

Manchester 2023  
ISPA Congress

e—Programme

**Co** — creating  
**the future**

June 27 – 30  
[ispa.org](http://ispa.org)

2023  
#ISPA23MCR



# Creating the first new West End Theatre in 50 years

Charcoalblue is an international design consultancy, delivering projects around the world from studios on three continents. We bring a global reach and localised expertise to projects of all scales, with a particular focus on the performing arts, culture and entertainment. Making the arts an integral part of the community is the driving force behind everything we do, and we are proud to continue to support ISPA who share our values and vision for the performing arts.

[www.charcoalblue.com](http://www.charcoalblue.com)



@sohoplace / Haworth Tompkins & Allford Hall Monaghan Morris / image by Haworth Tompkins

## ACCESS

We want everyone to be able to participate fully at the ISPA congress.

- All venues are wheelchair accessible.
- Live captions and BSL interpreters will be at all panel discussions.
- Breakout spaces are available – please check with ISPA volunteers who can direct you.



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## WELCOME FROM ISPA

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to Manchester! This our first mid-year congress since 2019, and it's great to be on the road again. This is also our first time in England since ISPA's first mid-year congress in London in 1987!

In many respects, the theme of the congress is a continuation of our dialogue in New York earlier this year, where we identified many of the urgent issues facing the arts and, for that matter, society. In Manchester we hope to identify ways to address these challenges and opportunities in cooperation with each other, so that we may move forward together.

I want to thank our hosts at HOME for their tireless efforts to bring all the elements of a great congress together. Lastly, I want to thank you, the delegates, for investing your time and energy in the dialogue – I am sure it will be a rewarding week.

Sincerely,

David Baile

Chief Executive Officer. International Society for the Performing Arts

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## MESSAGE FROM THE ISPA CHAIR

Dear Colleagues and friends,

It is a pleasure and privilege for me to join the Organizing Committee and the ISPA team in extending a very warm welcome to Manchester, England. It has been four years since we have gathered together in person for a mid-year congress. I am thrilled that you are here and I anticipate stimulating conversations, provocative presentations, and friendships forged and renewed in the context of Co—creating the future.

Thinking of this theme as it applies to ISPA, it strikes me that the strength of this organization is firmly situated in and amongst us: the members and participants in this gathering of arts professionals. Counting both established leaders and rising stars in our midst, we come together with remarkable diversity and difference. In a world where the value of international exchange and opportunity is often under attack, it gives me great joy to be here and explore what is possible with open minds and a commitment to collaboration.

I know I will relish your company over the next few days and hope that you too will gain from the learnings and experience that we'll share together.

With best wishes,

Alicia Adams

Chair, ISPA Board of Directors. VP of International Programming and Dance, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

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## WELCOME TO MANCHESTER

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the ISPA Manchester Team and the City of Manchester – welcome to the 2023 mid-year congress!

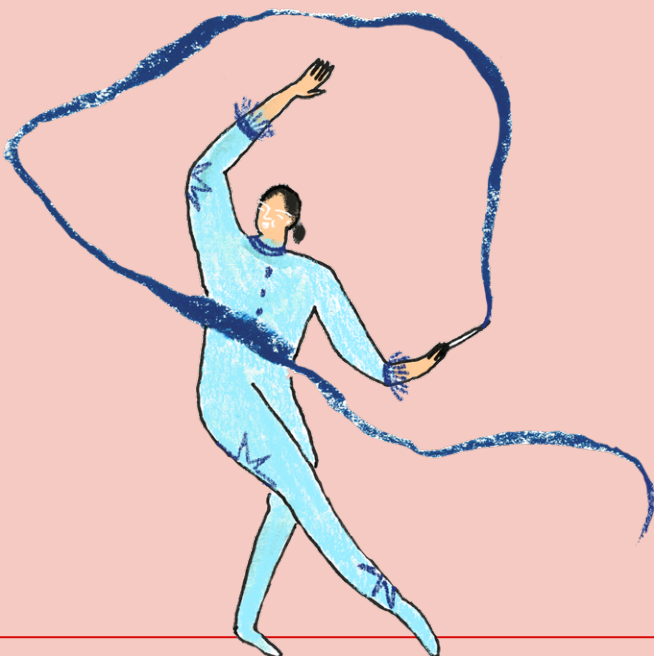
We are absolutely delighted to see you all here in the UK, and thrilled that ISPA chose Manchester to host this year.

