

For Immediate Release

Media Contact
Minji Kim
mkim@ispa.org
1 212 206 8490 x205

ISPA Series at the Fringe

Three public events exploring international collaboration

Friday, June 2, 2017 - The International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) in partnership with the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society are delighted to announce their new joint-program *ISPA Series at the Fringe*. Over the course of the 2017 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the partnership will host three professional development events for festival attendees (August 9, 16, and 22). ISPA and the Fringe share values of access, equity, and professional development. The collaboration will bring together emerging and established arts leaders in a dialogue about shared issues in our global community.

David Baile, Chief Executive Officer, International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA), said:

“We are delighted to be working with the Fringe Society to deliver a series of events that explore the fantastic international networking opportunities that platforms like the Fringe and ISPA provide. These discussions, conducted by some of the leading figures from the international arts community, will consider how the arts are responding to changes within the cultural landscape and the opportunities and challenges presented. I look forward to seeing these discussions unfold and hope they inspire further conversations and collaborations between the artists and producers that take part.”

Shona McCarthy, Chief Executive of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society, said:

“The Fringe Society is delighted to be working in partnership with ISPA on the *ISPA Series at the Fringe* at Fringe Central this year. The Fringe offers an excellent forum to discuss shifts taking place within the international cultural landscape and the opportunities and challenges that these present for artists and festivals. ISPA’s position as one of the leading global networks for performing arts leaders make them the perfect partner for these discussions. We are working together to bring some of the leading figures in the international arts community together for this series and I am really looking forward to watching the discussions unfold. ISPA is one of 55 fantastic organisations that we are working with to deliver this year’s Fringe Central Event’s Programme, featuring 119 professional development events that are free for Fringe participants to attend.”

ISPA Series at the Fringe | 11:00– 12:30 | Informatics Forum, 10 Crichton St, Edinburgh EH8 9AB

Wednesday, August 9: *Festivals: Creating Opportunities*

Some festivals develop organically while others are created for a very specific reason or purpose. This highly interactive session explores the unique dynamics at play in developing international festivals, and the unique opportunities they provide to audiences, artists and presenters. Join this discussion which delves into festival strategy, planning and execution, within the unique cultural landscape that is the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Wednesday, August 16: *Art and Power: Creating New Models*

Today artists have more control over how they create and distribute their work, audiences drive when and how they participate, and curators are less hierarchical in their approaches to programming. This long table discussion will identify new ways that presenters, audiences and artists are engaging with each other to shift power structures, to ensure access and relevance amidst the myriad cultures and art forms integral to contemporary society. Facilitated by Michelle Witt, Executive and Artistic Director of Meany Center for the Performing Arts.

Tuesday, August 22: *Beyond the Transaction: Creating Internationalism*

In a world of increasing cultural conflict, how are artist-led organisations developing new models that support enduring

international connections, understanding, and great art? Vanishing Point's Matt Lenton and Severine Wyper, and Ahmed El Attar of Downtown Contemporary Art Festival Cairo, Studio Emad Eddin and Summerhall Middle East Season, kick off this session exploring approaches to international creative partnerships, networks, residencies, co-production, and audience development. Facilitated by Faith Liddell.

All events are **Free Ticketed**. Free tickets are available in person at the Fringe Central reception before the event or at the door.

###

About ISPA: The International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) is a global association of more than 500 arts management leaders from 56 regions, who come together with the shared goal of strengthening and developing the arts internationally. We achieve this by building leadership ability, by recognizing and discussing field-wide trends and new developments, and by deepening global exchange through the arts. ISPA members include presenters, performing arts organizations, artist managers, competitions, funders, consultants and other professionals working in the performing arts. Founded in 1948 by Patrick Hayes, 2017 marked ISPA's 69th Anniversary.