELHOF (South Africa)
Seyyd Asfah FRATABABEE (Iran)
Boloroo.N (Mongolia)
Emre ERDEM (Turkey)
Marianna MIKHITARYAN (Armenia)

Members of the IMF reported on their activities and projects, their festivals, since the World Congress 2014 in Yerevan:
• The Ammono monodrama festival took place in Yerevan, May 2015, under the artistic direction of Mariana Mkhitaryan of the Armenian Theatre Union.
• The festival was comprised of lectures and discussions in the format of a symposium. The 2014 edition of the festival had a section of monodrama for children and youth (Young Thespis), a field that offers great possibilities for development. (More information is available from Olga Pozeli). In Paphos (Cyprus), in the framework of European Capital of Culture, a monodrama festival under the artistic direction of Alexandras Rubinovas.
• Saint Muse 12 International Theatre Festival organized Mono Days, an event dedicated to monodrama, as an integral part of the festival that included two separate trainings for the professional artists, conducted by Nina Mazur and Mentor Zymbear.
• Special mention should be made of the workshops and other activities of Fray Paolo Maria Diododado Casarao of the Philippines. With great commitment and under often difficult conditions, Fray Paolo - in the framework of the Manila Cultural Programme - travels to distant parts of the country to give workshops to women and people in detention centres.
• In February, 2016, this report was presented at the 7th Fujairah International Monodrama Festival, embedded in the 1st Fujairah International Arts Festival.
• Thespis, the German biennial monodrama festival, happened, mid-November 2016. As in its last edition the festival was comprised of lectures and discussions in the format of a symposium. The 2014 edition of the festival had a section of monodrama for children and youth (Young Thespis), a field that offers great possibilities for development. (More information is available from Olga Pozeli).
• In Paphos (Cyprus), in the framework of European Capital of Culture, a monodrama festival under the artistic direction of Ninas Tengil is scheduled for mid-September 2017.

Fujairah International Monodrama Festival’s Digital Library of Monodrama project – to collect and house an online archive of mono dramas - is in the process of further development.
Activities – Committees, Forums, Networks

ITI Publication Committee IPC

Activities 2014 – 2016

Board
Alfira ARSLANOVA (Russia), President
Babul BISWAS (Bangladesh), Secretary
Mofidul HOQUE (Bangladesh)
Merce SAUMELL VERGES (Spain)
Yahya AYED ALQAISSI (Fujairah/UAE)
Olga KANISKINA (Russia)
Jose Laderas SANTOS (Philippines)
Philly JEMBA jr. (Uganda)
Add DIFAPPA (Sudan)

Ramendu MAJUMDAR (Bangladesh), Honorary President

Activities 2014
A board meeting was held on 20 November 2014 in Yerevan, Armenia, and was presided over by Alfira Arslanova. At this meeting, the name of the “Communication Committee” was changed to “Publication Committee”.

The ITI Publication Committee established an Editorial Board to drive the publication of the “World of Theatre” in English. It comprises Alfira Arslanova (Russia) who will coordinate the project together with Ramendu Majumdar (Bangladesh); Mofidul Hoque (Bangladesh); Yahya Ayed Alqaissi (Fujairah/UAE); Merce Saumell Verges (Spain); Yulia Ardashnikova (Russia) and Babul Biswas (Bangladesh)

Activities 2015
The 2014 edition of “World of Theatre” was translated and published in Russian.
Four issues of ITI–Info Magazine were published, including reports on the 34th ITI World Congress.

Activities 2016
A board meeting was held on 22 February 2016 in Fujairah/UAE and was presided over by Alfira Arslanova. The key decisions made were:
• The Dhaka seminar will held in July-August 2016 during the Monodrama Festival to be organized by Bangladesh Center of ITI.
• The website and database on publications will be completed March.
• The ITI Publication Committee meeting to be held in Moscow in April will centre on publications devoted to the social role of theatre as well as the theme of the 35th ITI World Congress “The Nature is Our Stage”.
• To urge national ITI Centres to speed up the process of submitting articles to ensure that the World of Theatre publication may be launched on time.

The Dramaturgy Education Programme in the Philippines

Long-term Project
After the pilot project in 2009 started by Jasen Boko, the workshop series on Dramaturgy in the Philippines has taken place every year since 2012. Facilitators include Jasen Boko (Croatia), Andrea Zagorski (Germany), Ursula Wedenberg (Switzerland), Magdalena Zira (Cyprus), August Melody Andong (Philippines), Dag Thalander (Sweden), Talia Fura (Canada), Svetslav Jovanov (Serbia), Gim Chang-Iwa and Gim Yena (both Korea Republic).

Philippine Dramaturgy Caravan (February)
Dramaturgy Symposium in Metro Manila: This gathering of international dramaturges of various disciplines, playwrights and theatre artists focused their discussions on “Dramaturgy as a Profession” and “Textual Dramaturgy in relation to Production and Reception Dramaturgy”.

Dramaturgy Workshop 1 in the City of Dumaguete: A 2-day workshop held at the University of Dumaguete, focused on the basic skills of Textual and Production & Reception Dramaturgy, with the target participants being at least 30 young theatre practitioners.

Dramaturgy Workshop 2 in the City of Bacolod: This 2-day workshop held at the University of St. La Salle focused on the basic skills of Textual Production & Reception Dramaturgy. The facilitators were Gim Chang-Iwa and Malou Jacob (Philippines)

Activities – Committees, Forums, Networks

International Playwrights´ Forum IPF

Activities 2014 – 2016

Board Members
Andrea ZAGORSKI (Germany), President
a.zagorski@iti-germany.de
GM Chang-Iwa (Korea Republic), Vice President
Marcio SOUZA (Brazil), Vice President
Ursula Wedenberg (Switzerland), General Secretary
u.wedenberg@grims.net

August Melody ANDONG (Philippines); Tatjana AZMAN (Slovenia); Jasen BOKO (Croatia); Siobhan BOURKE (Ireland); Jasen Boko (Croatia), Andrea Zagorski (Germany), Ursula Wedenberg (Switzerland), Magdalena Zira (Cyprus), August Melody Andong (Philippines), Dag Thalander (Sweden), Talia Fura (Canada), Svetslav Jovanov (Serbia), Gim Chang-Iwa and Gim Yena (both Korea Republic).

Activities 2015
Playwriting and Dramaturgy Workshops
The playwriting and dramaturgy workshops are an important project line of the IPF, in order to reach out to various countries in the world, and to educate and train playwrights and young practitioners in the basics of dramaturgy, playwriting, and theatre arts. Members of IPF have conducted workshops in Bangladesh, India, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia and the Philippines.

Activities 2014 – 2016

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u.werdenberg@gmx.net

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Activities – Committees, Forums, Networks
International Playwrights’ Forum IPF

Playwriting Competition 2016
Since the Congress in China, IPF has concentrated on dramaturgy workshops but is still engaged in competitions. Ursula Werdenberg, Secretary General, advised the Philippine Centre of ITI to launch a “Global Playwriting Competition on Climate Change” 2015 in collaboration with UN organizations and IPF. Members of the jury were hagans R. Cruz of the Philippine ITI Centre, Tobias Biancone DG ITI, and Andrea Zagorski, President ITI. The winner - Barbara Anderlic of Slovenia – won 5000 US Dollars for her play, “A Continental Divide” and was awarded in Paris.

IPF Meeting of the Office Bearers June 2015, Berlin
On the occasion of the “Autorentheatertage Berlin” at the Deutschen Theater Berlin, Andrea Zagorski and Ursula Werdenberg met at the German ITI Centre to prepare activities for the Congress 2016 and the IPF Board Meeting in Seoul.

IPF Board Meeting, October 2015, Seoul
Participants in this board meeting included Andrea Zagorski, Gim Chang-Iwa, Ursula Werdenberg, August Melody Andong, Chai Jeong-min (Asiatic Korea, International Relations Team Manager) and Kim Jin-man (Chair/Director of the Korean Duo Theatre). The two main focuses of the meeting were the future Dramaturgy Workshop in the City of Bacolod: A text and playwriting workshop was held at the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City. This workshop focused on the basic skills for playwriting and developing a play.

KURIS Theatre Festival 2016 in Bacolod will include Performances from West Visayas Theatre Groups with special participation from International Theatre Artists, ITI 5th International Playwright’s Forum, Dramaturgy Workshop and Women Playwright’s International 2nd Regional Readathon & Script Development Workshop. Dramaturgy Workshop 2 in the City of Capiz. A text and playwriting workshop held at the University of Capiz, focused on the basic skills for playwriting and dramaturgy for young theatre practitioners.

The facilitators were: Ursula Werdenberg (Switzerland), Gim Yena (Korea Republic), August Melody Andong (Philippines) and pinchplayes and Filipino playwrights and theatre artists.

Dramaturgy Workshop in the City of Bacolod: A text and playwriting workshop was held at the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City. This workshop focused on the basic skills for playwriting and developing a play.

Activities 2014 – 2016

Vision
At the 34th ITI World Congress in Yerevan it was communicated that Music Theatre NOW Committee functions as a network, the idea is to have a less formal structure and to expand the Network by attracting more artists and active members. The Music Theatre NOW Network seeks to initiate or coordinate activities in the world of music theatre and is conducting a worldwide competition called Music Theatre NOW for creators of new opera and music theatre, in collaboration with the German Centre of ITI. Prize winners are invited to present their work at international meetings of Music Theatre NOW.

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Beth MORRISON (USA)
Roland OUITT (Germany)
Axel TANGERDING (Germany)
Nick Rongjun YU (China)
Honorary Member: Danny YUNG (Hong Kong)

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Music Theatre NOW Network
Music Theatre NOW Network with an international panel continued his commitment from the 2012 jury.

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Music Theatre NOW Network
Music Theatre NOW Network with an international panel continued his commitment from the 2012 jury.

