



**THE
FESTIVAL
ACADEMY**

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Atelier Guide

**Atelier for Young Festival Managers
13 - 19 November 2019 | Belgium/France**

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Welcome by NEXT Festival

Dear Atelier Participants, dear Mentors and Presenters, dear Honorary Guests, dear Colleagues,

The international Arts Festival NEXT is extremely pleased to welcome you to the Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai & Valenciennes and to host The Festival Academy, an initiative of the European Festivals Association (EFA), for the 16th edition of the Atelier for Young Festival Managers, after 15 editions taking place in Asia, Africa, the MENA region and Europe since 2006.

NEXT is a yearly, international performing arts festival in this French-Flemish-Walloon cross-border 'euroregion', organised by 6 French and Belgian co-organising artistic houses and up to 15 associated partners each year. The festival programme focuses on referential work and new tendencies in contemporary theatre and dance in and outside Europe. Growing on an intense and durable cooperation platform, NEXT wants to be "cross-border" in the broadest possible way: literally as an international arts festival, in its programming (multidisciplinary forms of expression, mixtures, languages), in the field of production of international work and in the way it deals with the audiences (logistics, communication, ticketing, coaching). It brings together disciplines, communities and cultures and encourages exchange of cultural diversity. From out this cross-border context, it developed a firm European orientation and identity. It is a pilot project, bringing the European idea to day-to-day practice and giving it the large visibility through the festival itself.

Starting from this mission and European perspective, NEXT Festival looks at the world, and is thrilled to gather 35 participants coming from 25 different countries and all continents and to offer them, you, the best possible experience during the Atelier for Young festival managers and the festival itself.

We are pleased that we can give young, motivated people from all over the world valuable opportunities for the growth of their professional careers and for their role, as festival makers, in placing culture at the heart of society by supporting the Atelier for Young Festival Managers.

Hopefully, the rather atypical festival structure and platform in NEXT can contribute to a context for enriching exchanges in the Atelier. But even so, we are very much looking forward on how the Atelier can be a unique moment of inspiration for NEXT and for its future role and paths to choose.

On behalf of the International Arts Festival NEXT, we would like to invite all participants, presenters and guests to benefit as much as possible from this opportunity and this incredible network you will become part of. We are convinced that everyone will leave after this week with many new ideas, experiences and perspectives, creative intentions and innovative projects. We wish you the best of luck for your time in the NEXT Atelier and in the Eurometropolis!

Benoit Geers,
Coordinator NEXT Festival



Welcome by The Festival Academy and the European Festivals Association

Dear Atelier Participants, Dear Mentors, Dear Honorary Guests, Dear Colleagues,

The Festival Academy, an initiative of the European Festivals Association (EFA), is delighted to welcome you to the **16th Atelier for Young Festival Managers** in the Eurometropolis region of Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai and Valenciennes (BE/FR), organised in partnership with, and during the International Arts Festival NEXT. **35 talented, emerging festival managers coming from 25 different countries and all continents** will gather for an intense 7 days with international mentors who will be present throughout the Atelier, together with international and regional guest speakers.

Since its establishment in 2012, The Festival Academy incorporates extended partnerships with networks, cultural institutes, embassies and festivals, a large geographical outreach and new training formats in festival management addressed at more diverse target groups. In recent years and particularly since the Johannesburg/Africa Atelier (March 2018), The Festival Academy has worked on creating a more **equal global conversation** through its partnerships supporting participants from less resourced areas and also in the diversity of its speakers and mentors which has shifted the perspective of the dialogue. The Festival Academy is aiming for diversity on all levels, in its participants (geographically, art disciplines, socially etc.), its mentors and its programme, which has been further developed during the Gothenburg/Sweden Atelier (August 2018) and the Valletta/Malta Atelier (March 2019), with the presence of emerging and expert festival managers, cultural activists coming from all continents and artists related to the International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN), in line with the influx of refugees in that region. The Atelier NEXT continues this ambition and will allow festival managers from different corners of the world and from diverse backgrounds (socially, artistically, economically etc.) to **critically reflect for 7 days on the role of festivals in today's world**. Issues addressed are different models of curating, building audiences/ communities, innovation, impact of festivals, fundraising (beyond subventions) working with new technologies. The Atelier also has more 'global themes' on the agenda as 'How and if festivals can be agents for social change and social cohesion', engaging with migrant communities, accessibility and inclusivity, sustainability, political and social responsibility, freedom of speech and (more) equal international collaborations.

Following the mission of The Festival Academy to build bridges between the arts and the world and people coming from different geographical and social backgrounds, we are delighted to announce the support under the cooperation projects 2019 of the **Creative Europe** programme of the European Union for the project entitled '**Act for Global Change: A Global Conversation from the Arts to the World**' (ACT). The **kick-off meeting** of this project will take place at the Atelier and participants will have the chance to meet and exchange with the partners of ACT. ACT - amongst others - gives writers and artists related to ICORN the opportunity to take part in the training programmes organised by The Festival Academy. We are delighted to welcome two artists at this Atelier. The development of structural partnership to support participants is and will remain high on the agenda of The Festival Academy as for this Atelier we highlight our collaboration with the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture for their continuous engagement, as well as Arts Council Korea, the South African National Arts Council and many others who have granted participants to take part in one of the programmes.

For the next generation of festival managers, the Atelier represents an outstanding occasion to **imagine innovative, pioneering, and creative projects and festival formulae, to exchange ideas and to explore future cooperation possibilities**.

In this Atelier, you have the opportunity to meet renowned, trailblazing festival leaders, cultural and social actors such as **Airan Berg (Austria)**, **Andrea Caruso Saturnino (Brazil)**, **Erica McCalman (Australia)**, **Associate Professor Brett Pyper (South Africa)**, **Ong Keng SEN (Ph.D., Singapore)** and **Danny Yung (Hong Kong)**, - mentors present throughout the Atelier -, and international and local guest speakers representing a range of different cultural associations.

After 15 successful editions of the Atelier for Young Festival Managers, 1 edition of the Atelier for Young Festival and Cultural Managers in Shanghai, China (2017), a first tailor made Atelier for Greek Festival Managers (2019) and 4 editions of the Festival Production Management Training, the **Alumni Network** counts today **653 young artistic festival and production managers from 80 + countries** and more than **70 high-level festival leaders working worldwide**. We are thrilled to welcome you to this network and invite you to become an active member of it through your participation in this Atelier. In the meantime, we are already preparing the **upcoming Ateliers for Young Festival Managers** to take place in **Düsseldorf/ Germany** (23-29 May 2020) in partnership with ITI Germany and Theater der Welt and in **Kampala/ Uganda** in partnership with Bayimba Cultural Foundation/ Bayimba International Festival of Arts (14 - 20 August 2020).

We would like to sincerely **thank** our partner, **NEXT Festival**, to make this Atelier possible, as well as its partners Le Phénix Valenciennes (FR), La Maison de la culture de Tournai (BE), La Rose des vents, Villeneuve d'Ascq (FR), Arts Center BUDA, Kortrijk (BE), Espace Pasolini Valenciennes (FR), City Theatre Kortrijk (BE). Extended thanks goes to the regional partners: la Région Hauts-de-France, Interreg France-Wallonie-Vlaanderen, Eurometropole Lille - Kortrijk - Tournai and the City of Kortrijk, which will all allow us an insight into the cultural scene of NEXT Festival and the region. We also would like to extend our appreciation to the department Digital Design and Development at the School of Arts Kask Conservatorium to perform and share research on digital/ new technologies and festivals.

Special thanks goes to **Creative Europe** for their continuous support to the programme and to the **Flemish Department of Culture, Youth and Media**. We also thank all public institutions which contribute to the development of the young festival generation by supporting our participants; as well as to our outstanding festival and cultural leaders who will stand as mentors and guide participants through the Atelier. Last but not least, we would like to thank **Mike Van Graan**, who is developing the Atelier programme together with The Festival Academy since the Johannesburg edition in 2018 and who will facilitate the 7 days.

We are looking forward to spend these 7 days together, to discover the artistic and cultural life of the Eurometropole Lille - Kortrijk - Tournai & Valenciennes, to broaden our perspectives and knowledge, and overall to get inspired by one another!



Inge Ceustermans
General Director The Festival Academy



Hon. Governor Jan Briers
President European Festivals Association

Programme

Introduction

This programme (dated 07/11/2019) can change prior to and during the Atelier as it takes into account the needs of the Atelier participants.

The programme is based on an analysis of the expectations of all the applicants for the Atelier NEXT.

The key expectations are that the Atelier will facilitate:

- participants learning **new festival management skills** and/or gain **new insights and inspiration** to inform and improve their festival management practice (25%)
- networking internationally with similar festival organisers and with people from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds (24%);
- a process of **sharing and learning** from peers and experts through intercultural and professional exchange and **self-reflection**, challenging themselves, broaden horizons and perspectives, impacting confidence and gaining deeper insights (22%);
- **international collaboration** opportunities (14%).

Applicants who expressed a need to develop **skills** included the following: fundraising and sustainability, curating and programming, sustaining and developing audiences and working internationally and with diverse artists. There were also applicants who questioned the **role of festivals in our contemporary world**, the impact of festivals on local communities as well as the environmental impact of festivals, and other societal topics such as diversity, (under-) representation, the future generations of artists, the need for a sustainable, growing and impactful community (deepen relations, find common places, visions and ethical values to implement cultural actions, as well as to rethink the sustainability of the arts organizations). This programme considers these themes as well as others not mentioned above.

