Mission
The International Theatre Institute ITI, the world’s largest performing arts organization, founded in 1948 by UNESCO, strives for a society in which the performing arts and their artists thrive and flourish. ITI advances UNESCO’s goals of mutual understanding and peace and advocates the protection and promotion of cultural expression, regardless of age, gender, creed, or ethnicity.

Goals
The purpose of the International Theatre Institute is to promote the international exchange of knowledge and practice in the performing arts in order to consolidate peace and friendship between peoples, deepen mutual understanding, and increase creative co-operation between all people in the performing arts. It works to these ends internationally and nationally in the areas of performing arts education, international exchange, and collaboration.
History of ITI

The foundation of ITI in three steps:

1. 1st General Conference of UNESCO
   It is difficult to understand the purpose of ITI without reference to its origins and the context of its creation. The beginning of ITI’s story can be traced back to the end of the Second World War, when the unprecedented destruction wrought by the conflict had made the world a field of ruins. The early post-war years, 1945-1946 to be exact, saw the construction of the great international organizations which went on to shape the second half of the twentieth century, such as the United Nations (UN) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). At UNESCO’s first General Conference, a resolution was unanimously passed to create a body dedicated to the development of theatre.

2. The International Conference of Theatre Experts
   This resolution led to a meeting entitled The International Conference of Theatre Experts which ran from 28 July to 1 August 1947. There were twenty-five participating experts in total from fourteen countries and three continents. This made it an exceptional meeting for its time. Everything addressed during this first conference went on to define the organization for future generations, and the first ITI Charter was drafted at this Conference. It is in this draft that the genesis of the International Theatre Institute can be most explicitly seen in the following succinct expression: “Considering that the art of theatre is a universal mode of expression of humanity and creates links all over the world between large groups of peoples, through the influence and power it exerts over them, it is decided to form an independent international Centre, to be known as the International Theatre Institute”.

3. 1st Congress in Prague
   (28 June - 3 July 1948)
   The date of the first ITI Congress was arranged to take place in June 1948. Czechoslovakia applied to be the location of the meeting, and Prague, for its strong theatrical tradition as well as its symbolic geographical position in central Europe, was selected as the host city. The eight national delegations present in Prague were the founding Centres of ITI — namely Austria, Belgium, China, France, Poland, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia. On 1 July 1948, the ITI Constitution was signed by the delegates of the eight Centres present. With this declaration, ITI, the first NGO associated with UNESCO, was officially established and ready to get to work in Paris, which was chosen as the temporary headquarters.

Since these early days…
   After establishing itself as an organization, with a structure that survives to this day, ITI has grown to include over 90 Centres in nations across the world, create International Dance Day and World Theatre Day, undertake initiatives such as Theatre of Nations, recognise the brilliance of performing arts practitioners through prizes and medals, and sought to contribute to a world of cultural understanding through educational initiatives.
Activities of ITI

Being a Bridge
Around the globe ITI Centres, Cooperating Members and individual members use ITI as a bridge. As it was founded by UNESCO, this function is at the very heart of ITI’s activities. A bridge is a path that enables people from both sides to cross a border or any barrier: it entails an interchange of ideas, knowledge, and respect; ultimately, it endeavours to create mutual understanding and peace between peoples. Through creating festivals, conferences, workshops, showcases and other activities performing arts professionals and enthusiasts are able to get to know one another and learn to respect each other.

Dance, Theatre, and Music Theatre for everybody
ITI’s main focuses are on Dance, Theatre, Drama, Music Theatre and all related disciplines of the Performing Arts. All of these art forms are for everybody and not just a small elite. That is why the artistic, educational and humanistic initiatives of ITI always target as varied an audience as possible: adults, men and women, young audiences, children, the oppressed, the marginalised, the disabled, senior citizens, villagers, migrants and so on.
**Centres**

The ITI Centres are the pillars of the organization. There are over 90 worldwide, and each promotes the performing arts in their respective country through a multitude of activities, such as festivals, national showcases, conferences, workshops, competitions, publications, research and the distribution of information, as well as through other means, to facilitate international cultural exchange.