Next Music Theatre NOW Meeting
The next Music Theatre NOW Meeting will take place in 2019. Productions that have premiered between July 2015 and June 2018 can be entered for the 2019 edition. Festival presenters and international music theatre promoters are encouraged to host the next Music Theatre NOW meeting in 2019. For more information concerning the competition, hosting a MTN meeting or further MTN activities, please contact the MTN project manager, Christian Grammel, mtnow@iti-germany.de or through www.mtnow.org
Activities – Committees, Forums, Networks
Music Theatre NOW Network MTNN

January 2015 – December 2015
Third International Music Theatre NOW Competition MTN 2015
• Worldwide call for applications and announcement of winners
• Received 450 applications from 54 different countries
• Internationally acclaimed jury (Brett Bailey, South Africa / Guy Coolen, Belgium / Sara Joan Fang, Singapore / Ana Lara, Mexico / Joe Melillo, USA)

Various online jury meetings and in person meeting November 23/24 November, in New York, USA at the Brooklyn Academy of Music
• Announcement of 14 winning projects and 4 special mentions including invitations to the MTN meeting May 2016 in Rotterdam, Netherlands
• Official publication documenting the MTN 2015 competition

MTN Archive
Deutsches Zentrum des Internationalen Theaterinstituts, Berlin / Mne Centre
• Editing of the MTN 2015 submissions for integration into Mne Centre archive
• Development of structure for online accessible archive

December 2016
Board Meeting
Deutsches Zentrum des Internationalen Theaterinstituts, Berlin
Berman, Coolen, Morrison, Tangerding, Quitt
• Evaluation of MTN 2015
• Preparations for MTN 2018
• Discussion of financial resources for upcoming MTN activities

Activities 2017
Online Board Meeting
18 January 2017
With Berman, Coolen, Morrison, Tangerding, Quitt
• Scheduling regular online and in person meetings in 2017
• Discussion on schedule for MTN 2018 including second meeting in Shanghai

Contacts
https://www.mtnnow.org
https://www.facebook.com/MusicTheatreNOW
Twitter @MusicTheatreNOW
Sign up for the MTN Newsletter http://eepurl.com/7mSGb

Board Meeting
25/26 May 2015 Operadagen Rotterdam
With Berman, Coolen, Morrison, Tangerding, Quitt and Yu - election of the new president Guy Coolen (Nic o Schaalma stepped down due to work related conflicts of interest)
• Reporting of progress in competition
• Plans for MTN Meeting 2016 in Rotterdam
• Layout of strategy for expanding MTN Internationally
• Meeting of the 18 winning projects of MTN 2015
• Public presentation of all works, conference, keynote speaker and round table discussions
• 180 registered visitors
• Live presentation of four winning projects (facilitated by Operadagen Rotterdam and Fonds Podium Kunstler)

Board Meeting
24 May 2016 Operadagen Rotterdam
With Berman, Coolen, Morrison, Tangerding, Quitt
• Agreement of next MTN competition 2018 / 2019
• Planning of second meeting 2019 in Shanghai
• Discussion on partners for future MTN events

March 2016 – November 2016
MTN Archive
Deutsches Zentrum des Internationalen Theaterinstituts, Berlin / Mne Centre
• Editing of the MTN 2015 submissions for integration into Mne Centre archive

Activities 2014 – 2016
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Activities – Network Heritage, Indigenous Cultures & Migration N-HIM

Activities 2014 – 2016
Board Members
President: Jorge Z. ORTOLL (USA). President jorge.ortoll@ma-yitheatre.org
Christos GEORGIOU, Vice President (Cyprus) director@cytanet.com.cy
Carlos DURING (Mexico/Argentina)
Zeca LIGIERO (Brazil)
Jesus QUINTERO (Mexico)
Ramón VERDUGO (Mexico)
Philly JUANBA (Uganda)
Matthias GEHRT (Germany)

No official board meeting has been held since November 2014 when the Cultural Identity and Development Committee (CIDC) was officially divided into three networks, of which this is one. Members have been working with collaborators and on their own. We seek to work actively with other committee members and each other.

Network – Heritage, Identity and Migration will be changed to “Indigenous Cultures”

Activities
Reports of individual members and their activities in relation to this network

Christos Georgiou (Cyprus)
• Participated in the annual Festival of Ancient Greek Drama with the Ministry of Education and Culture.
• Attended the 14th International Symposium on Ancient Greek Drama (held biannually), 11/12 July 2016, Nicosia, on the topic “Lament in Ancient Greek Drama” (More information to be found in the Report of the Cyprus Centre)

Zeca Ligiero (Brazil)
• Conducted research about an indigenous sacred clown called in Krah language „hotxua“ (Western name: Ismael).
• Attended the 2015 Amerindian festival meeting in Central Brazil
• Staged a play about Koch Grunberg, a German ethnographer who searched for Amerindian languages. The piece was a collection of myths gathered by Grunberg, among them the famous myth of Mukananna
• Staged a play in Besançon, France. “Mariana, princesse turque d’Amazonie” based on research in Afro-Amerindian culture from the Amazon area.
• Book: Theatre of the Oppressed at Universidade do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Portuguese Language Theatre do Oprimido e Universidade
• Video: Diaspora and Performance Afro-Americana
• Video: Ritual to Performance (this is a long work video about my research, including some rituals from Yorê, Mozambique, Turkey, China (ITI congress) and Turkey
• Performance Afro-Latina - filmed in Colombia, is in Spanish
• My current work: indigenous art and play (indio arte e jogos) Art of Amerindian Play and Ritual
• Art, Politics and Pedagogy: an international
Activities – Network Heritage, Indigenous Cultures & Migration N-HIM

Carlos During (Mexico)

During moved to his native Argentina to work with indigenous tribes on the Argentine/Paraguay border. Summary of the 1st year of Theatre Indigenous In Argentina:

• The first intercultural meeting between the Teatro Torno of Bolivia and the Eraxai’pi group of Argentina. A meeting between indigenous Ayamar, Qom, Quechua and Wichis.
• Pampa del Indio, a town located to the northeast of the province of Chaco in Argentina. Half of its population, estimated at 18,000 inhabitants, belongs to peoples Qom, which maintain their language and culture. Pampa del Indio is one of the largest agglomerates of indigenous population of Argentina which has survived a permanent attack at genocide. Pampa del Indio has a long history of struggles as well as a large number of heroes, testimonies, legends, traditions, stories and narratives that reveal the weight of indigenous cultures that are part and parcel of the identity and the cultural diversity of the region. Numerous indigenous organizations, struggling by the cultural rescue, others by land, territory, as well as family and social relationships that are taking place in humanity. Explore how relations between different cultures our continent have been, stimulate critical and constructive position on the matter and encourage effective participation mechanisms for advancing the cause of peace in the world. The main goal then, is to create a community theatre able to entertain, have fun, and to reflect, to touch the sources of faith and spiritual life of people, and create new conditions to put into action the most legitimate aspirations of expression and creativity of the peoples of the community of Pampa del Indio.

Matthias Gehrt (Germany)

Since 2004 Matthias Gehrt has been a member of the German Centre of ITI. He took over the Schauspiel- Direktion at the Theater Krefeld-Mönchengladbach at the beginning of the season 2010/11. He worked abroad, often in collaboration with the Goethe Institute. Between 1995 and 1999, he staged performances in Lagos / Nigeria and between 2000 and 2003 in Guatemala / Mexico. Further productions led him to England, Canada, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Israel.

List of events and activities:
• February / March 2016: Oedipus by Sophokes; at the National-Theater of Ghana, in co-direction with Mawul Semevo (Artistic director of the National Theatre, Ordipus Rev., and the Ghanaian culture is woven intrinsically into the otherwise global theme of the original play.
• July 2016: Orestia, invitation of Theater Krefeld-Mönchengladbach at „International Festival for Ancient Greek Drama“, Cyprus.

Activities – Network Heritage, Indigenous Cultures & Migration N-HIM

Ancient Greek Drama, Cyprus

• The Arch of Theatre: This project started in 2015 to help Syrian directors to escape the war and give them a chance to work in German theatre. This project is now successfully terminated.
• March 2017: Outside the Door. At the invitation of the Israel Goethe Institute, Matthias Gehrt is a guest at the Tnuama Theatre in Tel Aviv.
• Agammemnon, the Libation Bearers by Aeschylus, Theater Krefeld-Mönchengladbach, Germany.
• February 2017: Hermannleg. Schauspielchef Matthias Gehrt develops an overall concept to take up the debate about refugees in the Krefeld citizenship. The idea is to record the voice of the theatre. The occasion for the invitation is the new project of the Schauspielhaus.
• Ongoing project „Theatre outside of Europe“ to present other cultures at the City Theatre Krefeld (ITI) and ITI Israel cooperation. In 2016, a play by Wolfgang Borchert will be presented in Tnuama Theatre (Israel) and in 2017, a play by Israeli playwright, David Grossmann, will be presented in Krefeld.
• Guest participant in the Ancient Greek Drama Festival 2016 in Cyprus with the play Oreste.

Jesus Quintero and Ramón Verdugo (Mexico)

(Tijuana Hace Teatro, Mexico)

• Created and presented three new pieces dealing with cultural change, guerilla violence and migration for young audiences.
• Building student audiences with city and state agencies of Tijuana and San Diego, USA.
• Staged an 8th Festival in conjunction with ITI World Theatre Day in March 2015.
• Keen to explore themes such as: How do artists/ companies living at international borders relate to each other? What are the possibilities of interaction / collaboration between artists / companies living at international borders, specifically in countries with significant social and cultural differences? Theatre from the border? Theatre about the border? Differences and similarities.
• Amiceti (In progress) / Opening May 2017 / Exploring stories from individuals who coexist in two territories, as well as family and social relationships at the Mexico-USA border.
• An americanista (Venezuela) grandmother just passed away, but in her loss, she discovers a door that will keep them close. With her airplane models to fly, the help of her friends and the courage to fight her fears, she will travel a path full of dreams, inventions, changes and friendship that will reveal to her the true meaning of flying.
• ¿Quién le teme a un Espectapalos? / Espectapalos (Scarecrow), a child soldier since he was taken from his family, faces his own conscience and fears embedded in him, his ultimate enemy, to cope with life as a fighter. Only the memories and love of his mother can help him survive.
• Los niños de Morelia. Playwright: Victor Hugo Rascón Banda. Directed by Ramón Verdugo. The voices of 456 children that arrived to Mexico during Spain’s civil war make themselves present to tell us the story of their displacement, their identity crisis, the separation from their families and the cultural differences.
• Programs with audiences (Binational School for Audiences THT). Each year, 20 applicants are selected and awarded with complimentary tickets to a selection of theatrical shows, provided by city, state and federal arts and culture organizations from Tijuana and San Diego.
• Festival THT. Regional theatre festival with participation of 9 theatre companies. A unique event that stands out from other theatre festivals in the city by featuring mainly local companies in its artistic program.
• Festival Muestra Interprepas. A three-day experience consisting in workshops, master classes, socialization activities, student exchanges, and staging a play in the city’s second largest professional stage. Artistic and technical achievements are recognized by locally renowned artists.

