Manchester 2023
ISPA Congress

Co—creating the future

June 27–30 2023
ispa.org  #ISPA23MCR
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.
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

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
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
Huge thanks to our supporters.
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

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
## TUESDAY 27 JUNE

### 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 [fringe](#)
## SCHEDULE

### WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE

### THE BRIDGEWATER HALL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Moderator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09.00 — 15.00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00 — 11.00</td>
<td><strong>Session 2: Co-creating the future: Art and Next Generations</strong></td>
<td>Tarek Iskander — Artistic Director &amp; CEO, Battersea Arts Centre, UK. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<td>Lilli Geissendorfer — Director, Jerwood Arts, UK. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<td>Keisha Thompson — Artistic Director/CEO Contact, UK. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<td>Maria Hansen — Executive Director, ELIA, Netherlands. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<td>Jodi-Alissa Bickerton — Creative Learning Director, Graeae, UK. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<td>11.00 — 11.30</td>
<td>Regional Initiative — Charcoalblue</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30 — 12.00</td>
<td>Refreshment Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00 — 13.00</td>
<td><strong>Session 3: Co-creating the future: How do we co-create with equity?</strong></td>
<td>Kully Thiarai — Creative Director and CEO, LEEDS 2023, UK. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<td>Jo Verrent — Director, Unlimited, UK. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<td>Erica Whyman — Artistic Director, RSC, UK. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<td>Maria Aberg — Artistic Director, Projekt Europa, Sweden. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<td>13.00 — 14.00</td>
<td>Lunch Break: Sponsored by Gwybodfan Arts Celf Infopoint y DU UK</td>
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<td>14.00 — 14.30</td>
<td>Performance — Mother Sugar. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>14.30 — 15.30</td>
<td><strong>Session 4: Co-creating the future: The Role of the State in the Arts Sector</strong></td>
<td>Katherine Connor — Executive Director, PAC Australia, Australia. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<td>Lizzie Crump — UK Strategic Lead, What Next?, UK. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<td>Butshilo Nleya — Playwright and Artistic Director, UK. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<td>Javaad Alipoor — Artistic Director, The Javaad Alipoor Company, UK. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>15.30 — 17.00</td>
<td>Brewing Ideas — Session 1</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### VARIOUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Sign up here: MCR23ISPA Venue tours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16.30 — 18.30</td>
<td>Venue Tours.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20.30 — LATE</td>
<td>Cocktail Klatch</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#ISPA23MCR
THURSDAY 29 JUNE

SCHEDULE

THE BRIDGEWATER HALL

09.00 — 15.00  Registration

10.00 — 12.00  Pitch New Works — View Handout.

Host Low Kee Hong — Creative Director, Factory International, United Kingdom. View Bio.

10.00 — 14.00  ProEx / Lunch

14.15 — 14.30  Performance — Malika Booker

14.30 — 15.30  Session 5: Co-creating the future: Sustainable Practice on the Road

Moderator Feimatta Conteh — Environmental Sustainability Manager, Factory International, United Kingdom. View Bio.

Simon Curtis — Convenor, GMAST, United Kingdom. View Bio.

Nuka Alice — Artist, ArcticSonic, Greenland. View Bio.

Joyce Lee — Artistic Director, Mind the Gap, United Kingdom. View Bio.

Alison Colborne — Artist, Mind the Gap, United Kingdom. View Bio.

Abdul Shayek — Artistic Director and Joint CEO, Tara Theatre, United Kingdom. View Bio.

Monon Muntaka — Artist, Bangladesh. View Bio.

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 — View MIF schedule.

HOME

20.30 — LATE  Cocktail Klatch
### FRIDAY 30 JUNE

#### THE BRIDGEWATER HALL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09.00 — 13.00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00 — 10.30</td>
<td>Performance — Ladies of Midnight Blue</td>
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<td>10.30 — 11.30</td>
<td><strong>Session 6: Co-creating the future: Art and Conflict</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Moderator Ruth Daniel</strong> — CEO and Artistic Director, In place of War, United Kingdom. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<td><strong>Juan Chao</strong> — DJ/Producer Director Archivo de Música Original, Uruguay. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<td><strong>Tongai Makawa</strong> — Co-Founder &amp; Operations Director, Magamba Network, Zimbabwe. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<td><strong>Farah Wardani</strong> — Executive Director of Laban, Laban Theatre, Lebanon. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<td><strong>Ahmad Sarmast</strong> — Founder and Director, Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM), Australia. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30 — 12.50</td>
<td>Closing Keynote</td>
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<td>13.00 — 14.00</td>
<td><strong>Brewing Ideas — Session 2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Rob Hopkins</strong> — Author, Activist and Writer, United Kingdom. <a href="#">View Bio</a></td>
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<td>Co-created Co-reportage Co-presentation — James Varney and Clodagh Chapman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SOCIETY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.00 — 16.00</td>
<td>Closing Reception</td>
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Arup is proud to be a long time supporter of ISPA.

We help our clients conceive, design, and build spaces for performance that inspire creativity and ignite the imagination.

Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts
Greensboro, North Carolina, USA

www.arup.com
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

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.

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

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.

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.
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

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).


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.
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

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.

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 Akhnaten (co-production with LA Opera).
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
OUR VENUES

TRAVEL INFORMATION

New Century Hall
newcenturymcr.com
34 Hanover Street, Manchester. M4 4AH
Google Maps.

Factory International
factoryinternational.org
Water Street, Manchester. M3 4JQ
Google Maps.

Society
societymanchester.com
Basement, 100 Barbirolli Square, Manchester, M2 3BD
Google Maps.

The Bridgewater Hall
bridgewater-hall.co.uk
Lower Mosley Street, Manchester. M2 3WS
Google Maps.

HOME
homemcr.org
2 Tony Wilson Place, Manchester. M15 4FN
Google Maps.

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Donate to the challenge campaign

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!

Click here to make a donation.

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