**Africa:** Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Dem. Republic / Congo Kinshasa, Congo Republic / Congo Brazzaville, Egypt, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe

**The Americas:** Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, USA, Venezuela

**Arab Countries:** Algeria, Egypt, Fujairah / UAE, Jordan, Kuwait, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sharjah / UAE, Syria, Yemen

**Asia Pacific:** Bangladesh, China, Chinese Taipei, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Korea Republic / South Korea, Mongolia, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Vietnam

**Europe:** Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium Flanders, Belgium Wallonia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom

**Cooperating Members**

ITI is also proud to be partnered with a number of Cooperating Members around the world, who help to realise the goals of ITI and offer a diverse pool of resources to draw upon.
Regional Councils

In order to garner an atmosphere of cross-cultural collaboration, ITI has set up five Regional Councils, based on the five UNESCO regions. These groups meet regularly, with delegations from each Centre invited to attend, in order to discuss and make plans for Performing Arts Initiatives in their geographical spheres of influence. The five main councils are:

- African Regional Council
- Regional Council for the Americas
- Arab Regional Council
- Asia Pacific Regional Council
- European Regional Council

There are additional Regional Councils, with a slightly more concentrated scope:

- Balkan Regional Council
- Mediterranean Regional Council
ITI is a membership organization, with its fully-fledged members being the ITI Centres.

**General Assembly**
During an ITI World Congress the Centres meet in the General Assembly where the members select their leaders, decide on finances, the charter, the contribution scale and other organizational issues.

**Executive Council**
The General Assembly elects the Executive Council members who deal with the organization until the next assembly is convened. The Executive Council advises the Director General in his/her work and is responsible for the strategic plans of ITI. The Executive Council itself determines who is President and who the four Vice-Presidents are. They are selected so that all five UNESCO regions are represented. The Executive Council also designates the Treasurer and Secretary.

**General Secretariat / Director General**
The General Secretariat is the management body of ITI under the leadership of the Director General. The General Secretariat follows the Charter for all its activities and works together with the Executive Council to create strategic plans as well as new projects that further the vision, mission and goals of ITI.
In order to study, promote and coordinate particular matters related to the performing arts, ITI has established many different committees (networks, forums, groups and so on). Each committee has its own organizational structure, funding, and programme of activities. The membership of the committees is drawn predominantly from the existing Centres and Cooperating Members of ITI, as well as from Partner Organizations formally associated with ITI. These committees often take the form of Project Groups. They are split into three main categories; Artistic (for issues pertaining to performance), Educational (to better help ITI reach its goals of nurturing the next generation of artists) and humanitarian (which help ITI carry-out its duties as laid out by UNESCO).

**International Dance Committee IDC**
The International Dance Committee provides a framework for international dialogue and cooperation for the global dance community to create, showcase, teach, learn, preserve, and elevate dance. Furthermore, the IDC seeks to strengthen the cultural, social, political and educational relevance of dance worldwide, and promote dance as an evolving, vibrant art form. They are a contributor to ITI’s International Dance Day.

**International Monodrama Forum IMF**
The International Monodrama Forum seeks to promote and celebrate Monodrama, a play with one actress or actor. They seek to raise the profile of this theatre style all over the world as a financially viable and yet innovative and entertaining form of theatre. To achieve this it builds networks within and beyond ITI, creates databases, undertakes research, distributes information, and tries to encourage participation in the art-form through training and education.

**International Festival Forum IFF**
The International Festival Forum seeks to support ITI Centres who are arranging theatre festivals, and also works to create its own, which focus on raising the profile of traditional performing arts methods and productions.

**International Playwrights’ Forum IPF**
The International Playwrights’ Forum is committed to promoting playwriting and playwrights internationally. It also focuses on encouraging young playwrights worldwide. It does this through activities such as international playwriting competitions, playwriting and dramaturgy workshops, and long-term educational programmes in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and elsewhere.

**Artistic Project Groups 1**

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Artistic Project Groups 2

Music Theatre NOW Network MTNN
The Music Theatre NOW Network is committed to the artistic development of music theatre worldwide. From experimental projects to productions in opera houses they embrace all forms of music theatre, including hybrid theatrical forms where music is a crucial and indispensable aspect of the performance. Their key activities in achieving this are the triannual Music Theatre NOW competition and an extensive online archive.