It takes a huge team effort to pull together such an exciting programme of events, and I want to sincerely thank the ISPA Manchester Executive Committee, Organising Committee, and the wonderful ISPA New York team, for all the time, passion and creativity that has gone into planning this congress. It has been a real pleasure working with everyone involved – thank you.

Thanks also to all our funders and partners – this simply would not have been possible without their support. I would like to acknowledge Arts Council England, Manchester City Council, GMCA, British Council, Visit Britain, Charcoalblue and Arup for their commitment to supporting the industry and this opportunity.

We cannot wait to share this week with you, and to hear from all our fantastic speakers, panelists and performers. Please do come and say hello and we look forward to some great conversations and new ideas.

Dave Moutrey  
CEO. HOME and Director of Culture, Manchester City Council





THANK YOU

Huge thanks to our supporters.



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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dave Moutrey — HOME, Chair  
Mark Ball — Southbank Centre  
Jennifer Cleary — Arts Council England  
Sarah Elderkin — Manchester City Council  
Paul Clay — Factory International, International Director  
Stephanie Newton — Marketing Manchester  
Tarek Iskander — Battersea Arts Centre  
Bonnie Turnbull — HOME  
Neil Webb — British Council  
Low Kee Hong — Creative Director, Factory International

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Nickie Miles-Wildin — Freelance Director, Radio and Theatre  
Linda Crooks — CEO of the Traverse  
Emma Beverly — Leeds 2023  
Abdul Shayek — Tarra Arts  
Feimatta Conteh — Factory International,  
Environmental Sustainability Manager  
Keisha Thompson — Artistic Director/CEO Contact  
Anthony Missen — Company Chameleon  
Raidene Carter — Creative Director  
Jonathan Harper — Para Orchestra  
Sekeenat Karim — ISPA Manchester Project Producer

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## ISPA TEAM

David Baile — Chief Executive Officer  
Mara Driscoll — Program and Advancement Lead  
Rich Johnson — Administrator  
Magda Mazurek — Manager of Membership and Events  
Chenchen Li — Membership and Events Intern



## SCHEDULE

### NEW CENTURY HALL

12.00 – 15.00

Registration

14.00 – 15.30

Opening Ceremony and Welcome

Performance from **PA Bitez** — Poet, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

**David Baile** — CEO, ISPA, United States. [View Bio.](#)

**Alicia Adams** — Board Chair, Vice President, International Programming & Dance, John F Kennedy Center, United States. [View Bio.](#)

Opening Session: Co-creating the future

**Anna Nsubuga** — UK Ambassador Designate, UNESCO, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

**Ronee Penoi** — Director of Artistic Programming, ArtsEmerson, United States. [View Bio.](#)

With thanks to Manchester UNESCO City of Literature for supporting the participation of the UK Ambassador Designate.

15.30 – 16.00

Refreshment Break

16.00 – 16.30

Performance — **Manchester Camerata**. [View Bio.](#)

16.30 – 16.45

Regional Initiative

**Andrew Miller** — UK Arts Access Champion, Broadcaster & Cultural Consultant, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

16.45 – 17.45

Session 1: Co-creating the future: Leadership and Co-Creation

Moderator **Hilary S. Carty** — Executive Director, Clore Leadership, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

**Reneltta Arluk** — Artistic Director, Akpik Theatre, Canada. [View Bio.](#)

**Abid Hussain** — Director, Diversity, ACE, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

**Nickie Miles-Wildin** — Theatre and Radio Director, Artistic Associate ISPA Manchester Organising Committee, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

### FACTORY INTERNATIONAL

18.30 – 20.30

Lord Mayor's Welcome Reception

### HOME

20.30 – LATE

Cocktail Klatch : Sponsored by

The Edinburgh Festival  
**fringe**



## SCHEDULE

### THE BRIDGEWATER HALL

09.00 – 15.00

Registration

10.00 – 11.00

Session 2: Co-creating the future: Art and Next Generations

Moderator **Tarek Iskander** — Artistic Director & CEO, Battersea Arts Centre, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

**Lilli Geissendorfer** — Director, Jerwood Arts, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

**Keisha Thompson** — Artistic Director/CEO Contact, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

**Maria Hansen** — Executive Director, ELIA, Netherlands. [View Bio.](#)

**Jodi-Alissa Bickerton** — Creative Learning Director, Graeae, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

11.00 – 11.30

Regional Initiative — Charcoalblue

11.30 – 12.00

Refreshment Break

12.00 – 13.00

Session 3: Co-creating the future: How do we co-create with equity?