Jorge Ortoll (USA)

The company I serve as Executive Director, Ma-Yi Theater, produced 4 new pieces dealing with the lack of diversity in casting choices in US theatres; a children’s piece with specifically Asian American pre-teen hero and heroine, monodrama/comedy about Imelda Marcos, a drama of US Muslim soldier fighting in Iraq, and a comedy.

Since Oct. 2014, we have been preparing for the 5th CARA Conference / Festival (Ecosistema de Asian American Theatres and Artists; I am a founder and serve on the Board). The fifth edition will be hosted by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (October 2016 Ashland), to elevate national awareness of existing excellence of Asian American theatre artists.

Ma-Yi is actively involved with AAPPAC (Asian American Performing Artists Coalition), which addresses the ongoing casting injustices on US stages where the demographic of the stage actors has no semblance to the demographic realities of the ethnic make-up of the nation.

Philly Jamba, Uganda

(Information to be found in the Report of the Centre of Uganda)
Activities – Committees, Forums, Networks
Network Theatre in Conflict Zones NTCZ

Activities 2014 – 2017

Office bearers
President: Alexander Stillmark (Germany)
Secretary: Fabio Tollei (Italy)
Members: David Diamond (USA)
Ali Mahdi Nouri (Sudan)
Dijana Milesevic (Serbia)

The decision of the EC of ITI in Yerevan to confirm the proposal of the members of CIDC to divide the committee into three independent parts has proven to be a success. Since Yerevan, we piloted the new structure. It is NPG’s goal to have the maximum visibility and profiled, and the cooperation with other ITI committees is easier. We continue to keep each other informed of our projects, always seeking cooperation between us, so that in practice, we continue the spirit of CIDC.

Vision

Our answer to the challenge of the double face of globalization is: “The destiny of man is the man” (Brecht).

Mission

Our goal is to create a network of theatre artists that work in conflicts zones, especially in the European Mediterranean area and the desert region of Near East and Africa, and we’re looking for partners worldwide.

Activities 2015

The Art Of Theatre

Started a cooperation between ITI Germany and Italy. ACAR and “Theatre in Conflict Zones Network”. This project should support theatre people from refugee countries. In January 2015, we organized the work of 2 directors from Syria in Germany.

Metamorphosis-Project

In Tunis, Aug./Sept. 2015; ITI Italy (workshops, round tables and special meetings about theatre in conflict zones). The project is focused on gender-based conflicts and the tragic situation of migrations in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

Roma-Project

2015-2017, ITI Italy: “The performance was played on 8 April in Lecco (Italy), which is the ‘Day of Roma and Sinti culture’ and was played again until 2017. Presentations of the book Walls - Theatre and War by Fabio Tollei, were made in order to raise awareness on theatre in conflict zones through the work of Astragali Teatro in Palestine, Iraq, Syria and other areas in conflict.

Round Table about Theatre in conflict zones at the 25th Romanian Theatre Festival, Nov. 2015 in Bucuresti with Alexander Stillmark and Fabio Tollei.

Activities 2016

Oedipus by Sophocles

ITI Germany, Matthias Gehrt, artistic director of Theater Krefeld-Mönchengladbach; at National-Theater GaziNA in co-direction with Mawuli Semevo (Artistic director of the National Theatre Ghana (February - March).

Orestia

ITI Germany - Matthias Gehrt, “ORESTIA”, Invitation of Theatre Krefeld-Mönchengladbach at International Festival for Ancient Greek Drama, Cyprus (July)

Ellen Stewart Award International Award

Spoleto (Italy) – ITI Italy – ITI U.S. Award Ceremony of Ellen Stewart Award (July)

Metamorphosis-Project

Site-specific interventions in open spaces in South Italy and in Brazil with actresses and actors from 5 countries (May - September)

Activities 2017

Women! Echo, Daphne, Io and the Others

ITI Italy - a project supported by Anna Lindh Foundation with artists from Tunisia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso and Italy promoting the resistance of women against the violence.

Planned Activities after ITI World Congress 2017:

Ongoing projects:

Metamorphosis Project

In Lecco (Italy) in Autumn 2017 with actors from Tunisia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Burkina Faso and Italy.

My Unknown Enemy

(ITI Germany) to bring actors from countries in conflict together. Centre Of Theatre In Conflict Zones ITI Sudan (Khartoum, Sudan).

Upcoming Projects:

Sirens – A Female Myth To Overcome Conflict

ITI Burkina Faso and ITI Italy: October November

Board meetings:

November 2015 in Bucharest: Stillmark and Tollei
February 2016 in Fujairah: Stillmark, Tollei, Orsell, Ninella

Alexander Stillmark (President) and Fabio Tollei (Secretary), March 2017

Activities – Committees, Forums, Networks
New Project Group NPG

Activities 2014 – 2016

Mission

New Project Group (NPG) is a laboratory for artists to work internationally, while retaining their individual identities. The focus is on theatrical art, the creative process, rather than the end result, by retaining intercultural dialogue and emphasizing cultural diversity. The purpose of the NPG project is intercultural exchange and the exchange of ideas during the creative process. Unlike other committees, the primary goal and function of the NPG is to create a work of theatre to be presented at the World Congress. Unlike other committees that will take place in Manaus, December 1, 2014: Skype teleconference Further developing of partnership and project February 17, 2016: Skype teleconference Further developing of partnership and project, and planning for Fujara Joint Committee meeting February 20-22, 2016: Fujara Joint Committee Meeting & In-Person Meeting Further developing of partnership and project.

Summation

The NPG was originally created 20 years ago as a way to reanimate the then existing New Theatre Committee – to insert artmaking and the creative process into the Congress programming and to provide an outlet for artists to create new work within the ITI framework. NPG serves three distinct audiences:

• Practitioners: A globally diverse and international group who are interested in actively participating in the collaborative creation of new work. There is a particular focus on the inclusion of talented young practitioners who wish to share methodology with each other.
• Congress Attendees: The work is shared with delegates with the intention of showcasing new ways of working. NPG believes that art-making is an essential component of Congress programming. Also, a case study detailing the development and planning of the project is presented at an open meeting during the Congress.
• Host Community: Community engagement is built into the structure of each project and has included involving local students actively in the project, offering acting and technical workshops for students and open dress rehearsals with time for the audience to interact with the artists.

Note: NPG has not submitted a project for the Segovia Congress. It’s future existence will depend on the decision of its members.
Activities – Committees, Forums, Networks
Theatre for Social Change Network SCN

Activities 2014 – 2016

Members
President: Cecile GUIDOTE ALVAREZ (Philippines)
Assigned as Secretary: Parakrama NIRELLA (Sri Lanka)

Activities 2014
December
Organized the ‘Puravage Balaya’ (Power of Citizens’) Movement and drew together artists of all formats in Sri Lanka subjected to oppression by the political hierarchy that was in power at that time, on a single platform.

Activities 2015
January
Initial steps were taken to form an organization of Theatre Artists who committed themselves to change the oppressive political powers.

February
Established the National Federation of Theatre Artists, Sri Lanka. The organization consists of Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim artists including artists residing in the provinces adversely affected by 30 years of communal conflicts and war.

April
Supported Inter Act Art (IAA) to organize the 4th International Theatre Festival in Colombo through the National Federation of Theatre Artists, Sri Lanka.

May
Initiated networking of all artists living across the country through Janakaraliya Theatre Of the People.

July & August
1. Visited Kolkata to participate at the 8th International Theatre Carnival and performed a collaborative production of Janakaraliya and Mind Adventures Theatre Group of Colombo.
2. The Annual Journey of Janakaraliya with the Mobile Theatre started on 25 July at Chilaw and continued theatre activities in the district till 22 October. Performances were followed by Forum discussions with people gathered to watch dramas. A day was devoted for the Tamil and Muslim artists who are living in the district to perform during the festival.

Activities 2016

January
Started rehearsals of the new play, ‘The Travelling Circus of Refugees’, a collaborative production of Janakaraliya and Mind Adventures Theatre Group of Colombo. The drama discusses the need for conflict-free social environments for personal development. It could be performed in both interior and exterior performing spaces. The play will be produced in Sinhala, Tamil and English. We are planning to perform the drama in Sri Lanka as well as India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh with the intention of congregating several different Asian Drama Groups working towards positive social changes through drama and theatre.

Activities 2014 – 2016

The Young Practitioner’s Committee is an ITI network and forum to discuss and agree on action points regarding the next generation of performing arts in a digital world that is constantly changing.

Our starting points are the connections between the arts, life and society on the one hand, and, on the other, the interdisciplinary nature of art which seeks to connect music, theatre, dance, words, silence, nature, painting, sculpture, science, community, research and traditions as a holistic expression of a united essence and creation.

We have been raising questions, brainstorming and generating ideas about how to bring the arts, and particularly, theatre and performance, closer to ordinary people, and how to overcome systemic limitations, censorship and economic challenges in doing so.

We are in the process of building an internet website to provide a platform for exchanging and exposing ideas about styles, practices and functions of the arts, and to facilitate online performance creation.

We are in conversation with different ITI committees, national centres and EC members about future collaborative projects.

The YPC plans to create an active group of international artists from all disciplines during the next Congress, beginning with a ritual-based workshop that will lead to the first united performance creation.

The YPC intends to change its name to “The Next Generation Group”.

We look forward to a creative and vibrant year.

Activities 2016

January
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Activities 2014 – 2016

The Young Practitioner’s Committee is an ITI network and forum to discuss and agree on action points regarding the next generation of performing arts in a digital world that is constantly changing.