Apart from this the programme strongly relates to the **local context** where the Atelier is taking place. Participants will experience first-hand the unique festival model of the cross-border Next International Festival and meet with its organisers. Meetings with people of the local artistic scene are part of the programme. Global themes such as freedom of expression, migration and climate change are as well included in the programme.

Atelier NEXT is organised in partnership with the International Arts Festival NEXT and takes place in both Belgium and France.

Programme development and Atelier Facilitator

- **Mike Van Graan**, Founding President African Cultural Policy Network - South Africa

Mentors and speakers

- **Airan Berg**, Artistic Director & Theatre Maker, Festival der Regionen in Upper Austria - Austria
- **Andrea Caruso Saturnino**, Director Cena Aberta, Sao Paulo – Brazil
- **Erica McCalman**, Creative Producer and Consultant, Art Oracle - Australia
- **Brett Pyper**, Associate Professor and Head Wits School of Arts at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, former CEO Klein Karoo National Arts Festival (Absa KKNK) - South Africa
- **Ong Keng SEN (Ph.D.)**, Artistic Director TheatreWorks and Artspace 72-13 Singapore, founder Arts Network Asia and the International Curators Academy - Singapore
- **Danny Yung**, Experimental art pioneer, influential artist, Founding member and Co-Artistic Director of Zuni Icosahedron - Hong Kong

International guest speakers and observers

- **Pedro Affonso Ivo Franco**, International consultant for culture, arts and creative economy - Brazil
- **Carole Gürtler**, Head Department Levant, Drosos Foundation (Zurich) - Switzerland
- **Karin Hansson**, Coordinator ICORN - Sweden
- **Anthony Richter**, Director Special Initiatives Open Society Foundations New York - USA
- **Susanna Seidl-Fox**, Program director for culture and the arts Salzburg Global Seminar - Austria
- **Sepehr Sharifzadeh**, Artistic Director NH Theatre agency - Iran

Local guest speakers and partnerships

International Arts Festival NEXT Partners:

- **Audrey Ardiet**, Secretary General La rose des vents - France
- **Romarc Daurier**, Director Le Phénix Valenciennes - France
- **Philippe Deman**, Director La Maison de la culture de Tournai - Belgium
- **Marie Didier**, Director La Rose des vents, Villeneuve d'Ascq - France
- **Benoit Geers**, Coordinator International Arts Festival NEXT - Belgium
- **Kristof Jonckheere**, Director Arts Center BUDA, Kortrijk - Belgium
- **Nathalie Le Corre**, Director Espace Pasolini Valenciennes - France
- **Alexander Ververken**, Director Schouwburg Kortrijk - Belgium

ACT KICK OFF PARTNERS Creative Europe

- **ITI Germany** - Germany
- **Eleusis 2021 European Capital of Culture** - Greece
- **NEXT FESTIVAL** - Belgium
- **deSingel International Art Campus** - Belgium
- **ICORN**, International Cities of Refuge Network - Norway
- **Associated partners**: Fundacion Santiago a Mil, Chile / Bayimba Foundation, Uganda / Edinburgh Culture Summit, UK / Holland Festival, The Netherlands

Partnership Students Devine - Digital Design and Development at the School of Arts Kask Conservatorium on digital/ new technologies and festivals

Before the Atelier: Tuesday 12 November

Students Devine - Digital Design and Development at the School of Arts Kask Conservatorium in Kortrijk - will be working on Festivals and Digital / Technological Innovation during their project week following a brief based on the Atelier's and its participants' expectations related to digital issues. The results will be presented on Friday 15 November.

As part of the Atelier 13-14 November: Kick off meeting ACT

Act for Global Change: A global conversation from the arts to the world

The Festival Academy (an initiative of the European Festivals Association), together with its partners deSingel International Arts Campus, Eleusis 2021 European Capital of Culture, the German Centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), the International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN) and the International Arts Festival NEXT (with associated project partners Bayimba Foundation Uganda, Edinburgh International Culture Summit UK, Fundacion Teatro a Mil Chile, Holland Festival The Netherlands) are delighted to receive support from the Creative Europe programme of the European Union to implement the project entitled Act for Global Change: a global conversation between the arts and the world (ACT).

ACT aims to build bridges between different fields of actions, being the artistic, social, political and business world. To this, it aims in a first phase to enable and facilitate a global inclusive conversation and critical reflection between festival managers from different art disciplines, origins, generations and social backgrounds on the role that arts, culture and more particularly festivals, can play in a fast changing world. The strategy towards reaching positive change consists of a series of new training modules, digital toolkits and a fund system for refugees. In a world increasingly polarized by inequality and lack of intercultural dialogue, ACT contributes towards more cultural diplomacy and informed, skilled leaders and activists with global perspectives, acting in solidarity to effect change on the local, regional, national, and international level.

During the kick-off meeting all partners will experience first-hand what the Atelier is about and meet an international group of young and expert festival managers coming from all over the world as well as main stakeholders in the project. The kick-off meeting also creates links between the different Ateliers and training programmes that are part of ACT as each programme builds and continues on the previous ones. Partners will be able to observe how the programme runs to be able to prepare the activities in the best possible way taking place at their organisation.



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union

*ACT is implemented with the support of the
[Creative Europe Programme of the European
Union.](#)*

All Atelier sessions take place in the Budafabriek (Dam 2, 8500 Kortrijk - Belgium) unless stated otherwise. The festival centre of NEXT Festival is located in 'BK6' Broelkaai 6, 8500 Kortrijk, nearby the Budafabriek.

Wednesday 13 November , DAY 1

Mentors are present all 7 days. Guest speakers present are the 6 Next Festival Partners. International guests/observers present are Pedro Affonso Ivo Franco, Carole Gürtler, Karin Hansson, Anthony Richter, Susanna Seidl-Fox.

The afternoon sessions take place at Budafabriek

12:00 - 13:30 **Participants' registration** and check-in at hotel

13:30 *Meeting in the hotel to walk to Budafabriek*

14:00 - 15:30 **Introductory session:** Making connections

15:30 - 16:30 **Mentors/Speakers introduce themselves**, their festival experience and expertise

17:00 *Departure to Lille (Bus departs from the hotel)*

18:00 - 19:00 **Meeting Next Festival and its partners** - Getting a sense of where we are and an introduction to a unique festival model

19:00 - 20:30 **Public Opening in Lille / France in the Palais de la Bourse**

- Welcome by **representatives of the region**
- Welcome by **the International Arts Festival NEXT**
- Welcome and introduction of the Atelier/ The Festival Academy by **Inge Ceustermans**, General Director The Festival Academy (an initiative of the European Festivals Association)
- **Keynote Panel: *Festival and art-making in our contemporary world*** facilitated by **Mike Van Graan**. Three speakers each speaking to the theme from different contexts:
 - **Airan Berg**, Artistic Director and Theatre Maker - Festival der Regionen in Upper Austria
 - **Andrea Caruso Saturnino**, Director Cena Aberta, Sao Paulo - Brazil
 - **Danny Yung**, Experimental art pioneer, influential artist, Founding member and Co-Artistic Director Zuni Icosahedron - Hong Kong

20:30 **Dinner Reception**

22:30 **Transfer to hotel**

Thursday 14 November , DAY 2

Mentors are present all 7 days. Guest speakers present are Next Festival Partners Benoit Geers, Kristof Jonckheere and Alexander Ververken. International guests/observers present are Pedro Affonso Ivo Franco, Carole Gürtler, Karin Hansson, Anthony Richter, Susanna Seidl-Fox.

- 09:00 - 09:30 **Brief welcomes** from Next Festival and The Festival Academy
Short intro Arts Centre BUDA by its director **Kristof Jonckheere**
Brief intros by all participants and mentors
- 09:30 - 09:45 **Contextualising the NEXT Atelier** for Young Festival Managers
- 09:45 - 11:00 **Plenary: Festivals and festival managers: the good, the bad and the ugly**
- 11:00 - 11:20 *Coffee/ tea break - short intro by the department Digital Design and Development at the School of Arts Kask and joint coffee break - possibility to ask individual questions*
- 11:20 - 13:00 **Plenary: Festivals: cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and cultural diplomacy – sorting myth from reality**
- 13:00 - 14:00 **Curated lunches to facilitate networking in Budafabriek**
- 14:00 - 14:30 **Voting session: Key challenges facing festivals (generally, and specifically to the group of participants)** Participants suggest and vote for the top 7-10 challenges
- 14:30 - 16:00 **Plenary: Role of foundations in changing the world in relation to the arts with Carole Gürtler and Anthony Richter as guest speakers**
- 16:00 - 16:30 *Coffee/tea*
- 16:30 - 18:00 **Establishing Working Groups**, each to choose and work on themes identified in the earlier voting session
- 18:00 - 18:45 **Festival presentations** – Participants present their festivals related to the papers they have written beforehand highlighting their main opportunities/ challenges. A Papers' Pocket has been shared/ read by all experts and participants prior to the Atelier.
- 18:45 - 19:45 Short welcome by **Alexander Ververken**, Director **Schouburg Kortrijk** and *Dinner at Festival Centre - BK6 → 19:45 Departure by bus to Xpo Kortrijk*
- 20:15 - 22:30 **Opening NEXT Festival - Tamara Cubas (Multitud)** – Dance performance – Uruguay + Opening reception - Location: Xpo Kortrijk – 22:30 Return to hotel by bus

Friday 15 November , DAY 3

Mentors are present all 7 days. Guest speakers present is Next Festival Partner Romaric Daurier, Elena Carmona, Tomás Garay, Pep Pla and others to be confirmed.