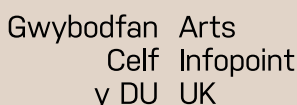
Moderator **Kully Thiarai** — Creative Director and CEO, LEEDS 2023, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

**Jo Verrent** — Director, Unlimited, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

**Erica Whyman** — Artistic Director, RSC, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

**Maria Aberg** — Artistic Director, Projekt Europa, Sweden. [View Bio.](#)

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch Break: Sponsored by 

14.00 – 14.30

Performance — **Mother Sugar**. [View Bio.](#)

14.30 – 15.30

Session 4: Co-creating the future: The Role of the State in the Arts Sector

Moderator **Katherine Connor** — Executive Director, PAC Australia, Australia. [View Bio.](#)

**Lizzie Crump** — UK Strategic Lead, What Next?, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

**Butshilo Nleya** — Playwright and Artistic Director, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

**Javaad Alipoor** — Artistic Director, The Javaad Alipoor Company, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

15.30 – 17.00

Brewing Ideas — Session 1

## VARIOUS

16.30 – 18.30

Venue Tours. [Sign up here:](#) [MCR23ISPA Venue tours.](#)

## HOME

20.30 – LATE

Cocktail Klatch

## SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY 29 JUNE

### THE BRIDGEWATER HALL

09.00 – 15.00	Registration
10.00 – 12.00	Pitch New Works — <a href="#">View Handout.</a> Host <b>Low Kee Hong</b> — Creative Director, Factory International, United Kingdom. <a href="#">View Bio.</a>
10.00 – 14.00	ProEx / Lunch
14.15 – 14.30	Performance — Malika Booker
14.30 – 15.30	<b>Session 5: Co-creating the future: Sustainable Practice on the Road</b> Moderator <b>Feimatta Conteh</b> — Environmental Sustainability Manager, Factory International, United Kingdom. <a href="#">View Bio.</a> <b>Simon Curtis</b> — Convenor, GMAST, United Kingdom. <a href="#">View Bio.</a> <b>Nuka Alice</b> — Artist, ArcticSonic, Greenland. <a href="#">View Bio.</a> <b>Joyce Lee</b> — Artistic Director, Mind the Gap, United Kingdom. <a href="#">View Bio.</a> <b>Alison Colborne</b> — Artist, Mind the Gap, United Kingdom. <a href="#">View Bio.</a> <b>Abdul Shayek</b> — Artistic Director and Joint CEO, Tara Theatre, United Kingdom. <a href="#">View Bio.</a> <b>Monon Muntaka</b> — Artist, Bangladesh. <a href="#">View Bio.</a>
15.30 – 16.00	Refreshment Break
16.00 – 16.30	Regional Initiative – Leeds 2023, Birmingham Festival 2023 and Bradford 2025
16.30 – 17.30	ISPA Awards Presentation

## VARIOUS

18.00 – LATE	Optional entertainment — <a href="#">View MIF schedule.</a>
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## HOME

20.30 – LATE	Cocktail Klatch
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## SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 30 JUNE

### THE BRIDGEWATER HALL

09.00 – 13.00

Registration

10.00 – 10.30

Performance — Ladies of Midnight Blue

10.30 – 11.30

Session 6: Co-creating the future: Art and Conflict

Moderator **Ruth Daniel** — CEO and Artistic Director, In place of War, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

**Juan Chao** — DJ/Producer Director Archivo de Música Original, Uruguay. [View Bio.](#)

**Tongai Makawa** — Co-Founder & Operations Director, Magamba Network, Zimbabwe. [View Bio.](#)

**Farah Wardani** — Executive Director of Laban, Laban Theatre, Lebanon. [View Bio.](#)

**Ahmad Sarmast** — Founder and Director, Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM), Australia. [View Bio.](#)

Brewing Ideas — Session 2

11.30 – 12.50

Closing Keynote

13.00 – 14.00

**Rob Hopkins** — Author, Activist and Writer, United Kingdom. [View Bio.](#)

Co-created Co-reportage Co-presentation — James Varney and Clodagh Chapman

## SOCIETY

14.00 – 16.00

Closing Reception





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## AWARDS

### GREEN CHAMPION AWARD

A new award created by the Manchester ISPA team presented for achievement around sustainability in the industry.

