



Network for Higher Education
in the Performing Arts



2025 Silk Road Traditional Performing Arts Festival

Call for Participation

The Shanghai Theatre Academy, in collaboration with the ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts, will co-host the 2025 Silk Road Traditional Performing Arts Festival from October 28 to November 3, 2025.

This festival, centered on the theme *Traditional Performing Arts: New Expression in the New Era*, is dedicated to preserving and revitalizing the traditional cultures and performing arts of countries along the Silk Road. It aims to explore innovative performance forms that integrate ancient and modern elements, promote in-depth cooperation and exchange in the international cultural and artistic fields, and contribute to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

The festival will feature a rich and diverse program, including gala performances, full-length shows, an academic symposium themed (draft) *Envisioning Traditional Performing Arts through a Future Lens* (scheduled for November 2, 2025) and a series of workshops. These activities will offer a comprehensive showcase of the delightful traditional performing arts, while highlighting the great potential for innovation and collaboration.

Requirements & Criteria

The Festival is looking for high quality traditional performances that profoundly embody the essence of traditional culture while integrating exploratory spirit and innovative expression. The programs include various forms of traditional performing arts, such as drama, dance, music, puppetry, Chinese Xiqu, etc. The performances must not contain any content that violates national laws and regulations.

Each invited artistic group will participate in the festival through the following activities:

1. **Full-Length Performance:** A production that has been publicly performed before, with a duration of **60–90 minutes**. Each invited group will present **two performances** during the festival, as scheduled by the organizing committee.
2. **Post-Performance Discussion:** After each performance, the Festival will arrange a discussion session where the creation team can engage with the audience, students, and faculty on topics such as the content of the performance, creation methods, and artistic expression.
3. **Opening Ceremony Performance:** The Festival encourages each participating group to contribute to the festival's opening ceremony, which will consist of multiple performances, each lasting 5–7 minutes. The specific format of the participation in the Opening Ceremony will be determined through discussions between the group and the Artistic Committee of the Festival.
4. **Workshops:** The Festival warmly invites participating groups to host one or two workshops for festival attendees.
5. **Academic Symposium:** The Festival invites each participating group to have a representative to deliver a keynote speech at the festival's academic symposium.

Selection Process

Shanghai Theatre Academy and ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts will jointly establish an Artistic Committee of the Festival. The committee will review all submitted productions and notify the selected artistic groups by **June 20, 2025**.

Application materials

1. Application Form
2. 3 high-resolution stage photos of the performance
3. Editable poster
4. Performance video (less than 2 GB)
5. Chinese script; for performances in languages other than Mandarin, please provide an English script (in a Word document)
6. A close-up photo of the speaker at the symposium
7. Summary of the speech in English (500-800 words)

Please submit application materials before May 8, 2025, to the email address: stafestival@163.com; general.secretariat@iti-worldwide.org

Logistics

The Shanghai Theatre Academy will extend official invitations to selected theatre groups and offer performance subsidies ranging from 20,000 to 40,000 RMB per team,

depending on the number of participants. Additionally, accommodation, meals and event-related local transportation for up to 10 persons will be provided. All other expenses including the international flight and production fee should be borne by the participating groups.

Contact information

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