International Stage Directors Network SDN
The International Stage Directors Network is comparable to the International Playwrights Forum. It focusses specifically on the needs of Stage Directors. It seeks to garner an atmosphere of unity and exchange between different stage directors all over the world by inviting directors to work in different countries. Their goal is to galvanize the profession through conferences, documentaries, and educational initiatives.

Network of Emerging Arts Professionals NEAP
The Network of Emerging Arts Professionals is a project group which focusses on granting a platform and securing exposure and experience for the next generation of performing arts professionals. They do this through the dissemination of a bi-monthly newsletter, and by remaining in close contact with ITI Centres, who can grant emerging arts professionals invaluable experience by inviting them to participate in festivals, meetings and so on.

Traditional Performing Arts Forum TPAF
The Traditional Performing Arts Forum is a group that seeks to preserve and grant exposure to traditional theatre styles and techniques through performance exchanges, festivals and educational initiatives. So far they have had two meetings in China, and are often instrumental in recommending performers to participate in ITI’s flagship events. They plan to create a Traditional Performing Arts Theatre Festival in 2018, and have plans to further enlarge their membership. They disseminate vital information about their work through their newsletter.
Educational Project Groups

**Educational Project Group – ITI Publications Committee IPC**
To disseminate the latest findings in the performing arts, and keep everyone updated about the different developments and events in the theatre world, the International Publications Committee creates and makes available a number of key texts. The most prominent among them are The World of Theatre, ITI info, Social Theatre Book, Theatre Fest Book and editions of translated Plays. For more information, please visit: www.itipublication.com

**Educational Initiative – World Theatre Training Institute AKT-ZENT**
The World Theatre Training Institute AKT-ZENT / ITI works exclusively for the innovation of theory and practice in theatre training. All seminars, master-classes and lectures in any country of the world are considered as part of the permanent World Theatre Training Laboratory. The Institute has given birth to original exercises and methods. Its new scientific focus lies in the practice of a unique method of education based on knowledge resonance and learning algorithms. Hybrid tuition combines distance learning and contact education. All its research is published in the World Theatre Training Library of ITI.

**Educational Project Group – Forum for Theatre Training and Education FTTE**
The Forum for Theatre Training and Education is a platform within ITI that invests specifically in the training of the performing arts. It is a vast network open to all members of ITI Centres who wish to participate. The principles of democracy, mutual respect, transparency, and alternation guide its actions. It is also affiliated with ITI’s flagship global initiative ‘How to Bring Theatre to the People?’

**Educational Initiative – How to Bring Theatre to the People?**
How to Bring Theatre to the People is a joint programme from ITI and FTTE that poses questions such as: What does it mean to bring theatre to people? Does it mean to educate the audience? Or does it mean to have the audience participate in a performance? And who are the people? What target group is envisioned? And then we can ask ourselves: What kind of theatre? Traditional theatre? Experimental theatre? Innovative theatre? Amateur theatre? A series of conferences attended by experts in the field have been (and will continue to be) held on themes such as these.
The ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts is a joint initiative of UNESCO and ITI together with more than 20 higher education and research institutions. It was built in alignment with the guidelines and procedures of the UNITWIN programme of the educational sector of UNESCO. The Network’s main focus is on higher education in the performing arts – drama, theatre, dance, music, theatre, playwriting and all related performing arts disciplines.

The Network is a non-profit organization. It is non-political in nature. It welcomes members from all continents, independent of their socio-economic condition, race, religion, ethnicity, gender, culture and nationality. The Network is based on democratic principles, and follows the core values of collaboration, inclusiveness, transparency, and inspiration.

By putting Higher Education Institutions from across the globe in contact with one another, it is hoped that best practices can be established and exchanged, and that an atmosphere of cooperation and knowledge sharing can be established. Member universities are often invited to perform and gather at ITI’s flagship events, such as the ITI Congress.
Humanitarian Project Groups

Theatre in Conflict Zones Network TCZN
The Theatre in Conflict Zones project group seeks to bring the joyous and educational aspects of theatre to war-zones for the benefit of the local inhabitants. Among its many effective initiatives are festivals and educational programmes held in conflict zones. Among its upcoming projects it counts: Tour of Freedom Theatre of Jenin in Sweden and Germany, the Metamorphosis Project – intercultural activities and theatre production, the Roma project (a celebration of Roma and Sinti Culture Day), the Festival of Theatre in Conflict Zones to be held in Japan, the Ellen Stewart Award promoted by LaMama Umbria and ITI, and much else besides.