- 08:30 - 09:00 Journals/reflections on previous day's learnings
- 09:00 - 10:30 **Plenary: Festivals as agents of social change, a conversation with mentors and participants**
- 10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee/ tea*
- 11:00 - 13:00 **International cultural collaboration - beyond curiosity and desire**
Creating awareness of the pitfalls and possibilities of international cultural exchange and how to manage these
- 13:00 - 14:00 **Curated walking lunch with Howest in Budafabriek:** interactive presentations on Festivals and the possibilities of digital and (new) technologies
- 14:00 - 15:00 *Travel to Valenciennes - Le Phenix (departure from Budafabriek)*
- 15:00 Short welcome at **Le Phenix** by its Director **Romaric Daurier** and team
- 15:15 - 16:15 Festival Presentations
- 16:15 *Coffee/ Tea*
- 16:45 - 17:45 Exchange with Focus Espagnol: an example of international collaboration connected to the current political and economic situation in Spain, experts present **Romaric Daurier**, **Elena Carmona**, Director Festival Salmon, **Tomás Garay**, Stage Director company Sociedad Doctor Alonso, **Pep Pla**, Director Festival TNT and other invitees to be confirmed.
- 18:00 Performance - **Cris Blanco - Bad Translation** (Theatre, Spain)
- 19:00 - 19:45 *Joint dinner in the theatre's restaurant l'Avant-scène*
- 20:00 Performance - **Cie. XY & Rachid Ouramdane - Möbius** (Theatre, Spain)
- 21:00 - 22:00 **Aftertalk with** the artists & their teams
- 22:00 *Transport back to hotel*

Saturday 16 November , DAY 4

Mentors are present all 7 days. Artist present Milo Rau / Artistic Team. Guest speakers present are Marie Didier. Others to be confirmed.

09:00 – 10:30 **Festival presentations**

10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee/ tea*

11:00 - 13:00 **Plenary:**

- **Festivals and Sustainability**
- **Models for curating and programming festivals (Brett Pyper)**

13:00 - 14:00 **Curated lunch/networking with artists/ festival managers from the region in Budafabriek.** Attendees to be confirmed.

14:00 - 16:00 **Working Groups**

16:00 - 17:30 **Free time**

17:30 *Departure to Villeneuve D'Ascq from the hotel*

18:30 Short welcome by **Marie Didier**, Director **La Rose des Vents** with refreshments

19:00 - 21:00 Performance: **Milo Rau – Orestes in Mosul** (with English surtitles - tbc)
With a mixed ensemble of Iraqi and European artists
Location: La Rose des Vents Villeneuve d'Ascq

21:00 Meeting with the artistic team of Milo Rau, followed by dinner

22:30 *Departure to Kortrijk/ Hotel*

Sunday 17 November , DAY 5

Mentors are present all 7 days. Guest speaker present are Sepehr Sharifzadeh. Others to be confirmed.

9:00 – 10:30 **Working groups**

10.30 *Coffee/ Tea*

11:00 **Roundtables with mentors**

13:00 - 14:00 *Lunch at Festival Centre*

- 14:00 Free
- 19:00 Dinner at Festival Centre
- 20:00 - 23:00 **Atelier Concert** (participants present creative work – music, poetry, etc.) in the Arenatheater of the City Theatre Kortrijk located at Schouwburgplein 14

Monday 18 November , DAY 6

Mentors are present all 7 days. Guest speaker present are Sepehr Sharifzadeh. Others to be confirmed.

- 09:00 - 10:00 **Working Groups** finalise their presentations
- 10:00 - 13:00 **Working Group presentations**
Discussion and Feedback
- 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch at Festival Centre
- 14:00 - 17:00 **Plenary based on Working Group presentations**
Discussion on key themes emerging from the working groups: Synthesis and Analysis

Participant roundtables: Participants present on topics of interest to them (other participants float from table to table)
- 17:00 Reflection/Journal Time and individual meetings with mentors
- 18:30 - 20:00 Dinner at Festival Centre

Tuesday 19 November , DAY 7

Mentors are present all 7 days. Guest speaker present is Sepehr Sharifzadeh. Others to be confirmed.

- 09:00 - 09:30 **Participants complete a questionnaire** on the “hard skills” they would like to learn/ The Festival Academy should offer as modules
- 09:30 - 11:00 **Participants reflect on their key learnings/takeaways** (using their journals)
Participants share ideas for new projects emerging from the Atelier, if any
- 11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30 - 12:00 **Short presentation The Festival Academy and its alumni network** – how to stay involved and some other initiatives of the **European Festivals Association**
- 12:00 - 13:00 Participants complete **evaluation forms**

13:00 - 14:00 *Lunch at Festival Centre*

14:00 - 18:30 *Free time*

19:00 - 20:00 **Closing ceremony** at Schouwburg Kortrijk / Belgium

- Welcome by **Vincent Van Quickenborne**, Mayor City of Kortrijk
- Welcome by **Jan Briers**, President The Festival Academy
- Welcome by **Alexander Ververken**, Director Schouwburg Kortrijk
- Farewell by **Benoit Geers**, Coordinator NEXT Festival
- Concluding statements by **Mike Van Graan**, President African Cultural Policy Network
- Statements from **participants** of the Atelier
- Farewell and conclusions by **Inge Ceustermans**, General Director The Festival Academy

20:00 - 23:00 **Dinner and closing party** at Schouwburg Kortrijk / Belgium

Saturday 20 November , DAY 8

Morning Check-out is possible until 12:00

Biographies Facilitator, Mentors & International Guest Speakers and Observers

Mike van Graan

Founding President African Cultural Policy Network - South Africa

**Hiroshima Foundation
for Peace and Culture
Award 2018**

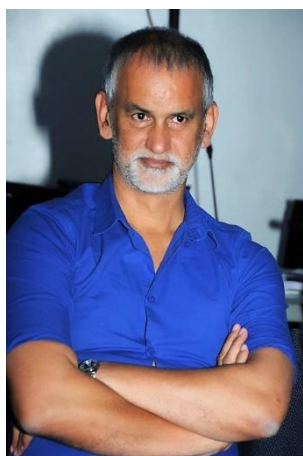
**African Cultural
Policy Network**

Arterial Network

**One City, Many
Cultural festivals**

UNESCO

African Arts Institute



Mike van Graan graduated from the University of Cape Town with a BA Honours Degree in Drama in the mid-eighties, and was appointed as an Associate Professor in UCT's Drama Department from 2015-2019. He has served in leadership positions in a variety of anti-apartheid cultural organisations including Director of the Community Arts Project, Projects Officer for the Congress of South African Writers and General Secretary of the National Arts Coalition. After the country's first democratic elections in 1994, he was appointed as a Special Adviser to the first minister responsible for arts and culture where he played an influential role in shaping post-apartheid cultural policies. In 2011, he was appointed by UNESCO as a Technical Adviser to develop cultural policies and strategies aligned to the 2005 Convention in the Global South.

Until early 2016, he served as the Executive Director of the African Arts Institute (AFAI) in Cape Town to help develop leadership for the African creative sector. He also served as the founding Secretary General of Arterial Network, a Pan African network of artists, cultural activists and creative enterprises contributing to human rights, democracy and development in Africa. In 2017, he was elected as the founding President of the newly-formed African Cultural Policy Network.

Creatively, he has written thirty plays. He was appointed as Artscape's Associate Playwright from 2011-2014 and is considered as one of South Africa's leading contemporary playwrights. From 1 September 2016 to the end of May 2017, he was a Richard von Weizsaecker Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin.

Until early 2017, he served as a Board member for five years of one of South Africa's largest multi-disciplinary festivals, the Klein Karoo National Arts Festival. In the late 1990s, he was appointed by the City of Cape Town to coordinate the inaugural One City, Many Cultures Festival as an intercultural response to the increasing polarization between the primary religious faiths (Islam, Judaism and Christianity) as a result of a series of bomb blasts in the city.

He has also acquired experience in curating international conferences such as the World Summit on Arts and Culture (Johannesburg, 2009), the International Network for Cultural Diversity conference and the African Creative Economy Conference (Cape Town, 2013). He is the 2018 recipient of the Hiroshima Foundation for Peace and Culture Award in recognition of his contribution to the fight against apartheid, to building a post-apartheid society and to the study of the interface between peace and culture both in his home country and across Africa.

Airan Berg

Artistic Director and Theatre Maker at Festival der Regionen in Upper Austria - Austria

Theater ohne Grenzen/DIE MACHT DES STAUNENS/Hunger for Arts and Culture

Austria Arts scene



Airan BERG (1961) co-founded with Marta Winkel in 1993 Theater ohne Grenzen, a visual theater company and the international puppetry festival for adults DIE MACHT DES STAUNENS in Vienna. During his tenure as artistic director of Vienna's Schauspielhaus, he initiated Hunger for Arts and Culture, a programme that enables people living below the poverty line to participate in the cultural life of the city.

Airan was the artistic director for performing arts of the European Capital of Culture Linz 2009. He developed the Urban Inquiries project of the Burgtheater – National Theater of Austria and he also served as the international artistic advisor for Valletta 2018.

He is currently the artistic director of Festival der Regionen in Upper Austria. The 2019 Festival edition is focused on bringing the community together by overcoming “social coldness,” and giving the stage to togetherness, empathy, and respect.