Our starting points are the connections between the arts, life and society on the one hand, and, on the other, the interdisciplinary nature of art which seeks to connect music, theatre, dance, words, silence, nature, painting, sculpture, science, community, research and traditions as a holistic expression of a united essence and creation.

We have been raising questions, brainstorming and generating ideas about how to bring the arts, and particularly, theatre and performance, closer to ordinary people, and how to overcome systemic limitations, censorship and economic challenges in doing so.

We are in the process of building an internet website to provide a platform for exchanging and exposing ideas about styles, practices and functions of the arts, and to facilitate online performance creation.

We are in conversation with different ITI committees, national centres and EC members about future collaborative projects.

The YPC plans to create an active group of international artists from all disciplines during the next Congress, beginning with a ritual-based workshop that will lead to the first united performance creation.

The YPC intends to change its name to “The Next Generation Group”.

We look forward to a creative and vibrant year.

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New Artistic Projects

Comments

The International Theatre Institute ITI is open for new initiatives and collaborations. It has to be aware of what it represents and what potential it has. At its core, ITI is an artistic organization based on the values inherent to the performing arts – theatre, dance and music theatre in all their forms.

To be strong, ITI has to associate itself with other organizations to form strong alliances, but not just through a Memorandum of Understanding. The alliance should result in projects that benefit the performing arts community and the audience.

At the moment, the General Secretariat is evaluating the possibility of reviving Theatre of Nations. But such a revival cannot just mean taking up the festival that once existed; it has to bring something new. This is the essential point that is being taken up at the moment, parallel to exploring the collaboration of a sponsor.

Two new initiatives are announced here: the creation of a network within ITI for stage directors and the development of a forum that deals with traditional forms in the performing arts. One is not quite ready to be launched at the Congress, but they will be developed further.

The International Stage Art Network is a collaboration between ITI and the Central Academy of Drama in Beijing. Its main aims are to inspire the different professions and disciplines of the Stage Arts through competitions, exhibitions, conferences and publications with the accent placed on the innovative aspects of these disciplines.
Goals of the Stage Directors’ Network

The goals of this Network are educational, artistic and humanitarian and include the following proposals:

- To create a project group within ITI that takes care of the needs of stage directors. The project group attracts high profile stage directors and focuses on the quality of directing.
- To exchange knowledge and knowhow between stage directors.
- To impart knowledge and technical expertise to newcomers and students through workshops and internships.
- To deliver workshops for young directors and students in stage directing.
- To invite stage directors to work at a theatre in another city or country and stage a play with the actors of that location.
- To create international projects with different stage directors, actresses, actors, dancers, choreographers and stage these at ITI Congresses, Theatre of Nations Festivals, Conferences or other international occasions.
- To create conferences with documentary presentations of the work of the members of the network (video, multimedia, small scenes, etc.) and host discussions (question & answer periods) about the work.
- To give beginner and professional stage directors the opportunity to observe how a stage director employs cultural identity to create a play.
- To develop stage directors in community theatre who can work with non-professional participants and use their art in conflict zones.

Preamble

At the final press conference of the Xiamen Congress, then President Manfred Belharz asked the Director General: “Why is there no Stage Director Committee in ITI? If the playwrights have their forum, why not the stage directors?” Then the Swedish stage director Mathias Lafolie approached the DG with the same question. After that many more persons approached the General Secretariat after that meeting about this idea. For this reason, the Director General surveyed numerous ITI members about such a forum or network. He found an enthusiastic response in Fabio Tolledi and Giorgio Zorcu from Italy, Mathias Lafolie from Sweden, as well as from Wang Xiaoying and Wu Xiaoxiang, two stage directors of China. Vice President for Asia Pacific, Ji Guoping, voiced a strong interest in supporting such an initiative.

First Meeting

The first meeting of an interested group took place in December 2015 in the new ITI headquarters in Shanghai. The participants were Fabio Tolledi and Giorgio Zorcu (both ITI Italy), Wang Xiaoying and Wu Xiaoxiang (both China), Hakob Ghazanchyan and Sona Martchyan (both from Armenia) as well as the General Secretariat members Chen Zhongwen, Aktina Stathaki, Tang Yiming and the DG. They discussed the goals and possible first events and actions. Hakob Ghazanchyan, president of the Dramatic Theatre Committee DTC, stated that he will continue to work for the development of the DTC but believes that a network for stage directors is something that should be developed.

New Artistic Projects

Stage Directors’ Network SDN (in development)

Stage Director Wu Xiaoxiang lecturing in Italy, with Roberta Quarta and Fabio Tolledi.

First Event in Italy

On the initiative of Fabio Tolledi, president of the Italian Centre of ITI, Wu Xiaoxiang (stage director of the National Theatre in Beijing) has stayed for two weeks in Lecce giving workshops to three different target audiences. They introduced theatre people to the Chinese way of acting.

Second Event in China

- A second, small and high quality event will be held in China. The idea is to host six international and local directors whose works will be presented with videos, photographs, etc. Each director will be introduced by someone, followed by the presentation of his/her work, after which there is a question and answer period with the audience.
- The presentations with each director should last 1 ½ hours with the project running over two afternoons.
- There will be a performance of a work by one Chinese director and one director from abroad.
- Another director from abroad can lead a workshop for a week before or after the presentations.
- The audience would consist of professionals who have an interest in knowing how other colleagues work as well as theatre students.
- There should be ample time for discussion between the stage directors, and also between the stage directors and audience members.
- The event is planned for the second half of 2016, with further events at other locations in the future.

Contact:

Fabio Tolledi fabio.tolledi@unisalento.it or Tobias Biancone t.biancone@iti-worldwide.org
New Artistic Projects
Traditional Performing Arts Forum TPAF

On 27 March, World Theatre Day, the Chinese Centre of ITI / China Theatre Association organized the first Forum for Traditional Theatre / Performing Arts. The title of the conference was “Asian Traditional Theatre Forum”.

Theatre came into existence from religious rituals. The celebration of World Theatre Day is a ritual, but it is also a great occasion for theatre exchange. This edition of World Theatre Day is themed on traditional theatres, therefore, all artistic events are centred on this particular field. The forum attracted 19 scholars and experts from Asian countries and regions. Each of them presented their papers introducing the traditional theatre forms in their countries. Most of the experts used multimedia to illustrate their theatres, which was very informative and impressive.

During the intensive presentations by 17 speakers, a colourful collage of the great diversity of Asian traditional theatres was shown to the participants. The papers submitted by the experts were compiled into a voluminous book, which is a valuable asset of this forum.

The participants of the Forum from Asia voiced a strong interest in forming a committee or forum to take care of the traditional performing arts forms, especially in Asia where they are still very popular and are shown in villages. It was evident to the participants that there is such a need in their region, so the idea will be developed further by the participants, the General Secretariat ITI and by the Chinese Centre of ITI.

New Artistic Projects: International Stage Art Network iSTAN – Collaboration

On the initiative of Professor Xi Xiang, President of the Central Academy of Drama in Beijing CAD, the Director General of ITI started to explore the possibility of a collaboration between both institutions. During their discussions, it became clear that both parties wanted to inspire the professionals and students in the Stage Arts. They wanted to create opportunities for the stage artists from all over the world to show their productions, their ideas and the innovative strides they have made in their art. Currently, a worldwide competition for the different disciplines is being planned with rules to be created, jury members appointed and venues for the exhibition and ceremony being explored.

First iSTAN Summit in Beijing
General Information
Established in October 2015 in Beijing, iSTAN, the International Stage Art Network, is a joint venture between ITI and CAD, the Central Academy of Drama of Beijing. It is a network that concentrates on the artistic values of the stage arts and innovation in the stage arts. iSTAN Stage Art Summit was the first event that showed what iSTAN intends to accomplish. From 27 to 29 October 2016, a series of activities were held on the Campus of CAD. The event included keynote speeches, workshops and lectures, as well as the presentation of the first iSTAN Lifetime Achievement Award.

iSTAN Board Members, stage art specialists from nine countries (China, Cuba, France, Italy, Russia, Slovenia, Switzerland, UK and USA) and guests, including the ITI Executive Board participated in this three-day event in Beijing.
New Artistic Projects: International Stage Art Network iSTAN – Collaboration

Opening Ceremony
The Opening Ceremony of the event was held on 27 October in the Experimental Theatre of the Central Academy of Drama. The ceremony was moderated by Tobias Biancone. He introduced Mohamed Al-Afkham (president ITI) and Xu Xian (president CAD) delivered speeches during the ceremony. Both of them expressed their congratulations on holding this inaugural iSTAN event.

iSTAN Board Meeting and Specialist Meeting
Board members of IStan from five different regions (South America, Africa, Arab, Europe, and Asia-Pacific) and China, plus the president and the vice-president of iSTAN, attended the board meeting. One of the most important issues of the meeting was the way of how to promote the Network in the different regions of the world and how to attract more stage artists, specialists, and students to join in the Network. The specialists meeting offered all the stage art specialists from China and abroad a chance to get acquainted with each other.

Workshops and Lectures
12 workshops or lectures were held during the 3-day event. Specialists from nine countries shared their ideas with the audiences, mostly stage art students, covering almost all the fields of the stage arts: stage design, make-up, sound design, light design, multimedia, set design, stage technique, cultural heritage, etc. More than 500 students participated into the workshops or lectures.

iSTAN Lifetime Achievement Award
The annual Academy Award held by Central Academy of Drama is the top theatre award in China. This year, the 6th Academy Award adds one special part to it: the iSTAN Lifetime Achievement Award, to highlight the importance of stage art within the performing arts. iSTAN Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Gunilla Palmstierna-Weiss, a Swedish stage artist who has dedicated her life to the stage arts and influenced the performing arts through her extraordinary achievements with her designs for the stage.

The Vice-president of ITI, Ann Mari ENGEL, made a presentation on Gunilla Palmstierna-Weiss’ achievements during the Summit. The President of ITI presented the iSTAN Lifetime Achievement Award. Mathias Lafolie, Cultural Counsellor of the Swedish Embassy in Beijing, accepted the Award on behalf of Gunilla Palmstierna-Weiss.

