

International Theatre Institute ITI

World Organization for the Performing Arts



UNESCO
1 rue Mollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15 / France
ITI Headquarters
1332 Xinzha Road, Jing'an
Shanghai / China 200040

To All the ITI Members and Friends of ITI

UNESCO, Paris & Shanghai, 21 March 2020

Letter of Encouragement

Dear Friends, dear Colleagues, dear fellow beings,

2020 is the year of challenges!

When dark clouds are gathering and presenting challenges to your family, your friends, your colleagues and people throughout the world, we want to assure you: We are with you. Your concerns are our concerns.

While under the current situation shaking hands and hugging are out of the question, "touching" someone's heart and soul, is definitely appropriate and welcome. That is something the members ITI and the performing artists have done and will continue to do through the ages, and this spiritual touch is needed now more than ever.

Please use your imagination and creativity to find new ways of how we can reach people with the theatrical arts. We need to find new ways of how we can reach the children, the unknown people, the seniors, the disabled, those who are alone and helpless. We need to find new approaches of how can we inspire the ill, the suffering, the young and the old, those who are in prisons, those who are isolated, depressed and lonely.

The members of ITI and the friends of ITI are the experts of creation and imagination. You were, and you are. Now is the time for actresses, actors, stage directors, singers, musicians, storytellers, dancers, poets, playwrights, mimes, puppeteers, performers of any kind, to step up and inspire.

Use your imagination to feed the soul of others with the arts. Use your creativity to light up others through the arts.

The General Secretariat of ITI will be in touch with you with more frequently published Newsletters – to inform, to send you important calls, to share best practice that you send us with others and to give comfort and reassurance in this time.

Please stay safe and healthy. Please help others in your vicinity with your imagination and necessary actions. And please use your imagination to make this world a better place, for you and all your fellow beings.

With warm regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Saif', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mohamed Saif Al-Afkham
President ITI

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Biancone', written in a cursive style.

Tobias Biancone
DG ITI