Social Change Network SCN
The Social Change Network seeks to build international theatre networks and platforms to harness and encourage progressive change. It works to these ends by mapping existing theatre networks and setting up an information hub in Colombo to archive all of their findings. In the future it hopes to launch the Global Peace Movement: “Not by Force But by Art” with UNESCO, organize an international conference under the banner theme “Theatre of Renaissance for Humanity in a Green Society” in Sri Lanka, and, among other things, harness the power of social media and webcasting in aid of theatre.

Network for Heritage, Indigenous Cultures & Migration N-HIM
The Network for Heritage, Indigenous Cultures & Migration is a project group whose mission is to strengthen the identity – through theatre - of marginalised demographics all over the globe. It does this through research and by facilitating exchange between cultures to break barriers and raise the profile of many issues. In future, it intends to carry out work with Iraqi religious minorities.

Action Committee for Artist Rights ACAR
The Action Committee for Artist Rights collects, proves, analysis and makes public cases of violations of the rights of theatre artists and seeks to uphold the right to free artistic expression.
'World Performing Arts Capital' is a title bestowed by both UNESCO and ITI to a city in recognition of the quality of its theatrical programmes in order to support and promote the performing arts in the local community. The Performing Arts embrace Drama Theatre, Dance and Music Theatre. The designation runs for one year. The creation of the World Performing Arts Capital was approved by UNESCO during its General Assembly in 2013. The management for the call, the selection, control and evaluation of candidate cities was delegated to ITI.

The World Performing Arts Capital aims to promote education and participation in the Performing Arts by celebrating their diversity and transformative power in a given city, country, or region. The Capital focusses on the importance and value of the performing arts for the individual and society. It actively encourages the sustainable development of the performing arts and performing arts education in the host city, region and country as a whole.
World Theatre Day was created by ITI and was celebrated for the first time on 27 March 1962, the date of the opening of the “Theatre of Nations” season in Paris. Ever since, each year on that date, World Theatre Day is celebrated on a global scale.

World Theatre Day seeks to promote theatre across the world, make people aware of the value of the art-form, and enable theatre communities to promote their work on a broad international scale so that opinion leaders are aware of its worth. Most importantly of all, the celebration seeks to enjoy theatre for its own sake.

One of the most important actions of World Theatre Day is the circulation of the international Message through which, at the invitation of ITI, a figure of world stature shares her or his reflections on the theme of Theatre and a culture of peace. The message is translated into different languages and distributed on a global scale. For 2018 the Executive Council of ITI selected five Message Authors, one from each of the UNESCO regions.

www.world-theatre-day.org
In 1982, the Dance Committee of ITI established International Dance Day to be celebrated every year on 29th April, the birthday anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre, 1727–1810, the creator of modern ballet. International Dance Day intends to celebrate dance, to revel in the universality of this art form, to cross all political, cultural and ethnic barriers and to bring people together with a common language – dance. Every year, a message from an outstanding choreographer or dancer is circulated throughout the world.

The Executive Council of ITI selects the author of the message based on its own internal suggestions coupled with proposals from the International Dance Committee, World Dance Alliance and dance experts from across the globe. The message is translated into different languages and distributed on a global scale. For 2018 the Executive Council selected five Message Authors, one from each of the UNESCO regions.

www.international-dance-day.org
The Theatre of Nations festival was held in Paris in 1957. It began as a showcase for international theatre, with 10 nations represented by 16 companies in partnership with the French authorities. The festival was based at the Sarah Bernhardt Theatre, and later at the Odeon Theatre, until 1972.

When it began, and during its fifteen year sojourn in Paris, it was the major showcase for international theatre in the world, the goals pursued being those of quality, plurality, and diversity in contemporary theatre. The Theatre of Nations in Paris was where Xiqu (Peking Opera), Berliner Ensemble, Kabuki, and Moscow Art Theatre were first seen in the West after the war.