Future Projects of IStan
The General Secretariat of IStan has decided to launch the 1st iSTAN Competition in 2017. It is agreed that the first Competition will concentrate on two categories of stage design: make-up and costume design. Contact: CHEN Zhongwen, chen.zhongwen@ti-worldwide.org
In the past two years, the educational activities of ITI have increased. While the members of FTTE (Forum for Theatre Training & Education) are continuing their work, and while AKT-ZENT: The Research Centre of ITI is progressing in creating a “World Theatre Training Library” and doing work on a global level, two new initiatives are beginning new educational actions under the ITI umbrella:

• The ITI / UNESCO Network for Higher Education(s) in the Performing Arts and
• a series of Conferences under the heading of “How to Bring Theatre to People”.

Information about the newly named Forum for Theatre Training & Education can be found on page 133, in the section of the Committees, Forums, Networks and Groups. The information about the other activities may be found in this chapter.
ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts

After ending the partnership with the ITI/UNESCO Chair, the new Network was launched and approved by UNESCO’s Educational Sector and by the UNITWIN Programme for Networks and Chairs.

After an event at ARTA in Paris, organized by AKT-ZENT Research Centre of ITI and a conference and workshops conducted by the ITI Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts at the last Congress in Yerevan, the members of the Network met in Shanghai in December 2015 for their first General Assembly. The event was organized and hosted by the Shanghai Theatre Academy STA, assisted by the General Secretariat of the International Theatre Institute ITI.

The members decided on charter changes, the procedure for accepting new members, the leadership, the membership fee (500 RMB = 68 Euros = 77 US Dollars), the strategy and priorities and the acceptance of three new members: The Yerevan State Institute of Cinematography and Theatre (already welcomed as member during the Congress), the Tokyo League of Theatre Schools and the Naropa Institute of Cinematography and Theatre (already welcomed as member during the Congress), the Tokyo League of Theatre Schools and the Naropa Institute of Cinematography and Theatre (already welcomed as member during the Congress), the Tokyo League of Theatre Schools and the Naropa Institute of Cinematography and Theatre (already welcomed as member during the Congress), the Tokyo League of Theatre Schools and the Naropa Institute of Cinematography and Theatre (already welcomed as member during the Congress).

Most of the time was dedicated to the projects for the Network:
- Vidyanidhee Varanase, India, is leading a project about art and entrepreneurship.
- Geoffrey Hyland, South Africa, is interested in how we can get the students together and how we can share the work of the students e.g. a theatre festival in Cape Town, South Africa.
- Israfeel Shaheen, Bangladesh, proposes to develop a project with his students; they will run small companies of five persons for a year around the country and want to cooperate with more schools from and connect students to other countries.
- Anatoly Polyankin and Dmitry Trubotchkin, Russia, propose to create a register of acting schools in the world, a project of moving seminars, and a new information centre on the Internet. The Information Centre will gather and publish information from all the other networks; this way we will get attention from all the other networks.
- Hartmut Wickett, Switzerland, Learning Europe, will submit a project that is not based on dramatic literature, but of a topic that may be interpreted by theatre students in their own way based on their experience and culture.
- William Sun, China, proposes to continue the Intercultural Performance Studies, like summer and winter schools at Shanghai Theatre Academy.
- Gong Baorong, China, is leading a programme for an Evaluation and Assessment System for Theatre Schools in China and worldwide.

All members were invited to attend the next ITI World Congress in Manaus. Derek Goldman and Israfeel Shaheen plan to conduct a workshop there.

If you know a theatre university, theatre department or a higher education institution that could be part of this Network, please forward the information of the institution or the person that could have an interest to:

**Contact**

CHEN Zhongwen, chen.zhongwen@iti-worldwide.org or
Dmitry TRUBOTCHKIN, trubotchkin@gmail.com

Introduction

The General Assembly of ITI appointed at the 33rd ITI World Congress in Xiamen 2011, AKT-ZENT – ITI Research Centre to conduct the project “The World Theatre Training Library”.

Since 2017 AKT-ZENT changed status to the World Theatre Training Institute as a result of its profile as a research centre in theory and practice.

The on-going research has been concentrated on the education and training of theatre teachers as fundament of innovation and research for training exercises and methods world-wide. The implementation of pilot programmes leading to an academic M.A. degree included the development of a full-range curriculum in accordance with the Bologna system.

Alongside all this, various formats of postgraduate courses for theatre teachers are in development with partners in Russia and Brazil.

The most recent research opens the subject of ‘spherical education’ and the format of hybrid education. The online learning platform gives access to students and professionals world-wide.

Office-Bearers

Programme Director: Christine Schmalor, Germany

Main Cooperating Institutions

National ITI Centres

Russian Theatre Union STD

Galiasgar Kamal Tatar National Academic Theatre, Russia

International Master Programme for Teaching Professional Theatre Practice

Teatro Escola Macunaima, Sao Paolo, Brazil

Estonian Academy of Music & Theatre Tallinn

Various European theatre centres and organizations

http://theatreculture.org

akt.zent@berlin.de

Activities

Research Travels

The artistic director Dr. Jurij Alschtitz and his Team of Teachers continue their research of training methods in various countries world-wide by visiting training programmes and productions.

Methodological Research

The year 2015 was dedicated to the curriculum development for a course of studies towards an M.A. degree, with the research led by the programme director, Christine Schmalor.

2016/17 creation of the Hybrid Theatre Platform with the so-called “Exercise 40 days for 40 years” by Dr. Jurij Alschtitz. A new educational format based on wave and resonance theory.

2017 online start of https://hybrid-theatre-training.org

International Master Programme for Teaching Professional Theatre Practice

2015-16 with teachers and students from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Jordan, Palestine, Russia/Korea, Switzerland. Directed by Dr. Jurij Alschtitz, and an International Team of teachers.
4. Brazilian Postgraduate Programme for Theatre Teachers São Paulo
The first semester was held 11 January to 6 February 2016. The second took place from the 4-23 July 2016. Projected is development: Brazilian Institute for post-education for teaching professional theatre.

5. Seminars for Teachers and Directors
International Directors’ and Trainers’ Colloquium
Art. dir. J. Alschitz
3rd – 8 of January 2015, Berlin, Germany: “The actor on the post-dramatic stage”

“Education Plus for Acting Teachers”
International seminars: Artistic Director J. Alschitz
17 – 22 of March 2015 Berlin, Germany: “Theatre of the 4th dimension”
31 of October - 6 of November 2015 Berlin, Germany: On-going “International Laboratory of Jurij Alschitz” for acting teachers organized by the Russian Theatre Union STD.
9 – 14 of November 2015 Berlin, Germany: “Homo Creativus – Turning the Tide on Teaching Theatre Practice”

6. Laboratories for Actors
Development and practice of new exercises for the World Theatre Training Library
9 – 17 of November 2016, Berlin, Germany: “The View of the Shaman”

7. Methodika, International Festival for Theatre Training Methods
Established 2001 under the patronage of ITI-TECOM / FTTE

8. Acting and Directing Seminars in cooperation with various institutions
Feb/March 2015
• Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts, Baku, Seminar “Ensemble and Personality”
• April + Oct. 2015 Pescara, Italy: “Hortus Conclusus. The Art of destruction for the creation” Part 1 + 2. Centro di Pedagogie e Formazione Teatrale, Pescara, Italy
• Didactic teatrale, educational project in 5 parts, 2015/2016

Feb 2017
Workshop and lecture by Dr. Jurij Alschitz at the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation / ITI Sri Lanka

9. Publications
Jurij Alschitz: 45 Questions of one Role, in Russian, GITIS press, 2015
Jurij Alschitz: Training per sempre, Dino Audino, 2015

Summary and Overview of the Scientific Research
The World Theatre Training Institute AKT-ZENT / ITI works exclusively for the innovation of theatre training methods. All seminars, master-classes, or lectures in any country of the world are considered as part of the permanent World Theatre Training Laboratory.

Over the past two years, the artistic director Dr. Jurij Alschitz and his team have spent time researching and exploring through practical case studies how the development of theatrical education in a new era of global information revolution should be determined, in order to comply with our rapidly evolving society and the emergence of a new type of artist. Conventional teaching methods and curricula are becoming obsolete and need total reconsideration. With the curriculum development for an M.A. degree for theatre teachers the ITI research centre is working now on the practical exploration and evaluation. With the Exercise 40/40’ Dr. Jurij Alschitz proposes a completely new approach to theatre education in general.

The subject of ‘Spherical Education’ gains more and more importance. In the times of hypertext and with the notion of the fractal, wave and resonance theory, new methodologies for acting and directing are developed, specifically for the training of a different psychophysical condition of the artist. Training on time and space with the “Theatre of the 4th dimension”, changing the actor’s perception with the “Haiku-Method”, training units according to fractal geometry a.o. are providing completely new tools for the profession.

All research laboratories are giving birth to the exercises and methods to be published in the World Theatre Training Library.

With the hybrid platform for theatre the AKT-ZENT opens a new format of training and worldwide distribution of methodology.
Educational Projects of ITI
How to Bring Theatre to the People

The participants of the preparatory meeting in Shanghai, Members of ITI, the General Secretariat ITI, Shanghai Theatre Academy, and Modern Drama Valley, Shanghai


This basic question: “How to bring theatre to people?” came about in a discussion with Apostolos Apostolidis, Hamadou Mambé and Tobias Biancone, in Sao Paulo. As the Jing’an District of Shanghai where ITI is located is engaged in initiatives of “How to Bring Theatre to People”, the General Secretariat initiated a meeting with ITI members, with members of the Shanghai Theatre Academy and with members of the Jing’an District who are actively working in the field or who are dealing with it on the district level. From ITI, Apostolos Apostolidis (Cyprus), Jean-Henri Dutze (Belgium) and Boris Daussa Pastor (Spain) – all members of the Forum for Theatre Training and Education – participated together with Chen Zhongwen, Akina Statkai, Tang Yinming and Tobias Biancone from the General Secretariat. From the Jing’an District Rong Guangrui, artistic director of the Modern Drama Valley, former president of SITA, Yang Yong, Manager of the Modern Drama Valley, Jiang Lei, events director of Modern Drama Valley and other active members participated. From the Shanghai Theatre Academy, Sun Huizhu and Shen Liang presented their ideas. The meeting was held in the new premises of FIT at 1332 Xinzha Road, mid-November 2015. The presentations of the participants showed that there were different approaches to “How to bring theatre to people”, but all of them were producing results that were for the benefit of the people and the theatre arts. After three days’ meeting the participants decided to create a first event, preferably in the Jing’an District, in Shanghai.