Andrea Caruso Saturnino

Director Cena Aberta, Sao Paulo - Brazil

Educational background

Graduated in Letters at Federal University of Minas Gerais, Andrea Caruso Saturnino holds a Masters in Performing Arts at Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris and a PhD in Performing Arts at University of São Paulo. On the theoretic field, she develops researches on post-colonial subjectivities on the field of performing arts and new technologies in theatre.

Balalaica Association

In 2004 she co-founded Balalaica Association, in Paris, focused on the diffusion of Brazilian performing arts and developed different projects, especially with Giramundo Theatre Company, touring pieces, offering workshops and organizing exhibitions in France.

Performas

In 2008 she founded the international production house, Performas, in São Paulo, through which she carries out various projects of production and curation in the performing and visual arts, both in national and international collaborations, as with Robert Lepage, Roger Bernat, Wajdi Mouawad, Angélica Liddell, Mapa Teatro, Yann Arthus Bertrand, Fleur Elise Noble, Acrobat and Cia. Finzi Pasca.

Multitude and Living Theatre, presente!

Her focus evolves around transversal projects, collective work sustainability and activism on social and artistic field. She has been practicing this focus in various contexts within social and arts movements, especially now against censorship, as well as curating multidisciplinary projects as Multitude (2014) and Living Theatre, presente! (2017). The first one, a working in process extensive exhibition at Sesc Pompeia (São Paulo) crossed with performing arts and seminar program focused on Antonio Negri's concept of multitude; and the second one an exhibition at Sesc Consolação (São Paulo) mixed with performances, meetings and workshops, all reviewing the legacy of Malina's and Beck's in Brazil.

Brasil Cena Aberta



She is presently the director of Brasil Cena Aberta, a multiple platform including a Brazilian showcases festival, and a continuous program to develop international coproductions, artistic exchanges and residencies.

Erica McCalman

Creative Producer and Consultant, Art Oracle - Australia

Scottish and Cornish heritage/Art Oracle

Erica McCalman is a producer of Ballardong (Noongar), Irish convict and Scottish and Cornish heritage. With her independent project (Art Oracle) Erica has taught and mentored for YIRRAMBOI and Melbourne Fringe festivals as well as consulted for major arts institutions, independent artists and government agencies. Through Art Oracle Erica seeks to find new ways of working as a producer, dissolving power imbalances between artist and institution and nurturing the next generation of First Nations producers.

Curator Next Wave

During her time as Creative Producer of Next Wave she curated Ritual, a series of 16 rituals, ceremonies, and rites from contemporary experimental artists each sunset of Next Wave Festival. Ritual won the Green Room Award for Innovation in Curation and Programming 2018.

Sydney and the International Experience

She has worked for Darwin Festival, Sydney companies Legs on the Wall, Performance Space, Sydney Festival and Performing Lines as a producer. Internationally she has worked with artists from South Korea, Timor Leste and Aotearoa as well as for the British Council managing the ACCELERATE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership programme.

GLOSACI, ILBIJERRI, Theatre Network Australia

Erica has participated in the Indonesian edition of the Asian Producer's Platform Camp, The Festival Academy's Atelier in Malta and in early 2019 she was a delegate to the Global First Nations Exchange in Lenapehoking (New York City). In 2016 she was the recipient of the George Fairfax Memorial Award for Excellence which allowed her to travel to the UK to research contemporary arts practice within live art organisations, theatres and festivals. Erica is part of the steering committee of the Global South Arts and Culture Initiative (GLOSACI) and sits on the boards of ILBIJERRI Theatre Company and Theatre Network Australia.



Her second favourite 'F' word is festival.

Brett Pyper

Associate Professor and Head Wits School of Arts at the University of the Witwatersrand - South Africa

His academic background and his career in the cultural and research field

Brett Pyper is Associate Professor and Head of School at the University of the Witwatersrand's School of the Arts, a cultural practitioner, arts administrator, festival director, music researcher and academic. He began his career as an arts administrator and facilitator of developmental music projects during the transition from apartheid before taking up a Fulbright scholarship to study in the US, where he was based for six years (1998 – 2004). He holds Master's degrees from Emory University (in Public Culture) and New York University (in Ethnomusicology and Popular Music Studies), and is currently writing a doctoral dissertation on contemporary jazz culture in South Africa. Between 2005 and 2007, he headed the Division of Heritage Studies and Cultural Management in the University of the Witwatersrand's School of Arts in Johannesburg, incorporating the Centre for Cultural Policy and Management.

Klein Karoo National Arts Festival

In August 2007, he was appointed CEO of the Klein Karoo National Arts Festival (Absa KKNK), which takes place annually at Easter time in the town of Oudtshoorn in the rural Western Cape and is currently expanding its organisational mandate as the non-profit company Kuns Onbeperk (Arts Unlimited). He held this post till the end of September, 2013.

South African Society for Research in Music

In addition, he was founding Chair of the South African Society for Research in Music, which was formed out of the merger of the former Southern African Musicological Society and the Ethnomusicology Symposium associated with the International Library of African Music. He also serves on the steering committee of the Arterial Network, South Africa.



Ong Ken Sen (Ph.D.)

Artistic Director TheatreWorks and Artspace 72-13 Singapore, founder Arts Network Asia and the International Curators Academy - Singapore

TheatreWorks/Arts Network Asia/International Festival of Arts/the awards

Ong KEN SEN (1963) is the artistic director of TheatreWorks, where he created the renowned Flying Circus Project, which brings together international artists traveling through Asia, sharing their contexts amongst themselves and young people in the local sites. He founded the Arts Network Asia, a micro-grant peer organization and the international Curators Academy focused on the synergy between contexts and curation in Asia. He is also the founder of the Singapore International Festival of Arts (SIFA) in 2013 and was the Festival Director for four editions from 2014 to 2017. He is the first Singaporean artist to have received both the Young Artist Award (1992) and the Cultural Medallion Award (2003). He was awarded the prestigious Fukuoka Asian Arts and Culture Prize in 2010.

The academic career

He holds a Ph.D. in Performance Studies (Intercultural Performance) from Tisch School of the Arts, New York University and was also an Adjunct Professor with the National University of Singapore, where he started the theatre studies programme in 1992

The international Arts scene

His works have been presented to much acclaim all over the world including Lincoln Center in New York City, Théâtre de la Ville in Paris, Edinburgh International Festival, LIFT London, Theater der Welt in Berlin, Shakespeare Festival at Hamlet's Castle in Denmark, Festwochen Vienna, Holland Festival, Roma Europa Festival, Cocoon Theater in Tokyo, Idans Festival in Istanbul, Panorama Festival in Rio de Janeiro and Adelaide Festival in Australia.



Danny Yung

Experimental art pioneer, influential artist, Founding member and Co-Artistic Director Zuni Icosahedron - Hong Kong

Zuni Icosahedron and his academic career

Danny Yung (1943) is an experimental art pioneer and one of the most influential artists in Hong Kong. He co-founded Zuni Icosahedron, a highly esteemed experimental theatre in Hong Kong and he has been its artistic director since 1985. Over the past 40 years, after having graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in architecture and from Columbia University in urban design, Yung has been deeply involved in diverse artistic fields, including theatre, cartoon, film, video, and visual and installation art.

The influence of Western performing arts/Tears of the Barren Hill

In 2008, inspired by Cheng Yanqiu's study of Western performing arts during his tours to Europe (Cheng is one of the four greatest twentieth century performers of the Dan role type in Peking Opera) he created the commissioned theatre work by Hong Kong Arts Festival, *Tears of the Barren Hill* which reflects on the innovation of traditional Chinese theater and the institution of cultural exchange. *Tears of the Barren Hill* won him the Music Theatre NOW Award given by the International Theatre Institute of UNESCO.

Film production and his current positions

Yung is among the pioneers of Hong Kong experimental film and video artists. His short films, videos and installation art pieces have been shown in Berlin, New York, London, Rotterdam, Copenhagen, Tokyo and Hong Kong since 1980s. He is currently the Member Consultant of United Nations Common Consultant Roster, Honorary Member of Music Theater Committee of International Theatre Institute, Chairperson of World Culture Forum Asia-Pacific Alliance, Vice Chair of Board of Directors of Asia-Pacific Performing Arts Network (APPAN), and President of Asia Arts Net. Yung keeps a close watch on the arts and cultural policy and education development in Hong Kong as well as in the Asia Pacific regions. Yung currently serves as Convener of Chinese Creative Industries Forum, Chairperson of the Hong Kong–Taipei–Shenzhen–Shanghai City-to-City Cultural Exchange Conference, a member of Design Council of Hong Kong and a member of the Xiqu Centre Advisory Group under the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority. He was appointed the inaugural Dean's Master Artist in Drama of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2013. Yung is the Chair of Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture (HKICC), an NGO was founded in 1996 that advocates for cultural development by organizing cultural exchanges, creative education activities, research programs and art development projects.

The Hong Kong Arts scene



Pedro Affonso Ivo Franco

International consultant for culture, arts and creative economy - Brazil

Academic background and areas of expertise

Pedro is a Brazilian musician and consultant with nearly 10 years of experience across the cultural, creative and development sectors. Holding an MA in International Relations and Cultural Diplomacy from Furtwangen University, Germany, Pedro areas of expertise include culture, arts, creative economy and sustainable development.

The focus on Latin America and African contexts

Focused on integrating culture and creativity in sustainable development frameworks, Pedro works mostly in Latin American and African contexts developing countries and regions scoping research, program evaluation, and analysis, advising and project conception.

