



Honouring Jeffrey Sichel

A very good and dear friend has left his body. With him, ITI, ITI/UNESCO Network and many, many friends and colleagues have lost a valuable and precious companion.

My first encounter with Jeffrey Sichel took place in Peru during a student festival. When at one point of time ITI, with the advice of UNESCO, should create a new network for the institutions that are dealing with higher education or research in education for the performing arts, he immediately offered his support to create the new platform. An intense collaboration followed and together with Jeffrey Sichel, Derek Goldman and Sun Huizu, we were able to make what is known now as the ITI/UNESCO Network.

I have experienced him as a dedicated person who was following his profession and the performing arts with passion. His care for the others, do something that is for the benefit for the performing arts, and the students were extraordinary. He had a tremendous willingness to help.

While he followed an academic career and helped many institutions for higher education to create or change a curriculum, I could feel that what he likes to do most, is to direct a play, to be creative on stage and to be a valuable artistic player. I could observe when he presented a student performance during the 33rd ITI World Congress in Xiamen, in China. It was one of the productions that followed the idea of Sun Huizu (William) Kung Futse's Disciples. His directing was splendid and – what was most astonishing – he presented it in an unexpected and fresh kind of humour, some friends of mine, we burst out in laughter and tears of laughter.

It is with great gratitude that I think of you, dear Jeffrey. Without your never-ending assistance, the ITI/UNESCO Network would not have happened. Your strong support over a long time made my work much more manageable. Your input always was constructive, never critical, never blaming.

Words that come to my mind when I am thinking of you is humbleness, kindness and altruism. I miss you, Jeffrey. Farewell and do well wherever you go and are, my dear friend.

Tobias Biancone

President of ITI-UNESCO Network For Higher Education in the Performing Arts

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