The event should include:
• Presentations from all parts of the world where theatre educators and theatre practitioners were working in the field – Latin America, Europe, Asia, Arab Countries and Africa are to be included. Visual presentations would be important to demonstrate to the other participants the different ways of tackling the issue. Know-how transfer was the key word.
• Workshops for theatre professionals
• Round table discussions between the theatre educators and practitioners with each other and with the audience.
• Performances created through the initiative of “How to Bring Theatre to People”.

A date to organize the conference with late 2017 being preferred is to be decided.

The starting point is that no people and no practice should be excluded from the “How to Bring Theatre to People” conferences.

This first event should serve as a pilot project for other congresses on the same subject to be held wherever the need and possibility exists.

Contact: Chen Zhongwen chen.zhongwen@widdworld.org

UNESCO and ITI
Information and Comments

To make it clear: UNESCO and ITI are working closely together. Since the management left from Paris, ITI is in close contact with UNESCO in Paris and also with the National Commission of UNESCO in China.

The UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture, Alfredo Pérez de Armiñán, wrote a strong message for International Dance Day 2015 and underlined the importance of ITI and also stressed that it was ITI that created International Dance Day.

In December 2015, the Director General of ITI and his assistant, Chen Zhongwen, visited UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture, Francesco Bandarin, and discussed important issues with him: the development of the ITI/UNESCO World Performing Arts Capital, the ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts as well as the ITI Congress in Segovia, International Dance Day and World Theatre Day for which ITI received the patronage of UNESCO.

The advice received will be implemented in future collaboration with UNESCO.

ITI participated in the 9th International Forum of NGO’s in official partnership with UNESCO in Beijing.

What is the “rapprochement of cultures” all about?

The International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (IDRC) builds on the strong momentum created by and the achievements of both the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2005) and the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2010).

As the current surge of flaring conflicts, acts of violence and intolerance demands urgent actions. Peoples and nations have to join forces for the development of a universal global consciousness free from stereotypes and prejudices. The International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures is to be understood as a commitment for addressing this pressing need to take into account and clearly demonstrate new articulations between cultural diversity and universal values.

The “rapprochement of cultures” implies that international security and social inclusion cannot be attained sustainably without a commitment to such principles as human dignity, conviviality and solidarity which are the corner stones of human coexistence, in all faiths and secular ideologies. (Source: UNESCO website)
UNESCO and ITI

ITI / UNESCO World Performing Arts Capital

The Basic Goal
The idea to create a World Performing Arts Capital is based on the UNESCO World Book Capital. Ljubljana was the World Book Capital in 2011 and Tatjana Azman, the President of Slovenian Centre of ITI and Executive Council member, communicated the idea of creating such a Capital during an Executive Council Session in 2011. Thereafter, the General Secretariat with the assistance of Cecile Guidote Alvarez campaigned at UNESCO and achieved the unanimous approval of the project during the General Assembly in 2013. It was stipulated in the UNESCO resolution that the administration of procedure for the call, selection and evaluation the Capital is done by ITI, meaning that the World Performing Arts Capital is a title bestowed by UNESCO and ITI to a city in recognition of the quality of its programmes to support and promote the performing arts and education in the performing arts as well as the humanistic factor for bridge-building and developing character in this sector.

Experts Meeting
An experts’ meeting was held on 9 and 10 November 2015 in Shanghai to discuss the criteria for choosing the Capital: time schedule, launching the call, jury work, accompanying activities of the Capital, etc. The experts present were Danny Yung (Hong Kong, honorary president of the Music Theatre NOW Network of ITI), Kim Yun-Chel (South Korea, honorary president of the Critics Association), the ITI Executive Council Members Tatjana Azman (Slovenia) and Apostolos Apostolides (Cyprus). From the General Secretariat Tobias Biancone, Chen Zhongwen and Aktina Stathaki participated in the meeting. A member of UNESCO who was invited to Shanghai could not attend due to the General Assembly that happened at the same time at UNESCO in Paris. Cecile Guididote Alvarez (Philippines, ITI Executive Council Member), Wolfgang Schneider (Germany, honorary president of ASSITEJ), Hans-Georg Knopp (former leader of Goethe Institute international and of the Haus der Kulturen, Berlin) were not able to attend and will be consulted in the process of creating the call.

Meeting with Francesco Bandarin, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture
In December 2015, the Director General ITI and Chen Zhongwen, Assistant of the DG and Director for Collaborations, met Francesco Bandarin to discuss different issues. One of them was the World Performing Arts Capital. He underlined that we should include a member of his team in the creation of the criteria and the call to cities over the world. Having UNESCO in the name confirms that the project is following the UNESCO goals and programmes. The DG stressed that this was the idea of the collaboration in the first place and that ITI will follow his advice. The Capital will be mainly of benefit for the performing arts and its artists.

Next Steps
The experts’ group and the General Secretariat are preparing a proposal for the criteria for the call. After that they will meet with UNESCO and include their ideas before the call will be launched.

Contact: Tobias Biancone, t.biancone@iti-worldwide.org

UNESCO and ITI

UNESCO Artists for Peace

ITI is proud to have two UNESCO Artists for Peace.

The Earthsavers led by the ITI Spokesperson for UN and UNESCO, Cecile Guidote Alvarez from the Philippines is showing with her activities and project on how theatre and the arts in general can be used to alliviate poverty, to care for the climate and to create a bridge with the arts for mutual understanding and peace.

Ali Mahdi Nouri from Sudan is a strong voice for promoting the arts in the Arab world and is using the arts to bring mutual understanding in conflict zones. He is leading workshops all over the world, for example in the US, in the Netherlands and in Japan.

Cecile Guidote Alvarez and Ali Mahdi Nouri are well connected with UNESCO and with Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO as can be seen in the pictures here. They are participating regularly in the events in Paris, convened by the Director General of UNESCO.
After the Yerevan Congress, the main focus of the General Secretariat was to relocate the office to Shanghai. In Paris the costs were increasing due to ending the contracts with all the staff, and for paying indemnities according to the law of France. From January 1st UNESCO did not offer the space for free to most of the NGOs in the “Batiment ONG” at 1 Rue Miollis. ITI had to be pay rent (2000 Euros/month). As it was clear that ITI had moved the management to Shanghai, it was decided that ITI would rent a smaller room in the better-equipped Bonvin Building, thus reducing the monthly rent to 500 Euros.

Thanks to the Shanghai Municipality ITI was able to relocate to Shanghai. The authorities are covering mainly the salaries, the operational costs and the rent. The Shanghai Theatre Academy is assisting ITI in matters of employment, resident and work permit and in all legal aspects that concern finances, contracts and the related procedures. The system of handling contracts, employment, health insurance, other insurance, taxes and other administrative issues is similar to the one of France.

In addition to the financial assistance that ITI received through the Shanghai authorities, there was a budget for relocation that covered one-time costs, i.e. moving the material of staff to Shanghai, moving the essential office material of ITI to Shanghai, the renovation for the new office, office furniture, and office machines and material.

Shanghai Theatre Academy staff from different departments (administration, legal affairs, financial bureau and international relations) were of great assistance for the procedures in China. From ITI General Secretariat, Chen Zhongwen and Guo Ping and in Paris, Renaud Mesini dealt with the accounts, budgets, etc.

With a bigger budget for the headquarters, ITI will be able to advance well into the future and increase the short- and long-term efforts to strengthen and enlarge the organization of ITI for the benefit of the Centres, Regional Councils, Committees, Forums, Networks, Project Groups and all ITI members, performing artists, the performing arts, for UNESCO and society.

ITI is greatly indebted to the Shanghai authorities for funding ITI. The thanks are going especially to the leaders of the Shanghai Theatre Academy STA that have relentlessly supported ITI. Thanks to the leaders of STA the International Theatre Institute ITI and the members of the Headquarters felt home in Shanghai and can work well for the international organization. The great gratitude go to Lou Wei, Chairman; Hu Min, Vice-Chairman, Huang Changyong, President; Gong Baorong, Vice-President STA and aci-director of the Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts; Guo Yu, Vice President; Zhang Welling, Vice President and their teams.

Great Gratitude is also expressed to the leaders of Shanghai Municipality and of the Jing’an District Municipality who sponsored the opening of the office and invited the Executive Council for dinner.

Gratitude goes as well to the following members for their financial support, their in-kind support, their material support and their pro-bono assistance:
- François L. Meynot, France
- Futura Communications, Switzerland
- Alba Informaticum, Switzerland
- Central Academy of Drama, China
- My Phat Academy, Vietnam
- ATEC Asia Theatre Education Centre, China

And the following ITI Centres for hosting members of the General Secretariat, paying hotel and many times also the travel:
- Chinese Centre
- Fujairah UAE Centre (two Executive Council Sessions)
- Manaus Municipality / Brazilian Centre
- Italian Centre (Regional Council Session)
- Mongolian Centre
- Russian Centre (Executive Council Session)
- Slovenian Centre (Executive Council Session)
- US Centre (Preconference and TCG Conference)

Events:
- For International Dance Day 2015 in Shanghai: Shanghai Theatre Academy
- For International Dance Day 2016 in La Villette, Paris: Shanghai Theatre Academy, China; Fosun Foundation, China
- For International Dance Day 2017 in Shanghai: Shanghai Theatre Academy, China; Fosun Foundation, China; Shanghai International Dance Center Development Foundation and Shanghai International Dance Center, China; China Dancer Association Shanghai Dance School
- For World Theatre Day 2015: Fujairah Culture and Media Authority and Fujairah UAE Centre
- For World Theatre Day 2016: Cultural Bureau of Guangzhou, China Theatre Association / Chinese Centre
- For World Theatre Day 2017 in Paris at UNESCO: HanHall Foundation, China
- For iSTAN Event 2016 in Beijing: Central Academy of Drama and HanHall Foundation, China

And many more unnamed sponsors, supporters and sponsors.
In the 140th Executive Council Session the members discussed the further development of the Charter of ITI. It was decided that the Charter should be modernized and adapted to the needs of the Performing Arts of today, step by step. The Working Group consisted of Ann Mari Engel (Sweden) – Vice President for Europe and of Aposotolos Apostolides (Cyprus) – Treasurer of ITI, as well as the Director-General of ITI. The main changes consisted in:

1. Putting accent on the fact that ITI is an organization for the Performing Arts – as already mentioned in the Charter since its beginning;
2. Clarifying the difference between the terms “Congress” and “General Assembly”;
3. (in) changing the definition of what is a Cooperating Member in formulating the text in alignment with the UNESCO Convention for Cultural Diversity.