In 1975 the International Theatre Institute took the title back for review and decided to award the label to an applicant city. Held first in Warsaw in 1975, and then in a series of other cities, the Theatre of Nations has moved around the world. This international, universal festival has now found expression on nearly every continent. The last Theatre of Nations was organized by the China Theatre Association in 2008, in Nanjing, China.
ITI World Congress

Every 2 to 3 years ITI organizes, in collaboration with an ITI Centre and a chosen city, a main event: the ITI World Congress. It is a gathering of ITI members from all continents. The ITI World Congress has five parts:

1) The Artistic Part with performances (local and international) and international collaboration projects.
2) The Educational Part with presentations, workshops, master-classes, seminars, conferences, round tables, etc.
3) The Humanistic Part with workshops, presentations, and community projects.
4) The Communication Part with Congress Orientation and Centres’ Speed Dating.
5) The Statutory Part with General Assembly, meetings of Committees, Networks, Forums and Project Groups as well as Regional Council meetings.

Since its creation, 35th ITI World Congresses have been held.
ITI is honoured to benefit from the invaluable and enthusiastic support of some of the world’s most highly distinguished figures across the different professions of the performing arts. The World Ambassadors for Theatre and Dance, each in her or his own way, whether through a particular activity or simply by their presence and the fact of lending their name, reinforce the mission of ITI. Their association with ITI is a source of inspiration for current members and theatre enthusiasts in general.
ITI is proud to be partnered with the following organizations, who support and encourage ITI in its endeavours around the globe.

**International Partner Organizations**

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<th>Organization</th>
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<td>UNESCO</td>
<td><a href="http://en.unesco.org">http://en.unesco.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>AICT-IACT - International Association of Theatre Critics</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aict-iact.org">www.aict-iact.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>AITA-IATA - International Amateur Theatre Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aita-iata.org">www.aita-iata.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>AITU-IUTA - International University Theatre Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aitu-iuta.org">www.aitu-iuta.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>ASSITEJ - International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People</td>
<td><a href="http://www.assitej-international.org">www.assitej-international.org</a></td>
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<td>ATI - Arab Theatre Institute</td>
<td><a href="http://www.atitheatre.ae">www.atitheatre.ae</a></td>
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<td>ETC - European Theatre Convention</td>
<td><a href="http://www.etc-cte.org">www.etc-cte.org</a></td>
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<td>FEDEC - European Federation of Professional Circus Schools</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fedec.eu">www.fedec.eu</a></td>
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<td>FIA - International Federation of Actors</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fia-actors.com">www.fia-actors.com</a></td>
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<td>FIRT-IFTR - International Federation for Theatre Research</td>
<td><a href="http://www.firt-iftr.org">www.firt-iftr.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>IDEA - International Drama / Theatre &amp; Education Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.idea.org.net">www.idea.org.net</a></td>
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<td>IMC - International Music Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.imc-imc.org">www.imc-imc.org</a></td>
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<td>OISTAT - International Organization of Scenographers, Theatre Architects and Technicians</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oistat.org">www.oistat.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>SIBMAS - International Society of Libraries and Museums for the Performing Arts</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sibmas.org">www.sibmas.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>UNIMA - International Puppeteers Union</td>
<td><a href="http://www.unima.org">www.unima.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Academy of Drama</td>
<td><a href="http://www.chntheatre.edu.cn">www.chntheatre.edu.cn</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Theatre Without Borders</td>
<td><a href="http://www.theatrewithoutborders.com">www.theatrewithoutborders.com</a></td>
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**Partner Organizations in China**

- **Shanghai Theatre Academy STA**
  630 Huaxia Road, Jinqian, Shanghai / China, 200040
  Shanghai Theatre Academy is the main partner of ITI in China.
  http://en.sta.edu.cn

- **China Theatre Association CTA**
  #1-Building52-8, Bei Sha Tan, Chongqing District, Beijing / China, 100083
  www.chinateatre.org

- **Central Academy of Drama**
  39 E. Minhuai Hutong, Dongcheng, Beijing / China
  Tel: +86 10 6401 3688
  www.ctndrama.org.cn

- **International Stage Art Network (iSTAN)**
  c/o The Central Academy of Drama
  4 Hengfa Road, Chaoxiang District, Beijing / China, 102209
  www.i-stan.org