Tom Fleming Creative Consultancy and Global South Arts and Culture Initiative

Since 2017 Pedro is an associate consultant to Tom Fleming Creative Consultancy - international leader in the creative economy sector. Pedro is also the Deputy Director of the Global South Arts and Culture Initiative- Glosaci and Director of O Galo da Madrugada, biggest carnival group on earth with 2 million revelers parading in the Recife Carnival.



Carole Gürtler

Head Department Levant, Drosos Foundation Zurich - Switzerland

Drosos Foundation - Department Levant

Ms. Gürtler joined Drosos Foundation in 2009 and has been the Head of the Department Levant since 2013. She is currently in charge of Jordan and Lebanon and closely follows the transformation of the civil societies through an important network of around 35 partners in both countries. She participates actively in their role as actors of change by supporting them with the implementation of projects that address social challenges.

The European and Arab Arts scene

She studied history of arts and cultural management, and has extensive experience in the support of arts/cultural and media initiative in Europe and the Arab World. The support for the arts and culture through institutional development and the promotion of an entrepreneurial spirit within the arts & culture play thus an important part of her work.



Karin Hansson

National Coordinator for Swedish members of the International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN) - Sweden

International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN)

Karin Hansson (1983) is National Coordinator for the Swedish members of International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN) since 2015. ICORN is a member organization of cities / municipalities / regions that provide protection to persecuted writers, journalists, artists, academics and musicians. As a national coordinator, Karin works to provide support, increase visibility and create networks and professional platforms for ICORN – cities and ICORN – artists in Sweden.

The House of the Free Speech

Between 2013 – 2017 Karin was Strategic Manager for The House of the Free Speech, Växjö, a cultural house with focus to make literature and culture available and provide platforms for creating meetings, engagement and development. The House worked closely linked to ICORN in projects nationally and internationally

Other voluntary activities: Tjejzonen and Hejfestivalen

Karin is also voluntarily involved in Tjejzonen, an organization aimed to support and reduce mental illness among young girls, and Hejfestivalen - a cultural festival for integration in Stockholm.



Anthony Richter

Director of Special Initiatives at the Open Society Foundations in New York - USA

Open Society Foundation

He joined Open Society in 1988 and established more than 20 of the foundations in the Open Society Foundations network throughout Eurasia, the Middle East, and South Asia. He also developed programs such as the Central Eurasia Project, Eurasianet, and Revenue Watch and led Open Society's work backing the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture and other significant culture and arts programming.

Open Society/Revenue Watch Institute

He previously was regional director of the Middle East North Africa and Southwest Asia and headed Open Society's work in the former Soviet Union. Richter was founding chairman of the Revenue Watch Institute, and served on the boards of the Natural Resource Governance Institute, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, and the Open Government Partnership.

Publications, memberships, academic background

He has written for the New York Times, the World Policy Journal, and other publications. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Richter received his BA from Wesleyan University in Russian language and literature and a graduate degree in Slavic languages and literature from Columbia University. His languages include Arabic, French, Persian, and Russian.



Susanna Seidl-Fox

Programme Director for culture and the arts at Salzburg Global Seminar - Austria

Salzburg Global Seminar and the transformative power of arts

At Salzburg Global Seminar she conceptualizes, develops, and manages several seminars and programs each year, including the annual Salzburg Global Forum for Young Cultural Innovators. She is particularly interested in the transformative power of the arts and has developed programs focusing on conflict transformation through culture, the arts as a catalyst for sustainable development, and the expansion of international cultural engagement.

The United States experience

Before coming to Salzburg, she worked as a simultaneous interpreter for the United States Department of State, interpreting primarily for its International Visitor Leadership Program. She also worked in publishing at Random House/Pantheon Books and at G.P. Putnam's Sons in New York.

The academic formation

Susanna was a Fulbright Fellow and studied German theater and literature at the Universities of Mainz and Berlin, Germany. She holds a B.A. in German literature and in government from Dartmouth College, in New Hampshire, and an M.A. in translation and interpretation from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California.



Sepehr Sharifzadeh

Artistic Director NH theatre agency - Iran

NH theater agency: Iranian and the international Arts scene

Sepehr is Artistic Director of NH theatre agency, the first Iranian international theater agency, initiated as a subset of the Nowrouzehonar Institute of art & Culture. It was established by Sepehr as a theater agency and consultancy firm for festivals. The main goal is to facilitate the cultural exchange between Iran and the world through performances: up to date with the latest local and international theatre productions, promoting Iranian shows abroad and assist the local festivals in curating their international program. The agency is specialized in bringing alternative theater, puppet and object theater and experimental theater to International festivals.

The first International Theatre agency

Sepehr has Studied his Master's in Tehran University, He is an independent producer and has co-founded the first International Theater booking/consultancy agency in Iran; aiming to promote Iranian performances to different festivals around the world and organize festivals

His work as an artistic advisor, curator and board member

Currently, He is working as an artistic advisor, curator and board member with several independent festivals in Iran such as the international Contemporary music festival of Tehran, Micro-leev theater festival, Tehran-Mobarak international puppet festival, and Fadjr theater festival.



In 2018 He worked as the project coordinator of the "Welcome to Iran" festival in BOZAR and in 2019 He was the programmer of "The first showcase of Iranian performing arts" during the Fadjr Theater Festival in Tehran.

NEXT Festival Partners

Audrey Ardiet

Secretary General La Rose des Vents, Scène nationale Lille Métropole - France

***Manèges and Ligne Directe
à Paris***

Audrey Ardiet started her career at Manège, the cross border cultural center of Maubeuge (France) / Mons (Belgium). She worked here from 1999 to 2012, at the beginning as responsible for the press and public relations and then as artistic programmer and coordinator. From 2012 to 2014, she joined the artistic agency Ligne Directe à Paris as broadcast administrator.

***Theatre du Nord and La
Rose des Vents***

From 2014 to 2016 she worked at Théâtre du Nord, Centre dramatique national Lille/Tourcoing, as responsible for production and broadcast. Currently she is Secretary General at La rose des vents, Scène nationale of the European Metropolis of Lille in Villeneuve d'Ascq.



Romarc Daurier

Director Le Phénix Valenciennes - France

His first experiences: Belfort and Grenoble

Romarc Daurier pursued his educational training in Annecy, the city of his childhood, between associative engagement, rock groups, writing and more writing. His first significant career step is the direction of the space Gantner à Belfort, a contemporary art center, from 1999 to 2001. In 2001 he joined la Maison de la culture of Grenoble and he will spend two years there, coordinating the communication and the public relations, developing partnerships and projects and building European links.

Annecy and Valenciennes – Le Phénix

The experience in Grenoble will lead Romarc to Annecy in 2003, at Theatre Bonlieu. In the beginning he worked there as Secretary General and after, in 2008, he was appointed administrator, working on the project Lyon 2013, European Capital of Culture. Since June 2009 he is the Director of Le Phénix, a theatre, a place, which «Should promote the encounter with the local population, especially the children. Nowadays culture passes through them », to quote one of his sentences.



Philippe Deman

Director La Maison de la Culture de Tournai - Belgium

His career and experience

Philippe Deman started his career as editor at the French Ministry of Finance (Ministère des Finances) in 1977. In 1980, he entered as organizer the House of Culture of Tournai, which he directs since 1992. He also teaches courses of socio-cultural animation and he supervises the traineeships of the students attending the Haute école Louvain in Hainaut.

La Maison de la culture de Tournai

La maison de la culture de Tournai is a cross-border cultural center, which is known for its multiple functions as both a scenic and creative center. As a scenic center, it supports and contributes to the projects of companies coming from the Wallonie - Bruxelles federation. As a creative center, it organizes ateliers targeting different publics of various disciplines.



Marie Didier

Director La Rose des Vents, Scène nationale Lille Métropole - France

Academic and professional background

Graduated from a Business School, Marie Didier started her career in the audit field and continued in the marketing one, before collaborating with stage director François Cervantès in order to carry out his company projects, mostly abroad. Afterwards she joined the theatre at a national level (DSN, Dieppe Scène Nationale et le TSQY, Théâtre de Saint Quentin en Yvelines) where she subsequently exercised the functions of artistic administrator and advisor to finally become assistant director.

La Rose des Vents

In October 2018 she was appointed Director at La rose des vents, Scène nationale Lille Métropole, where she is involved in a project oriented towards contemporary playwrights, as well as cinema and literary creation, both emerging and established, regional and international artistic teams.



Benoit Geers

Coordinator International Arts Festival NEXT - Belgium

International Arts Festival NEXT

Since 2009, Benoit Geers is the coordinator of the yearly International arts festival NEXT. NEXT is a durable, cross border cooperation platform involving 6 co-organising art houses and some 15 associated cultural partners from 10 Flemish, Walloon and French cities. Together in November, they present around 70 international theatre and dance performances in more than 15 venues spread throughout the cross border Eurometropolis region.

Cross-border cooperation in the Eurometropolis region

Benoit Geers has been working as a communication and project manager in multiple (inter) regional performing arts houses and festivals since 2001. Cross-border cooperation in the Belgian-French territory, nowadays known as the Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai + Valenciennes (2008), has been a common thread throughout the past 15 years. As an example of this cross-border cooperation, he worked as project & communication manager at theatre of Kortrijk (BE) from 2003 to 2009. He was in charge of coordinating the cross-border bilateral cooperation project 'Complices' with La rose des vents Villeneuve d'Ascq.