Alison Tickell

2023 Green Champion Award Recipient



Alison Tickell established Julie's Bicycle in 2007 as a non-profit dedicated to mobilising action on the climate crisis, initially in the music industry and now across arts and culture internationally.

Originally trained as a cellist, Alison's approach is rooted in her work with jazz improviser and teacher John Stevens, whose understanding of music and community activism created the foundational values that inspired Julie's Bicycle. Alison worked with Community Music (now CM Sounds) for many years and has been an advisor and contributor to publications and advocates for the environment including Observer Ethical Awards, European Creative Business Network, RCA Sustainable Design Awards, Sound Connections, Creative Europe, Energy Revolution.

She is currently on the Steering Group of the Climate Heritage Network and the UK Creative Industries Council championing climate action and is a BMW Responsible Leader. Alison is an Ashoka Fellow.

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### ANGEL AWARD

Presented to an individual or organization which has demonstrated a significant and lasting contribution to the support of the performing arts which transcends the boundaries of one country or institution, and merits international recognition.

Touretteshero

2023 Angel Award Recipient



Founded in 2010, Touretteshero is a neurodiverse, disabled-led, multi-disciplinary arts organisation, working nationally and internationally. Our mission is to create a more inclusive and socially just society for disabled and non-disabled people through our cultural practice.

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## AWARDS

### INTERNATIONAL CITATION OF MERIT

Presented for unique lifetime achievement which has enriched the international performing arts. This Award is not for performance but rather for distinguished service working within the profession.

#### Ellen Van Loon 2023 International Citation of Merit Recipient



OMA / FRANS STROUS

Ellen van Loon joined OMA in 1998 and became Partner in 2002. She has led award-winning building projects that combine sophisticated design with precise execution.

Recently completed projects led by Ellen include the exhibitions *Beyond the Surface* – winner of the Fuorisalone Award 2023 – and *Monumental Wonders for Solid Nature* in Milan (2022-23); projects for Tiffany & Co. such as the temporary store on Avenue Montaigne in Paris and showroom in Doha (2022-23); shop-in shops for Jacquemus at Selfridges, Harvey Nichols and Galeries Lafayette in London and Paris (2022); the Bvlgari Fine Jewelry Show (2021); Brighton College (2020); BLOX / DAC in Copenhagen (2018); Rijnstraat 8 in The Hague (2017) and Lab City Centrale Supélec (2017).

Other projects in Ellen's portfolio include Fondation Galeries Lafayette (2018) in Paris; Qatar National Library (2017); Amsterdam's G-Star Raw Headquarters (2014); De Rotterdam, the largest building in the Netherlands (2013); CCTV Headquarters in Beijing (2012); New Court Rothschild Bank in London (2011); Maggie's Centre in Glasgow (2011); Casa da Musica in Porto (2005) – winner of the 2007 RIBA Award; and the Dutch Embassy in Berlin (2003) – winner of the European Union Mies van der Rohe Award in 2005.

Ellen is currently working on Factory International – a large performing arts venue for Manchester; Kaufhaus des Westens (KaDeWe) Berlin – Europe's biggest department store; Lamarr, a new department store in Vienna; the Palais de Justice de Lille; and Les Galets, a new development in Montpellier.





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## AWARDS

### DISTINGUISHED ARTIST AWARD

Presented to artists who have made an outstanding contribution of talent, artistry, dedication, and service to the world of the performing arts.

**Phelim McDermott**

**2023 Distinguished Artist Award Recipient**



Phelim McDermott is a performer/director and has been making theatre professionally since 1985. He is a founder member of Improbable and the company's co-artistic director. Phelim trained with Keith Johnstone in the 80's and Improvisation is the core practice of all his work. This ranges from fully improvised shows, devising and directing plays and operas to facilitating authentic conversation for social change. Improbable's "Devoted and Disgruntled" Open Space Technology event is Improbable's annual groundbreaking conference for the arts sector.

