The Shanghai Theatre Academy, founding members of the ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts, organizes the “Silk Road Traditional Performing Arts Festival” and the “12th Shanghai International Experimental Theatre Festival” from 1-7 November 2024. The event will feature an Academic Symposium focusing on “The Imagination and the Promotion of Traditional Performing Arts” with the goal of linking history to the present, fostering global connections along the Silk Road, as well as encouraging cultural exchange and mutual understanding among nations along these roads. It focuses on the imagination and creative process as well as how traditional performing arts are being promoted locally and internationally.

**Performances**
The roots in the tradition and the artistic spirit of innovation have the potential to enriching the future of theatre. The performances that the organizers are looking for need to reflect on traditional culture and embody an experimental spirit that stimulate the festival participants artistically and intellectually. Moreover, the participating groups are encouraged to actively be engaged in the process of the creation of a collaborative showcase for the closing ceremony of the event. International performances should be performed for the first time in China, while national performances have their premiere in Shanghai.

**Workshops**
Members of each performance group are required to conduct one or two workshops for the participants of the festival.

**Academic Symposium**
Academics connected with traditional performing arts and are interested in the theme “The Imagination and the Promotion of Traditional Performing Arts” are invited to submit an abstract of maximum one page for a speech during the symposium. Additionally: A member of each performance group is invited to hold a speech at the Symposium.