For the second edition of the ITI Newsletter of August 2020, I want to give voice to Nick J. Lizaso, Chairman of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) of the Philippines, Vice-President of the International University Theatre Association (IUTA – a Partner Organization of ITI) and member of the Philippine Centre of ITI. While he tells us his viewpoint, based on experience in his countries, his message talks about the value of culture and the arts on a global level.

I invite you to read his inspirational words on culture and the arts below.

Additionally, I am sharing a call from South Korea, an online event of the North Macedonian Centre and an event of the Austrian Centre with you.

With very best regards

Tobias Biancone
DG ITI

---

Inspirational Words on Culture and the Arts
Anak*, why art?

In this so-called quarantine era, is there room for the arts?
by Nick J. Lizaso

Many years back, in my talk to students at the Angono National School for the Arts, I strived to open the minds of the young to the value of being involved in the arts as creator or performer. But, alas, they complained that they were discouraged by their parents. “Walang pera sa sining. There’s no money in the arts.” That’s what was drilled into their young minds.

Since I can remember, parents of traditional upper class families would mandate their kids to take up law, medicine, engineering, architecture, or as a last choice, accounting. Nowadays, middle class families prefer their children to take up technical and practical courses that are more marketable such as nursing, culinary arts, IT, merchant marine, and other newly invented courses. Never mind if the kid’s aptitude is toward the arts.

In primary grades, the arts have been relegated to being club activities. In college, arts and humanities are now merely elective subjects. No wonder, many of our young graduates are materially predisposed but bereft of imagination and creativity.

I believe that we need the arts to save and enrich our nation’s soul. Art, to me, is the great equalizer. For there is something in art that we all respond to in a positive, endearing way. Harmony, grace, symmetry—whatever—these appeal to each human being on a deeper level.

Now more than ever, specially during these uncertain times, our people need the arts for their intrinsic ability to entertain, to delight, to challenge, to give meaning, to interpret, to raise awareness, to stimulate. Art nourishes the soul and heals the sick of body and mind.

But now comes the nagging pesky question: Is there money in the arts? I know of a painter in his late 60s who is now selling his paintings online during the long lockdown. The earnings are more than enough to sustain his family, at a time
Sometime ago, a local furniture designer was approached by a billionaire from the Middle East who purchased several millions of dollars worth of furnishings from him. Many Filipino illustrators are being contracted by a Hollywood animation studio to make animated movies. It wasn’t long ago when a foreign theater impresario auditioned Filipino talents for casting in a new musical staged in London’s West End.

What do all these have in common? Personal income for the artists. Tax money for the Philippine government. Who says there is no money in the arts?

And guess what? Arts and culture are now a country’s potent assets to influence the world. They are now acknowledged as major drivers of national economies around the world. The world is turning upside down. Bumaligtad na ang mundo. Believe it or not, the arts and culture sectors are able to churn out an estimated $250 billion in revenue every year, employing 29.5 million people worldwide. The arts are so important in developed economies that the UK is reported to be investing nearly $2 billion in cultural institutions and the arts to help a sector that has been crippled by the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown.

Arts and culture are now a country’s potent assets to influence the world. They are now acknowledged as major drivers of national economies around the world. The world is turning upside down.

I also read something about the world’s economy shifting from an economy based in manufacturing and heavy industry, to an economy where creativity and collaboration are at its very center. This new economy is called the “Orange Economy” or “Creative Economy,” which includes all the sectors whose goods and services are based on intellectual property: visual and performing arts, crafts, film, architecture, design, publishing, games and toys, fashion, music, advertising, software, TV and radio, and videogames.
But to enable our country to excel in the so-called creative economy, we need to create an environment where young talents are encouraged to pursue their passion for the arts and allowed to give full expression to their creativity as artists.

Let us build the kind of future where art and music programs are alive in schools, where art museums are being opened, where scholarships are increasingly offered in performing arts colleges. There should be legislation that will make arts part of the curriculum and tools for teaching as early as primary grades up to college. The objective is to inculcate “art consciousness” in our youth. But most important, let us protect our artists for they are a neglected resource. We need to nurture our creators, performers, and workers who keep our arts alive.

This is why we need to push for the establishment of the Department of Arts and Culture, which among other things, will empower the Filipino artist and integrate and orchestrate all efforts to make the arts a potent force for development.

If there is a magna carta for domestic helpers, why not a bill of rights for art and cultural workers that is unique to their peculiar needs?

The envisioned Magna Carta should offer hope, and equal opportunity and provide equal protection to all artists regardless of class, age, and gender. It should include a set of incentives to lift artists and art workers from poverty, a sustaining system to enable them to be continuously productive and economically independent in an atmosphere of unfettered freedom.

With a thriving community of inspired and newly empowered artists who are seen as stalwarts of national development, nothing can stop us from making a mark on the world’s cultural economy.

So, to the question of money-minded parents, “why art?” The answer is why not?
Anak is a Filipino word and means "Child", so the title may be translated to: "My Child, why art?"

Calls for Participation

The Committee of World Duo Performance Arts Festival of the South Korean Centre of ITI calls for artists to submit their Duo Performances for participating in the

World Duo Performing Arts Festival 2020

The festival will take place in Seoul, South Korea, from 18 to 29 November 2020. This unique and valued world art festival whose primary objective is to share a theatrical study on communication between one and another calls all interested artists.