In the 143rd Executive Council Session the changes of the charter were discussed, the input was integrated and the proposal for the changes was finalized.

At the beginning of September 2016 the Charter with the changes that were approved by the EC will be sent in English and French to all Centres for discussion and input. The final proposal will be submitted at next ITI World Congress for approval by the General Assembly.
The Structure of the Organization

For quite a long time the structure of the organization did not change. The Charter of ITI was overhauled once in the late nineties but since then it has been changed only when it was needed due to legal demands or to demands from its members. More information about it in the chapter “Legal Aspects of ITI”, page 130.

The structure of ITI:

- General Assembly (with Centres as the sole voting members, assembled during the ITI World Congress)
- Centres (with their own Charters in alignment with the goals of ITI)
- Cooperating Members (internationally working in alignment with the goals of ITI)
- Project Groups (Committees, Forums and Groups, with an own structure, office bearers, president, chairperson, spokesperson, general secretary, etc.)
- Working Groups (mainly short term working groups organized with members of the Executive Council and experts)
- Executive Council EC
- Executive Board EB (elected by the Executive Council with a president, vice-presidents, secretary and treasurer and other members of the Executive Council)
- General Secretariat with the Director General and its project groups organized with members of the Executive Council and experts)
- General Secretariat of the organisation and they select their leaders, office bearers (to be found in the Reports of the Regional Councils)
- Project Groups (Committees, Forums and Groups)
- Executive Secretary for Resources (mandate, May 2015 to July 2015)
- Project Groups page 130 to page 147
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- Project Groups (Committees, Forums and Groups)
- Executive Secretary for Resources (mandate, May 2015 to July 2015)
Organization of ITI
Executive Council & Executive Board Sessions

140th Executive Council Session
20-22 February 2015, Fujairah/UAE

Present:
Mohamed Saif AL-ARFIHAM
Ann Mari ENGEL
Emilia CACHAPERO
Ji Guoping
Hamadou MANDE
Apostolos APOTOLIDES
Ali MAHDI NOURI
Alfrida ARSLANOVA
Tajana AZJAN
Daniel BAUSCH
Carlos CELDRAN
LE QUY Duong
Joachim LUX
Marcio SOUZA
Wang LING

Guest:
Belsario ARCE, Manaus/Brazil, member of the Congress Task Force

Main topics of the session:
• Brief account on the activities since 140th EC session
• Relocation registration
• Finances: ITI French staff payment, budget 2015 with the ITI programme 2014-2016
• ITI development: new centres, regional councils
• WTD and IDD: activities 2015, selection procedure 2016
• Proposal of a Theatre of Nations Festival in Shanghai
• Projects in China in collaboration with Shanghai Theatre Academy and Central Academy of Drama, Beijing
• ITI’s patronage and support on Fuga Perpetua and Interarts
• 35th ITI World Congress Manaus, Brazil: date, theme, accommodation, flights, visa issue

141st Executive Council Session
5/6 November 2015, Shanghai/China

Present:
Tobias BIANCONE
CHEN Zhiqing
Ali MAHDI NOURI
Apostolos APOTOLIDES
Afrifa ARSLANOVA
Tajana AZJAN
Daniel BAUSCH
Carlos CELDRAN
LE QUY Duong
Joachim LUX
Marcio SOUZA
Wang LING

Guests:
Eduardo MACAMBIRA, Brazil, representative of the Municipality of Manaus
Ramendra MA-JIUDAR, Bangladesh, Honorary President
Andrea PACIOTTO, Italy
Shmuel MALLI, Israel, ‘Young Practitioners’ Committee
Taiwo AFOLOLA, Nigeria, ‘Young Practitioners’ Committee

Main topics of the session:
• Brief account of activities since last EC session
• Strategic Planning/Management: Employee handbook, plans for the GS team, charter changes
• Artistic and educational projects: WTD/IDD 2016, ITI Outstanding Achievement Award, Theatre of Nations, Stage Directors Network Event, Stage Art Competition/Network, Conference “How to Bring Theatre to People” in Shanghai
• ITI/UNESCO: ITI office in Paris and relationship with UNESCO/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in Performing Arts, ITI/UNESCO World Performing Arts Capital
• ITI/UNESCO: ITI office in Paris and relationship with UNESCO/ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in Performing Arts, ITI/UNESCO World Performing Arts Capital
• Finances: State of affairs, budget 2015 & 2016
• Presentation of the Young Practitioners’ Committee YPC
• ITI development: Centres, Regional Councils, Committees
• 35th ITI World Congress in Manaus, Brazil: Artistic direction, location, activities, etc.

142d Executive Council Session
21 February 2016, Fujairah/UAE

Present:
Mohamed Saif AL-ARFIHAM
Ann Mari ENGEL
Emilia CACHAPERO
Hamadou MANDE
Apostolos APOTOLIDES
Tobias BIANCONE

Guests:
Elis LIMA, Brazil, representative of the Municipality of Manaus
Lloyd NYKADZINO, Zimbabwe, YPC
Teresa EWINING, Executive Director TCG, Member of US Centre
Joanna RUF, Georgetown University, Member of US Centre

Main topics of the session:
• 35th ITI World Congress: PowerPoint Presentation by the DG, Congress preparation and organization, statutory part, artistic part, educational part, website, budget, registration, visa, invitation letters, and other Congress related issues.
• Short planning of the Joint Executive Council & Committees session
• Information about the past and planned activities
• WTD/IDD 2016: state of affairs
• Regional Council Sessions: state of planning

142d Executive Board Skype Session
25 April 2016, Paris local time 13.00h

Present:
Mohamed Saif AL-ARFIHAM
Ann Mari ENGEL
Emilia CACHAPERO
Hamadou MANDE
Apostolos APOTOLIDES
Tobias BIANCONE

Guests:
Alfrida ARSLANOVA
Tajana AZJAN
Antonia Mercedes VERGARA FERNANDEZ for Carlos CELDRAN
Fray Paolo CASULARD for Cecile GUIDOTTE ALVAREZ
LE QUY Duong
Thomas ENGEL for Joachim LUX
Eduardo MACAMBIRA for Marcio SOUZA
Fabio TOLLEDI
Wang LING for Ji Guoping
Tobias BIANCONE
CHEN Zhiqing
Ali MAHDI NOURI
Apostolos APOTOLIDES

Main topics of the session:
• Regional Council Sessions: state of planning
• WTD/IDD 2016: state of affairs
• Strategic Planning/Management: Employee handbook, plans for the GS team, charter changes
• Artistic and educational projects: WTD/IDD 2016, ITI Outstanding Achievement Award, Theatre of Nations, Stage Directors Network Event, Stage Art Competition/Network, Conference “How to Bring Theatre to People” in Shanghai
• ITI/UNESCO: ITI office in Paris and relationship with UNESCO/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in Performing Arts, ITI/UNESCO World Performing Arts Capital
• ITI/UNESCO: ITI office in Paris and relationship with UNESCO/ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in Performing Arts, ITI/UNESCO World Performing Arts Capital
• Finances: State of affairs, budget 2015 & 2016
• Presentation of the Young Practitioners’ Committee YPC
• ITI development: Centres, Regional Councils, Committees
• 35th ITI World Congress in Manaus, Brazil: Artistic direction, location, activities, etc.

Organization of ITI
Executive Council & Executive Board Sessions

Photos from the Opening Ceremony of the ITI Headquarters in Shanghai
Left: With the EC Members
Carlos Celadan and Emilia Cachapero

Photos from the Opening Ceremony of the ITI
Right: Hans-Georg Knopp and Joachim Lux

Organization of ITI
Executive Council & Executive Board Sessions

Main topics of this session:
- 35th ITI World Congress: Urgent issues on Manaus Congress Cancellation, new Congress location proposals, travel funds problems, Congress Report
- International Dance Day 2016 in Paris
- Information about the staff in Shanghai: Essential requirements for ITI staff, ending contract with the ITI Event Manager, etc.

143rd Executive Council Session
4-5 June 2016, Ljubljana/Slovenia
Present:
Mohamed Saif AL-AFKHAM
Ann Mari ENGEL
Hamadou MANDE
Emilya CACHAPERO
Ali MAHDI NOURI
Apostolos APOSTOLIDES
Alfira ARSLANOVA
Tatjana AZMAN
Daniel BAUSCH
Carlos CELDRAN
Cecile GUIDOTE ALVAREZ
Fabio TOLLEDI

Main topics of this session:
- Toolkit for ITI Centres in development and will be presented during next EC session
- Agenda of the 144th Executive Council Session
- Reimbursement of ticket costs to Manaus should be paid to Centres by the end of 2016
- 70th Anniversary of ITI in 2018: proposals by Le Quy Duong
- Participation of the Young Practitioners' Committee

143-1 Executive Council Session
28 October 2016, Central Academy of Drama, Beijing/China
Present:
Mohamed Saif AL-AFKHAM
Ann Mari ENGEL
Hamadou MANDE
Emilya CACHAPERO
Ali MAHDI NOURI
Apostolos APOSTOLIDES
Tobias BIANCONE
CHEN Zhongwen

Main topics of this session:
- Toolkit for ITI Centres in development and will be presented during next EC session
- Agenda of the 144th Executive Council Session
- Reimbursement of ticket costs to Manaus should be paid to Centres by the end of 2016
- 70th Anniversary of ITI in 2018: proposals by Le Quy Duong
- Participation of the Young Practitioners’ Committee