Kristof Jonckheere

Director Arts Center BUDA Kortrijk - Belgium

***DAS*theater, *Limelight* and
*BUDA***

At the end of 2004, Kristof Jonckheere moved from the company DAStheater (Gent) to the small arts centre Limelight (Kortrijk) to co-write the artistic and strategic plan for arts centre BUDA, which started in 2006. As artistic coordinator, he helped BUDA develop into one of the largest performing arts workspaces in Flanders (hosting 70 residencies per year), a festival organiser who is internationally acclaimed for very diverse but outspoken festivals (such as Kortrijk Congé, NEXT festival, Almost Summer) and an art house cinema that puts a lot of effort into audience development.

Director Arts Center BUDA

Jonckheere has led BUDA since mid-2017 and made a strong commitment to social sustainability. BUDA recently received the Europa Cinemas Innovation Prize 2019 for this at the Cannes Film Festival. This prize, in turn, leads to BUDA's Film Fund, which finances actions for people in poverty.



Nathalie Le Corre

Director Espace Pasolini Valenciennes - France

Her career as director and performer

Nathalie is director of Espace Pasolini in Valenciennes and she is also working as a performer there. One of her most well-known performances is L'INSTABLE, created together with Philippe Asselin. The performance recalls the myths coming from famous Greek tragic poems, which are the crib of our Western theatre: Medea, Giocasta, Antigone, Ifigenia, Judith and Holopherne, Orfeo and Euridice, who reflect the human contradictions.

Espace Pier Paolo Pasolini: birth and development

The Espace Pier Paolo Pasolini is an alternative cultural space located in Valenciennes, an artistic and intellectual laboratory. It was opened to the public in December 1991, under the initiative of Philippe Asselin, artistic director of the place which decided to invest in creation of the Espace: the Jeune Théâtre International. The Jeune Théâtre International invested in an industrial warehouse, turned it into a performance hall and baptised it with the name of the Italian poet and filmmaker Pier Paolo Pasolini. The Espace Pier Paolo Pasolini boasts a rich collaboration with different contemporary dance artists, who gather each year in the context of Next International Arts festival.



Alexander Ververken

Director Schouwburg Kortrijk - Belgium

Academic background and the career in European markets

After studying a master in commercial engineering at the Leuven university, Alexander started his professional career in 2006 at Engie, a global player in the energy sector. For ten years he worked for the company in Brussels and Paris focusing primarily on developing new trading services around renewable energies in European markets.

From engineering to the arts world: managing director of the Municipal and Music Centre of Kortrijk

His conviction that arts play a very important role in the social sustainable development of our society, combined with a passion for the performing arts, has lead Alexander to make a career change in 2017 becoming the managing director of the Municipal Theatre and Music Centre of Kortrijk. With more than 700 activities and 100.000 participants per year, the main challenge for Alexander is to create an impact driven organization that serves as a beacon for the performing arts in the city and region.



Cultural programme, venues and performances

International Arts Festival NEXT

NEXT is a yearly, international performing arts festival in the cross-border Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai & Valenciennes, organized by 6 French and Belgian co-organising artistic houses and 10 to 15 associated partners. The artistic programme focuses on referential work and new tendencies in contemporary theatre and dance in and outside Europe. NEXT invites every year about 40 international artists to create and present in the cross-border region. They tour the Eurometropolis to present in more than 15 venues and interact with the public during multiple forms of workshops and meetings.



NEXT Festival Centre/ BK6 – Broelkaai 6 (lunches, dinner)

Buzzing with creative energy the Buda Island and the recently renovated Broelkaai 6 building hosts the most diverse organizations in the field of culture, education, healthcare and the economy, as well serving as breeding ground for numerous inspiring student and citizen initiative. As such BK6 became the gateway to the island and a hub for creativity in Kortrijk as a bustling co-working space.



Main working venue 13 - 19 November

Introducing the Budafabriek

The Budafabriek is an expression of Kortrijk's effort to brand itself as the city of creativity, design and innovation. Budafabriek is the place where arts, business and education encounters are stimulated to collaborate together. It used to be an old vacant factory building, located in the middle of the city center, which turned out to be the perfect location for the ambitious project of creating a Designfactory and an Artsplatform simultaneously.



Arts Centre BUDA Kortrijk (BE)

The Arts Centre BUDA is a workplace for artists, festival organizers and cinema lovers. It is a private non-profit organisation financed by, among others, the European Union. Centre BUDA hosts some local, national and international residents related to the art world. On an annual basis around 40 artists or collectives come to live and work temporarily at the Centre. BUDA works with artists who are at a crossroads, those who need a relatively quiet but stimulating environment.



Thursday 14/11 NEXT Festival Opening Performance Tamara Cubas – Multitud – Xpo Kortrijk (BE) at 20:15

Tamara Cubas is a Uruguayan choreographer who has been investigating about the memory and the recent past in a variety of supports: stage, photography, video, performance. To reach her aim, she likes fostering collaborations between different generations. In 'MULTITUD', she studies a group, the power relations within the group, the power of the group itself, and the possibility to touch and to be touched. An individual experience, but at the same time a study of the group dynamics



Friday 15/11 Afternoon programme and NEXT Festival Performance in Le Phenix, Valenciennes (FR)

Introducing Le Phenix, built in 1998, represents one of the Scènes nationales (National Performing Arts Centres) and it is located in the Northern part of France (Valenciennes). Committed to supporting contemporary creation, the network for National Performing Arts Centres is composed of 71 venues in Mainland France and French overseas territories. Le Phenix consists of two theaters, one rehearsal space, one restaurant and one exhibition hall. Three main disciplines characterize the Phenix: theatre, music and dance. It is financially supported by the French Ministry of Culture and by the local authorities.



Performance Cris Blanco - Bad Translation (18:00)

'Bad Translation' is a battle between analogue and digital. The Spanish theatre maker Cris Blanco unravels digital technology until it collapses completely. The five artists build a Mac computer with their bare hands, the icon of the digital world, but with cardboard, plastic, textiles and other household attributes.



Cie. XY & Rachid Ouramdane – Möbius (20:00)

“Our new show Möbius leads us towards something greater than ourselves. We are zooming out from ourselves as individuals (how we behave, how we react, how we express ourselves) to consider the bigger picture and ourselves as part of a larger whole. We are convinced that this holds something invaluable on a universal level.”

Möbius is a performance born in September 2019 thanks to the collaboration between the contemporary circus company XY, based in Lille, and the choreographer Rachid Ouramdane. Through his work, Ouramdane tries to contribute to social debates, by creating choreographic pieces that develop a poetics of testimony.



Saturday 16/11 NEXT Festival performance: Milo Rau - Orestes in Mosul - La Rose des Vents Villeneuve d’Ascq (FR)

La Rose des Vents is one of the theaters which belongs to the French ‘Scènes nationales’ and was inaugurated in 1976. The theatre is supported by the Ministry of Culture (Direction régionale des affaires culturelles Nord-Pas-de-Calais), by the regional Council of Nord-Pas-de-Calais, by the city of Villeneuve d’Ascq and by the European Union. It is located in larger area around the city of Lille. The peculiarity of the building is the white façade with red dots.



Milo Rau - Orestes in Mosul at 19:00

Milo Rau had the idea of staging a present-day version of Aeschylus’ Oresteia while he was conducting research for his play EMPIRE (2016) in northern Iraq on the frontline facing ISIS. ‘It is as if you were in a television scene and in a classical epic at the same time,’ as Rau puts it. How is it possible to stop the never-ending chain of violence in which the parties of the Syrian-Iraqi civil war and their Western allies find themselves?

Milo Rau retains the ancient grandeur of the tragedy, but links it to present-day issues, with an international ensemble. He wants to investigate what ORESTEIA can mean today, rehearsed and staged in Western Europe and in Mosul.



Sunday 17 November Atelier Concert - Arenatheater of the City Theatre Kortrijk (BE) at 20:00 - 23:00

The Arenatheater is a black box theatre inside Schouwburg Kortrijk. The room can offer an intimate theater environment for 120 people. It does not only function as a theatre space, but it is versatile enough to cater lectures, concerts, shows and receptions.



Tuesday 19 November Closing Ceremony of the Atelier - City Theatre Kortrijk (BE)

Schouwburg Kortrijk is the city theatre in Kortrijk. About fifty years ago, the building itself was used as a party and dance hall. After thorough renovations in the mid and late 20th century, the city theatre represents a more multifunctional image towards the audience. In addition to providing high quality and a wide range of music, comedy, theater artistic programmes, Schouwburg Kortrijk collaborates with NEXT Festival to deepen the relationship and exchange with its border neighbours. They also devote themselves to social projects such as ROOTS for 9 editions until 2019, particularly focusing on foreign teenagers in the involvement of artistic training, personal development and social integration.



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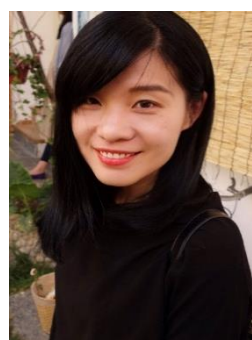


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The Festival Academy

Artists, Art & Culture – World – Festivals – Conversation – People - ACT

Who we are?

The Festival Academy believes festivals are bridging platforms with a direct link to people and civil society structures. We believe a critical reflection between arts and cultural managers worldwide can bring about positive change, informed awareness, ideas and proposals for actions through personal human relations and based on knowing, respecting and tolerating different value and belief systems. We are a global community of today 653 festival managers from 80+ countries.

What we do?