The Korean companies will be performing at theatre venues. The chosen International companies will show their performances in a virtual way.

Information for the International Applications or Virtual Presentations:

1. **Eligibility**: Performances played by two artists
2. **Presentation method**: Selected companies will send a video of their performance to be projected online, once during the Festival 2020 and will be later invited to perform once in November 2021, during the 2021 Festival edition.
3. **Required documents for the application**: Introduction about performance, Company history, Profile of all artists (playwright, director, actors), maximum four photos and a video of the performance if it has been previously performed.
4. **Acceptance period**: 13 August to 5 September 2020

Email Address to send documents: iti.korea.yveyi@gmail.com
The production of Black Swan was initiated by ITI Austria and realized with support of our member-organization UNESCO-Club Wien. This short video (mixed-media of theatre/performance/film) is meant as a remembrance of Hiroshima 1945, Fukushima 2011 in a time of Covid 19. It has just gone on-line and is there for you to watch on YouTube. 

The text is an edited extract from a larger piece that Fran Eve Wright wrote for a production with Prince Shimazu of Satsuma that is called Tyfun. It goes back to the time of the Mongolian invasion of China and attempted invasion of Japan by the Yuan dynasty. It goes down through to the Fukushima accident and tsunami. Tyfun essentially deals with the power of prayer and the power of nature throughout the history of Japan.

Presented to you by Helga Dostal, President of the Austrian Centre of ITI

---

**North Macedonian Centre of ITI**
The North Macedonian Centre of ITI is kindly inviting you to watch the

**72 Hours Ongoing Premiere - Project: Dispersive Dramatics in Skopje - 6 Video Theatre / 6 Video Drama Pitching**

**What is the creative point with this project?** We develop creative digital formats in theatre. We promote peripheral urban, rural and natural locations with strong narrative visual content and context. We internationally promote new generations of contemporary playwrights based in the Republic of North Macedonia)

**Category:** Public Space Theatre – Video Theatre (fragments) / Mono Performances

**Language:** English

**Video Theatre Menue**
1. Video Theatre: **An Apology**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XZurRYSEnM&t=2s

Video Drama Pitching
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiwoFGcoM70&t=4s

2. Video Theatre: **inQUIZition**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmJsufYRR90&t=2s

Video Drama Pitching
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hmb3GB87rso&t=10s

3. Video Theatre - first version: Petra`s Bitterness, Interview with Petra Von Kant, in her bedroom
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnknTIMOdD8&t=2s

3. Video Drama Pitching
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMVwtPPyR8U&t=2s
4. Video Theatre: **The Clock**  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXEchQPukQE&t=3s

Video Drama Pitching  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fug2WVIYAUM&t=2s

5. Video Theatre: **Demigods**  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fROyab4JOfQ&t=1s

Video Drama Pitching  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYF_wloWndk&t=4s

6. Video Theatre: **Between the Dragon and His Wrath**  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDALSosw0v8

Video Drama Pitching  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3175Wtu74E&t=3s

**The Team:**  
**Video theatre / video drama pitching:** 6 Authors / Playwrights at 6 Skopje Locations (alternative and central peripheries): Sasho DIMOSKI, Lidija MITOSKA-GJORGJIEVSKA, Mia EFREMOVA (Mia VOLT), Mia NIKOLOSKA, Nadica TRAJKOVA, Ivanka APOSTOLOVA BASKAR  
**Creator, script, visual dramaturgy, program producer:** Ivanka APOSTOLOVA BASKAR  
**Theatre director:** Tea BEGOVSKA
Photography: Vesna A. Brishkoska
Organizers/Producers: North Macedonian Centre International Theatre Institute ITI / Produkcija
Supporters: City of Skopje; Ministry of Culture Republic of North Macedonia

Additional Information

Official Trailer: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fR4iIywzmF4&t=42s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fR4iIywzmF4&t=42s)
Facebook
www.facebook.com/pg/MacedonianCenterofInternationalTheaterInstitute/photos/?tab=album&album_id=4121178224591558
www.facebook.com/pg/MacedonianCenterofInternationalTheaterInstitute/photos/?tab=albums
Facebook Event. [www.facebook.com/events/453873792162422/](https://www.facebook.com/events/453873792162422/)
Website: [www.iti-worldwide.org/macedonia.html](https://www.iti-worldwide.org/macedonia.html)
YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCdiN20fUtY067-_TWkeJMbQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdiN20fUtY067-_TWkeJMbQ)

Short info about the organization of the event: The North Macedonian Centre of ITI / Produkcija (2011-2020) develops and performs international promotion of local North Macedonian contemporary performing arts: theatre, opera / musical theatre, dance, performance. International promotion via education, publishing and collaborative productions.

---

Did you miss an ITI Newsletter? Do you search for information that you found in an ITI Newsletter and cannot find it anymore? Well, that should not be a problem for you. There is a section on the ITI website where you can find the past ITI Newsletters: [>>Here is the link to this archive](https://www.iti-worldwide.org/macedonia.html)