144th Executive Board Session
10-11 December 2016, Segovia/Spain
Present:
Mohamed Saif AL-AFKHAM
Ann Mari ENGEL
Hamadou MANDE
Emilya CACHAPERO
Ali MAHDI NOURI
Apostolos APOSTOLIDES
Alfira ARSLANOVA
Tatjana AZMAN
Daniel BAUSCH
Carlos CELDRAN

Main topics of this session:
- Cancellation of Manaus Congress: situation, and reimbursement strategy for cost of the lost flight tickets, new Congress location proposals
- Legal Aspects: Charter changes
- Personnel: Employment strategy and state of affairs
- Finances: Accounts 2014 and 2015, Budget 2016
- Information about past and planned activities of Centres, General Secretariat and Regional Councils
- World Theatre Day and International Dance Day: Activities 2016 and plans for 2017

Main topics of this session:
- 35th ITI World Congress in Segovia: events and activities, theme, communication, logistic issues (hotel, visa, transportation, etc.), and setting up a Congress Task Force
- Clarification about the decision process for the location of 35th ITI World Congress
- Personnel: ending the contract of the ITI Events Manager; new contracted staff members
- Finances: Cash Flow 2016 and Budget 2017, Manaus Congress flight ticket reimbursement, contribution report
- Communications: New ITI website, ITI Newsletter, social media, etc.
- 70th Anniversary of ITI, 2018 – The Year of ITI
- ITI Centres and Regional Councils: newly created “Toolkit for ITI Centres”; new Centres, activities and plans of the Regional Council
- Letters from the Cyprus Centre of ITI, answer presented during next EC session

145th EC Meeting in Moscow
30-31 March 2017, Moscow/Russia
Present:
Mohamed Saif AL-AFKHAM
Ann Mari ENGEL
Ali MAHDI NOURI
Alfira ARSLANOVA
Tatjana AZMAN
Fabio TOLLEDI
Joachim LUX
Tobias BIANCONE

Main topics of the session:
- 35th ITI World Congress: Support for the young practitioners’ participation at the Congress; Travel Assistance for the African Head of Delegations; Hotels, Visas, etc.; Honorary Members of ITI, World Theatre Ambassadors, VIPs and Guests, World Dance Ambassadors; Congress Activities: Artistic, Educational and Statutory and Communication Part of the Congress, ITI Programme 2014-2017 and ITI Programmes 2017-2020
- Finances: Accounts 2016 and Cash Flow first quarter 2017, Contribution update and proposals
- ITI development: New Centres, Regional Councils and Committees
- Report about World Theatre Day 2017 in Paris
- Information about the International Dance Day 2017 Summit in Shanghai
- 70th Anniversary of ITI, 2018 – The Year of ITI, ideas
Theatre and Dance Partner Organizations

Comments
After 2008 ITI organized regular meetings for all Partner Organizations, until 2012. Due to the work overload for relocation, there was not enough time to organize a meeting at UNESCO with all Partner Organizations in the past two years.

That does not mean that there is not a close connection with some of them. Due to the fact that all of us are involved in theatre, theatre education or dance and dance education, meeting during conferences, invitations to conferences and congresses made it possible that with some of them the collaboration is going strong. Nevertheless it is important that these reunions are continued. And they will in the year to come.

AICT-IACT - International Association of Theatre Critics
www.aict-iac.org

AITA-IATA - International Amateur Theatre Association
www.aitaia.org

AITU-IUTA - International University Theatre Association
www.aiitu-iuta.org
www.facebook.com/groups/131721440191868

ASSITEJ - International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People / ASSITEJ
www.assitejinternational.org
www.facebook.com/ASSITEJ.International
www.twitter.com/ASSITEJ

ATI - Arab Theatre Institute
www.atitheatre.ae
www.twitter.com/arabtheaterinst

ETC - European Theatre Convention
www.etc-cte.org
www.facebook.com/etch.tec5
www.twitter.com/europeantheatre

FIA - Int’l Federation of Actors
www.fia-actors.com
www.facebook.com/pages/FIA-
International-Federation-of-Actors
www.twitter.com/FIA_actors
www.youtube.com/channel/UCu_IRzl2NgqWP8B16w

FIRT-IFTR - Int’l Federation for Theatre Research
www.firt-iftr.org

IDEA - Int’l Drama/Theatre & Education Association
www.idea-org.net
www.facebook.com/pages/IDEA-
International-Dramatheatre-and-
Education-Association

OISTAT - Int’l Organization of Scenographers, Theatre Architects and Technicians
www.oistat.org
www.facebook.com/oistat

SIBMAS - International Society of Libraries and Museums for the Performing Arts
www.sibmas.org
www.facebook.com/sibmas
www.twitter.com/sibmas_org

UNIMA - International Puppeteers Union
www.unima.org
www.facebook.com/pages/ UNIMA-Internationale
www.twitter.com/UNIMAIntert www.youtube.com/channel/ UC71VBpM1r8Eo6GW5h0JUrsw/ feed
www.flickr.com/groups/unima_ pictures

WDA - World Dance Alliance
www.worlddancealliance.net
www.wda-americas.net
www.wda-ap.org (Pacific)
www.facebook.com/ WorldDanceAlliance

Theatre Without Borders
www.theatrewithoutborders.com
In Memoriam

ITI is an initiative to bring about a world that is rich in culture and the arts, especially the performing arts – theatre, dance and music theatre in all its diverse forms. And ITI has always benefited by the initiative of some of its outstanding members – in its early stages and now. These are the members passed away, all of them were pioneers of ITI and/or extraordinary theatre personalities:

- Fernando Mier y Teran Garza, Mexico
- Martha Coigney, USA
- Fuad Al-Shatti, Kuwait
- Sir Arnold Wesker, United Kingdom - World Theatre Ambassador of ITI
- Reoti Sharan Sharma, India
- Refik Erduran, Turkey
- José Sole, Mexico
- André-Louis Périnetti, France
- Nikos Siafkalis, Cyprus
- Syed Shamsul Haq, Bangladesh
- Dario Fo, Italy - World Theatre Day Message Author
- Tankred Dorst, Germany - World Theatre Day Message Author

ITI is missing their presence, their voice and their actions that they had brought to ITI.

May they rest in peace.

Martha Coigney (1933-2016)

José Sole (1929-2017)

André-Louis Périnetti (1933-2017)

Nikos Siafkalis (1934-2017)
Dear Colleagues, dear friends,

After almost three years, it is time to reflect what happened with ITI. To be honest there was a time when I did not know how the General Secretariat could stay alive and active. The dark clouds of having no funds for paying salaries were casting shadows on the work at the headquarters in Paris. The issue was discussed in the Executive Council and the two-fold proposition – to find a donor or a location that pays the organizational costs, mainly the salaries and the office infrastructure, was decided. The search for a donor had a partial success in finding funds in Sharjah through Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed Al-Qasimi, World Theatre Day Message Author 2007, and through the initiative of the current President of ITI, Mohamed Al-Afkham who received additional funds from Sharjah from Sheikh Hamad bin Mohamed Al-Sharqi, from Sheikh Dr. Rashid bin Hamad Al-Sharqi and from Fujairah from Sheikh Hamad bin Mohamed Al-Qasimi, Saif Al-Afkham who received additional funds in the initiative of the current President of ITI, Mohamed Al-Afkham.

On behalf of ITI, I would like to express my gratitude to Professor Lou Wei, Vice-Mayor of Education and Culture of Shanghai, as well as the chairman of the Jing'an District, Sun Jiaoping, a solution was found with the Shanghai authorities.

The funds received from these eminent personalities pushed away the dark clouds and on behalf of ITI I would like to express my gratitude to both rulers and to Mohamed Al-Afkham.

Hong Kong, Macao and Shanghai were the cities where I was looking for the possibility of hosting ITI. ITI was following the examples of the Partner Organizations OSTAT (Scenographers) and ASSITEJ (Theatre for Children and the Young) which found cities that pay salaries and infrastructure.

The interest of Asia to give us the possibility of offering the funds for the management and the location, was quite high. Due to the initiative of Professor Lou Wei, Chairman of the Shanghai Theatre Academy, and Weng Tiehui, Vice-Mayor for Education and Culture of Shanghai, as well as head of the Jing’an District, Sun Jiaoping, a solution was found with the Shanghai authorities.

My deep gratitude goes also to all the Executive Council members. Before all, I would like to thank the President, Mohamed Al-Afkham for his guidance and care. Then, having four Vice-Presidents actually makes my job easier – all of them are in contact with me and give me excellent advice: Ann Mari Engel, Emilya Cachapero, J Guoping and Hamadou Mandé. Thanks a lot. In these thanks, I would like to include Ali Mahdi Noui, the Secretary of ITI, and Apostolos Apostolides, the Treasurer of ITI. My huge thanks go to Executive Council members Afsha Anilavou, Tajana Armian, Daniel Bausch, Carlos Feldman, Cecile Guadete-Miravez, Le Qui Dong, Joachim Lux, Mario Souza and Fabio Toldi. With each and every one of the Executive Council I am in close communication, and discuss with them ITI related themes – from publications to committees, from artistic to humanitarian issues, from Congress to educational issues, from Theatre of Nations to the new Stage Directors Network, from future Congresses to structural issues.

I also would like to express my gratitude to my Paris staff: Peteya Hristova, Zoë Simard and Barbara Steinbeck for their continuing assistance. Their dedication not to relocate to Shanghai is fully respected. Their dedication to and engagement with ITI is appreciated. I would like to include in the thanks also Renaud Mesini, our accountant in France who assisted ITI in all the complicated issues of ending the contracts and who continues to help us when we have an event in Paris or when we have to deal with accounts in France. Thanks go also to Susan Plattner who assisted the Headquarters to find new staff.

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Last but not least, I would like to thank all ITI Members. ITI is like a beautiful empty vase. Each one of you, as an ITI Member is putting in the flowers that creates the “bouquet of flowers” which makes us aware of the rich performing arts culture in this world. Your dedication to the performing arts and for ITI makes ITI colourful and valuable. By creating your events and by doing your actions under the banner of ITI, you are bringing the importance of ITI to the audience, to the people. By your actions you make the world a culturally rich world, you bring people of all walks of life together, you are building bridges, and step by step you create mutual understanding and peace in your sphere of influence.

And this two last UNESCO and ITI values – mutual understanding and peace – are essentially needed in the world we live in today.

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