We offer various training formats and peer to peer exchange on festival management to emerging, dynamic and passionate festival makers worldwide coming from all art disciplines and from very diverse geographical, cultural and social backgrounds.

Vision & Mission: Global change through arts and culture

Vision

We envision a world where all people regardless race, gender, social background, sexual orientation can equally enjoy and participate in cultural life and festivals; where festivals can reflect - through incorporating human rights values - the real world experience of all of us, furthering social and economic justice and human dignity and catalysing positive change on a local, regional, national and even global level.

Mission

Enable and facilitate a global inclusive conversation and critical reflection between festival managers from different art disciplines, origins, generations and social backgrounds on the role that arts, culture and more particularly festivals, can play in a fast changing world.

- Upskilling and informing festival managers on the state of play in the world today.
- Global Community Building: Build bridges between different fields of actions, being the artistic, social, political and business world.
- Developing a knowledge center to be shared with a broad (festival) community.
- Provide innovative tools to policy makers based on the knowledge gathered from the field and guidelines on the implementation of these.
- Enable, empower and encourage a global network of festival managers, a peaceful movement of activists, who can catalyse change in their communities on a local, regional, national and even global level.
- Engage in global partnerships to set a joint agenda taking into account the different realities of different regions and continents.

Capacity Building: Exchanging and constructing know-how

The Festival Academy shares, exchanges and constructs know-how on festival management. Through empowering a new generation of emerging leaders and generating new professional opportunities for festival makers, it develops and sustains a network of festival leaders of the future wherein capacity building and internationalisation are key. The training programmes within The Festival Academy are one of EFA's core activities. The Festival Academy considers the art and the artists as the essence of festivals. The different training programmes start from this conviction, but focus on topics and issues raised by the participants: artistic vision, political and social responsibility in relation to the cultural and artistic significance of a festival in its community or region, as well as engaging with migrant communities, accessibility and inclusivity, sustainability, political and social responsibility, freedom of speech and (more) equal international collaborations.

Unique training formats

All training formats create opportunities by connecting local and international professionals, foster the development of new and long-term collaborations, and encourage an exchange of know-how. All programmes are designed in close exchange with the local partner, thanks to which participants get to know the local cultural sector, the visibility of the city increases and local artists are supported.

- [Atelier for Young Festival Managers](#): This intense training programme offers the opportunity to up to 35 passionate festival makers of all kinds of artistic disciplines, coming from all over the world to spend 7 days together with a group of young and experienced festival leaders, cultural activists and artists to have a global conversation about today's challenges and the role art and culture can play in these. The Atelier is about: gaining new perspectives, exploring the essence of the why and how of (your) festivals in a global context, share and exchange experiences and reflect on the topics that concern you. Mentors and guest speakers share their rich experience and answer participants' questions along the way, passing on knowledge to the next generation of festival makers.
- [Festival Production Management Training](#): This three module programme selects up to 20 participants and focuses especially on production management in terms of realising and implementing the vision of the artistic director. The training is set up as a long-term programme which explores all phases of producing an artistic work: It consists of an introductory and concluding workshop as well as a hands-on placement at a festival worldwide.
- [Festival Readings](#): During three days high-level speakers from the festival sector give lectures on their experience in managing festivals. The readings take place during a festival and are addressed at the professional audience attending a festival. Speakers are present during the three days and exchange with the participants.

- **Digital (R)evolution: Communication and New Technologies Training** is a new training format of The Festival Academy that addresses various fields of festival management (communication, marketing, social media, community building, educational outreach programmes, artistic choices...). During the 4-day programme 25 participants from across the globe will take part, inspired by and guided through the programme by an international group of experts from the festivals field, the technological world, and civil society experts.
- **Tailor Made Ateliers:** The Festival Academy has a proven expertise in organising training programmes for very diverse and international groups of cultural and festival leaders of the future, which turn out to be - more than often - life-changing experiences for the participants. Parallel to these activities, with a global scope on all levels, the organisation is delighted to take on opportunities to develop tailor made programmes, focussing on participants from a specific region, and the topics and challenges they encounter, guided by festival directors, artists and cultural professionals from the region and abroad.

“In a time that sees the world moving towards separation and building walls, an active attention and commitment to connect and create communities is ever more pressing. The Festival Academy offers a platform to meet and make connections with a diversity of creative minds creating a growing young community of festival makers worldwide. The training programmes provide a space and time to think collectively and to reflect on the role of festivals in a society in transition and the ways how to deal with this.”

Inge Ceustermans, General Director The Festival Academy

Facts and figures

- 15 Ateliers for Young Festival Managers since 2006 in Africa, Asia, Europe and the MENA region.
- 1 Atelier for Young Festival & Cultural Managers, Shanghai, China (2017)
- 1 Tailor Made Atelier for Greek Festival Managers, ELEUSIS, Greece (2019)
- 11 Festival Readings since 2013 in Sibiu, Romania (2013, 2014, 2015); Yerevan, Armenia (2015); Bari, Italy (2017), Mechelen, Belgium (2018), Sochi, Russia (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019) and Eleusis, Greece (2019).
- 4 editions of the Festival Production Management Training with Modules in Antwerp, Belgium (Module I in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019) and Module III taking place in Istanbul, Turkey (2016) and Santarcangelo, Italy (2018).
- A growing network of 653 Alumni from 80 countries and all continents.
- 60+ renowned festival directors from all over the world attended as a mentor.
- Distinguished international festivals and institutions hosted training programmes including, amongst others, Edinburgh International Festival, Asia-Europe Foundation, Ljubljana Festival, Beiteddine Art Festival, Sibiu Performing Arts Market, Asia Culture Center, Malta Festival Poznan and deSingel International Art Campus.
- Numerous sponsors and partners including, amongst others, the European Commission, British Council, Goethe-Institut, Institut Français, Pro Helvetia, Arts Council Korea, the Arab Funds for Arts and Culture and Flemish Community have supported the activities of The Festival Academy.
- Numerous local artists and cultural venues have benefited.
- 3 inspiring publications: 2 editions of the “Cahier de l’Atelier” (2008 and 2016) and “Inside/Insight Festivals” (2012), including texts by renowned festival directors on what’s at stake in the festival field, have been distributed worldwide.

Atelier for Young Festival Managers

The Atelier for Young Festival Managers is an intense 7-day programme and is one of the rare programmes that focuses on the artistic aspects of festival management, parallel to its aim to nourish a global conversation on the challenges the world is facing today and the role art and culture can play in these. Throughout the Atelier, selected participants broaden their programming skills, widen their horizons and develop new project ideas under the guidance of renowned festival managers who share their rich experience and act as true mentors. It creates opportunities for festival managers to network, and to reflect on the true mission of festivals and on their role in a globalised, fast and result-oriented world. For the next generation of festival managers it represents an outstanding occasion to imagine innovative, pioneering and creative project ideas and festival formulas.

The Atelier is about the participants!

The programme focuses on topics and issues raised by the participants which are further developed during the Atelier: with panel discussions guided and inspired by renowned festival leaders from across the globe, cultural activists and artists, in small working groups, thematic lunches, cross-discipline round tables and plenary sessions. There is plenty of time and space for more informal one-to-one talks during meals and cultural visits as the sharing of experiences and networking on an equal footing are key to the Atelier. Topics to be explored could be amongst others: The artistic aspects of festival management, including artistic vision, political and social responsibility in relation to the cultural and artistic significance of a festival in its community or region, as well as engaging with migrant communities, accessibility and inclusivity, sustainability, political and social responsibility, freedom of speech and (more) equal international collaborations.

Participants are emerging festival makers that want to engage in inspiring debates and in meeting peers, experts and artists coming from all over the world. They are early career artistic directors or programmers/curators working for art organisations or festivals, as well as those working in a programme related department in a festival. Participants leave the Atelier with extended management and programming skills, a broad new personal and professional network and inspiration for new (collaboration) projects. Application process and participation fee: see website.

“There were several key points brought up on the workshop that we benefited from, particularly about understanding our audiences, the sustainability of a festival from a financial point of view, and different approaches to making sure a festival is reflective of its surrounding communities. (...) Much of what has been taught during the Atelier is nearly impossible to find in other spaces. For me, the Atelier is a space for critical thought and practical outputs around festivals expertly tailored for its target arts practitioner.”

Nikissi Serumaga, Uganda - Participant Atelier Johannesburg 2018

Upcoming Ateliers for Young Festival Managers

- 23 - 29 May 2020, Düsseldorf/ Germany, in partnership with the International Theatre Institute Germany (ITI) and Theater der Welt
- 14 - 20 August 2020, Kampala/ Uganda, in partnership with Bayimba Festival and Foundation.

The Festival Academy Alumni Network

A worldwide network

The Festival Academy sustains and further develops the Festival Academy Alumni Network that unites the participants from the Ateliers for Young Festival Managers, the Festival Production Management Training and the Festival Readings. Today, it includes 653 young festival leaders from 80+ countries worldwide.

Activities

The Alumni are involved in the further development of The Festival Academy and its network by engaging them in Alumni Network meetings, The Festival Academy Board and EFA activities. They identify the key elements that the Alumni Network should address, and give feedback on the training formats and activities The Festival Academy is developing. Being an alumni means lifelong learning opportunities by online exchanges via social networks and platforms; information updates through newsletters; access to materials, speeches, presentations and knowledge shared during and beyond the respective programmes.