Recent productions include: the award-winning *My Neighbour Totoro* (RSC & Joe Hisaishi with Improbable and Nippon TV) for which he won Best Director at the Olivier Awards 2023 and *Whats On Stage Awards*; *Tao Of Glass*, a collaboration with Philip Glass (commissioned by Manchester International Festival, Improbable, Perth Festival, Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen, Hong Kong New Vision Arts Festival and Carolina Performing Arts – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in association with Naomi Milgrom AO); *The Hours* (Metropolitan Opera, NY in collaboration with Improbable); and with ENO and Improbable, *Glass' Satyagraha* (co-production with Metropolitan Opera, NY) and *Oliver*-award winning *Akhnaton* (co-production with LA Opera).

In 2003 Phelim was awarded a NESTA fellowship to research new ways of using improvisation and process-oriented conflict facilitation techniques. As part of this work, he has facilitated over 100 Open Space Technology events. He was made an Honorary Doctor of Middlesex University in 2007 and is a recent graduate of Seth Godin's altMBA programme. With Improbable he is currently helping establish a new International Creation Centre for Improvisation in Kent under the banner of The Gathering.

**Selina Thompson**

**2023 Distinguished Artist Award Recipient**



Selina Thompson is an artist and writer whose practice is intimate, political and participatory with a strong emphasis on public engagement, which leads to provocative and highly visual work that seeks to connect with those historically excluded by the arts.

Selina's work has been shown and praised internationally. Credits include BBC4, BBC Radio 4, as well as theatres across the UK, Europe, South America, North America and Australia.

Selina has been described as 'a force of nature' (The Stage) and 'an inspiration' (The Independent). She believes in the power of art, and she is trying to build a life that feels like it embodies the changes she wants to make.

# MANCHESTER



## MANCHESTER MAP

### CONGRESS VENUES

- 1 New Century Hall
- 2 Factory International
- 3 Society
- 4 The Bridgewater Hall
- 5 HOME

### PLACES OF INTEREST

- 6 Stoller Hall
- 7 National Football Museum
- 8 Manchester Cathedral
- 9 Band on the Wall
- 10 Hallé St Peters
- 11 Hope Mill
- 12 Royal Exchange Theatre
- 13 People's History Museum
- 14 Palace Theatre
- 15 Manchester Town Hall
- 16 Manchester Art Gallery
- 17 Central Library
- 18 Science & Industry Museum
- 19 53two
- 20 Opera House
- 21 O2 Ritz
- 22 Z—arts





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## OUR VENUES

### TRAVEL INFORMATION

#### New Century Hall

[newcenturymcr.com](http://newcenturymcr.com)

34 Hanover Street, Manchester. M4 4AH

[Google Maps.](#)

#### Factory International

[factoryinternational.org](http://factoryinternational.org)

Water Street, Manchester. M3 4JQ

[Google Maps.](#)

#### Society

[societymanchester.com](http://societymanchester.com)

Basement, 100 Barbirolli Square,  
Manchester, M2 3BD

[Google Maps.](#)

#### The Bridgewater Hall

[bridgewater-hall.co.uk](http://bridgewater-hall.co.uk)

Lower Mosley Street, Manchester. M2 3WS

[Google Maps.](#)

#### HOME

[homemcr.org](http://homemcr.org)

2 Tony Wilson Place, Manchester. M15 4FN

[Google Maps.](#)



NEW CENTURY HALL



OMA / FACTORY INTERNATIONAL



SOCIETY



THE BRIDGEWATER HALL



HOME

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Your donation will directly support ISPA's many programs including the Fellow Program, Pitch New Works, Regional Initiatives, and Member Programs. Thanks to our donors!

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Kally Zhao



The background of the entire poster is a dynamic, swirling pattern of thin, concentric red lines that create a sense of movement and depth. In the top left corner, the ISPA logo is displayed, consisting of a solid red rectangle followed by the letters 'ISPA' in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**ISPA**

International  
Society for the  
Performing Arts

**75 ISPA  
TH  
ANNIVERSARY**

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