Legacy and impact

The Alumni Network is continuously growing with each training programme and allows young festival managers to connect to participants and presenters from other activities and supports them in their personal and professional development. The Network aims to facilitate extended cooperation, networking and career opportunities. Examples of these collaborations can be found on The Festival Academy website.

Pool of Experts

Mentors involved in the training formats of The Festival Academy are festival experts, cultural activists and artists coming from all over the world. Guest speakers come from the art field as well as from other fields of action such as philanthropy, social movements, politics, business etc. During their participation mentors and guest speakers not only act as lecturers as they engage in one-on-one discussions with the participants and mentors are present for the whole period of the training. They all allow participants an honest and open insight into their careers including both success stories and failures, share their motivation and explain their (artistic) choices.

New mentors present for the first time during the Atelier NEXT: Airan Berg (Artistic Director and Theatre Maker at Festival der Regionen in Upper Austria- Austria), Andrea Caruso Saturnino (Director Cena Aberta, Sao Paulo - Brazil), Erica McCalman (Creative Producer and Consultant at Art Oracle – Australia), Ong Keng Sen (Artistic Director TheatreWorks and Artspace 72-13 Singapore, Founder Arts Network Asia and the International Curators Academy – Singapore), Danny Yung (Experimental art pioneer, influential artist, Founding member and Co-Artistic Director Zuni Icosahedron - Hong Kong).

Robyn Archer (Artist and former Artistic Director The Light in Winter Melbourne - Australia), Hortense Archambault (Director MC93– France), Norman Armour (Executive Director PuSH Festival Vancouver – Canada), Steve Austen (Permanent Fellow Felix Meritis Foundation – The Netherlands), Mantse Aryeequaye (Co-Director Accra [Dot] Alt - Ghana), Mark Ball (Associate Artistic Director Manchester International Festival - UK), Darko Brlek (Artistic and General Director Ljubljana Festival – Slovenia), Tom Creed (Theatre and Opera Director, Festival Organiser - Ireland), Seok Kyu Choi (Creative Producer AsiaNow Productions – South Korea), Christopher Crimes (Consultant/Advisor to [N!A] Project and Eleusis 2021 – France/Greece/UK), Kelly Diapouli, (Artistic Director Capital of Culture Eleusis 2021 - Greece), Jelle Dierickx (Director Festival of Flanders Mechelen – Belgium), Rania Elias (Director Yabous Cultural Centre and Jerusalem Festival – Palestine), Bernard Faivre d’Arcier (President Lyon Biennial – France), Marie- Hélène Falcon (Former Director Festival TransAmériques Montréal – Canada), Rose Fenton (Director Free Word London – UK), Cristina Fuentes La Roche (International Director Hay Festival – UK/South America), Heiner Goebbels (Artistic Director Ruhrtriennale – Germany), Ching-Lee Goh (Executive and Artistic Director CultureLink Singapore – Singapore), Mohamad Hamdan (Co-manager Zoukak Theatre Company and Cultural association Beirut (France/Lebanon), Agnes Havas (Director Armel Opera Festival – Hungary), Gavin Henderson (Artistic Director Dartington International Summer School – UK), Nele Hertling (Member Strategy Group “A Soul for Europe” – Germany), Tzvetelina Iossifova (Director Red House for Culture and Debate – Bulgaria), Hjalmar Jorge Joffe-Eichhorn (Theatre activist, co-founder Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization - Germany/Bolivia/Afghanistan), Vigdis Jakobsdottir (Artistic Director and CEO Reykjavik Arts Festival – Iceland), Carole U. Karemera (Artistic Director Ishyo Arts Centre - Rwanda), Seonghee Kim (Artistic Director Asia Culture Center Theatre – South Korea), Marta Keil (Curator, dramaturg and researcher – Poland), Elisabeth Knauf (Production Manager Hebbel am Ufer – Germany), Nevenka Koprivsek (Artistic Director Mladi Levi Festival – Slovenia), Celestine Kubelka (Production Manager Wiener Festwochen - Austria), Wai-Lap Kwong (Programme Director Guangdong Modern Dance Festival – China), Gundega Laivina (Artistic Director New Theatre Institute of Latvia), Grace Lang (Programme Director Hong Kong Festival – China), Annet Lekkerkerker (Director Holland Festival – The Netherlands),

Kee Hong Low (Head of Artistic Development West Kowloon Cultural District Hong Kong – Singapore), Roy Luxford (Programme Director Edinburgh International Festival – UK), Ismail Mahomed (Chief Executive Officer Market Theatre Foundation – South Africa), Ruth Mackenzie (Artistic Director Théâtre du Châtelet - France/UK), Yolanda Markopoulou (Co-founder & Curator mind the fact, line producer major cultural institutions - Greece), Sir Brian McMaster (Former Director Edinburgh International Festival – UK), Joseph V. Melillo (Artistic Director Brooklyn Academy of Music New York – US), Michal Merczyn'ski (Director Malta Festival Poznan, Nostalgia Festival Poznan – Poland), Sir Jonathan Mills (Former Director Edinburgh International Festival – UK), Gerard Mortier (Former General Director Teatro Real de Madrid; †2014), Mark Russell (Founder and Co-Director Festival Under the Radar – US), Roberto Naccari (General Manager Santarcangelo Festival – Italy), Brett Pyper (Associate Professor and Head Wits School of Arts, South Africa), Oussama Rifahi (Board member and Executive Director 2010 - 2016 Arab Fund for Arts and Culture - Germany/Lebanon), Carmen Romero Quero (Executive Director Teatro a Mil Foundation - Chile), Marie-Agnès Sevestre (Director Festival des Francophonies en Limousin – France), Graham Sheffield (Director Art British Council London – UK), Chiaki Soma (Representative Director of Arts Commons Tokyo – Japan), Galin Stoev (Founder Fingerprint Company – Belgium/Bulgaria), Tom Stromberg (former Director Impulse Festival – Germany), Fruzsina Szép (Festival Director Berlin Festival & Lollapalooza Berlin Hörstmann Unternehmensgruppe HUG – Germany), Frosyni Trousa, Artistic Director ARC for DANCE Festival – Greece, Mike Van Graan (Founding President African Cultural Policy Network – South Africa), Han Van Poucke (Head of Production Holland Festival – The Netherlands), Carla Van Zon (Artistic Director Auckland Arts Festival – New Zealand), Monique Veaute (President Fondazione Romaeuropa - Arte e Cultura – Italy), Matthias Vogt (Institut für kulturelle Infrastruktur Sachsen – Germany), Alain Weber (Artistic Director Fez Sacred Music Festival – Morocco), Kim Whitener (Producing Director HERE Arts Center in New York City - USA).

Host & co-organizers

The Festival Academy

The Festival Academy is an initiative of the European Festivals Association (EFA), offers various training formats on festival management to young, dynamic and passionate festival makers worldwide focussing on the essence of festivals, the arts and the artists. The different training formats touch upon all artistic disciplines. The Festival Academy shares, exchanges and constructs know-how on festival management, through empowering a new generation of emerging leaders and generating new professional opportunities for festival makers. It develops and sustains a network of festival leaders of the future wherein capacity building and internationalisation are key. The training programmes within The Festival Academy are one of EFA's core activities. www.TheFestivalAcademy.eu



European Festivals Association (EFA)

The European Festivals Association (EFA) has been uniting distinguished music, dance, theatre and multidisciplinary arts festivals from Europe and beyond for more than 60 years. EFA's members are the core element that make the Association an open, influential, international place for any festival that wants to be part of a bigger festival community. EFA brings festivals together to inspire one another, fosters an exchange of knowledge, helps festivals to speak with one strong voice to shape policy developments, increases networking opportunities, and keeps festivals informed about issues at stake in the festival and cultural world, all under the flag of artistic excellence and internationalisation. Since its foundation, the Association has grown from 15 festivals into a dynamic network representing about 100 music, dance, theatre and multidisciplinary festivals, national festival associations and cultural organisations from 40 countries. www.efa-aef.eu



NEXT Festival

NEXT is a yearly, international performing arts festival in the cross-border Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai & Valenciennes, organized by 6 French and Belgian co-organising artistic houses and 10 to 15 associated partners. The artistic programme focuses on referential work and new tendencies in contemporary theatre and dance in and outside Europe. NEXT invites every year about 40 international artists to create and present in the cross-border region. They tour the Eurometropolis to present in more than 15 venues and interact with the public during multiple forms of workshops and meetings. www.nextfestival.eu



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NEXT Festival

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Co-funded by the
 Creative Europe Programme
 of the European Union

The Atelier NEXT is part of the EFA RISE project implemented with the support of the [Creative Europe Programme of the European Union](#).

The Atelier for Young Festival Managers NEXT is organised in partnership with:



Structural partnerships of The Festival Academy



Artists related to ICORN are supported to take part in this Atelier in the framework of 'Act for Global Change: A global conversation between the arts and the world' (ACT) supported by Creative Europe under the cooperation projects 2019.

Participants' support:



In the frame of the Atelier NEXT, the EU cooperation project "Act for Global Change: A global conversation between the arts and the world (ACT)" is going to be launched. *The Festival Academy in partnership with deSingel International Arts Campus, Eleusis 2021 European Capital of Culture, the German Centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), the International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN) and the International Arts Festival NEXT. Associated partners Bayimba Foundation Uganda, Edinburgh International Culture Summit UK, Fundacion Teatro a Mil Chile, Holland Festival The Netherlands.*



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The Festival Academy is an initiative
 of the European Festivals Association (EFA)



This activity could also be implemented thanks to the support of the Flemish Department of Culture, Youth and Media.

