



FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE

Announcing the New York 2023 ISPA Awards Recipients

Maria Claudia Parias Durán, Lara Foot, Hideki Noda, Douglas H. Wheeler

*Award Presentation to be held during the
New York 2023 ISPA Congress, **Urgency of Now**
on Thursday, January 12, 2023*

New York, NY, USA (December 20, 2022)– On behalf of the Board of Directors, the International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) announces the recipients of the New York 2023 ISPA Awards. The first ISPA Award was presented in 1975 to Beverly Sills. Since then, ISPA has continued to recognize outstanding individuals for their contribution to the arts and their communities. The 2023 award recipients are as follows (biographies attached):

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.

Hideki Noda

- Artistic Director, Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre

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

Lara Foot

- CEO and Artistic Director, Baxter Theatre Centre

Patrick Hayes Award

Inspired by the legacy of Patrick Hayes, the founding President of the International Society of the Performing Arts Foundation, this Award recognizes an ISPA member in any stage of their career who has demonstrated transformative leadership in the performing arts.

Maria Claudia Parias Durán

- Executive President, Batuta Foundation



Angel Award Recipient

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.

Douglas H. Wheeler

- President Emeritus, Washington Performing Arts

“While we received many worthy nominations, the Board was unanimous in their endorsement on the 2023 awardees. The recipients reflect the richness of diversity that the ISPA membership represents” said ISPA Chief Executive Officer David Baile.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony to be held during [New York 2023 ISPA Congress, Urgency of Now](#), on Thursday, January 12, 2023. The ceremony will be hosted by Paul Tam, Executive Director, Performing Arts, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (Hong Kong, China).

#

[BIOGRAPHY OF THE AWARD RECIPIENTS]

Hideki Noda

2023 Distinguished Artist Award Recipient

Hideki Noda is a playwright, director, actor, and the artistic director of Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre. While at the University of Tokyo, he formed his first theatre company, Yume no Yuminsha (Dreaming Bohemian). After disbanding the company in 1992, he went to study in London. Upon his return in 1993, he established a theatre production company, NODA·MAP. Since then, he has presented numerous acclaimed plays, including “Kill”, “Red Demon”, “Pandora’s Bell”, “Egg”, “Q: A Night At The Kabuki”, and “Fakespeare”. He also directs Kabuki and opera. As a standard-bearer of performing arts, he continues working vigorously both inside and outside Japan energetically beyond genres and borders. He was made an Honorary Officer of the British Empire (OBE) in 2009. Other accolades include the Asahi Prize and the Medal with Purple Ribbon.

Lara Foot

2023 International Citation of Merit Recipient

Lara Foot is a multi-award-winning playwright, director and producer. She is the CEO and artistic director of the Baxter Theatre Centre; a former Rolex protégé to Sir Peter Hall in the prestigious Rolex Mentor and Protégé programme, as well as a Sundance Fellow. She is also executive producer of, amongst others, the international hit productions *Mies Julie* and *The Fall*. In 2016 she was the Featured Artist at the 43rd National Arts Festival.



Lara has directed over 70 professional productions, most of which have been new South African plays. With a host of South African theatre accolades to her name, her own hard-hitting plays tackle social issues in South Africa and these have earned her great respect and recognition locally and internationally. *Tshepang*, *Hear And Now*, *Reach*, *Karoo Moose*, *Solomon and Marion*, *Fishers of Hope* and *The Inconvenience of Wings* are just a few of her plays which have won multiple awards, have toured internationally with great success and which have been published.

She has transformed The Baxter's development programme, the Zabalaza Theatre Festival, to become recognised and respected as one of the most vital and important platforms of its kind in South Africa.

In 2021 Lara adapted and directed the stage production of *Life and Times of Michael K* for the opening of the Teater der Welt Festival at the Düsseldorf Schauspielhaus and at The Baxter, which huge success. The production returned to Germany for four more seasons in early 2022 and will transfer to the Galway Festival, Ireland, in July 2023. In 2022 she received great praise for her adaptation and direction of *Othello*, for the Düsseldorf Schauspielhaus.

Maria Claudia Parias Durán

2023 Patrick Hayes Award Recipient

Maria Claudia Parias Durán holds degrees as a Social Communicator and Journalist (La Sabana University - Colombia), Specialist in Cultural Management (Rosario University - Colombia), and MA in Cultural Management (University of Barcelona, Spain). Former National Arts Strategies Chief Executive Program Fellow, and member of the 2021-2022 cohort of the Global Leaders Program. She has served as Director of Regional Promotion of the Ministry of Culture, General Director of the Bogotá Philharmonic Orchestra, Director of Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Technical Assistant of the Culture Area of the Andrés Bello Agreement, Director of the International Art Magazine (Museum of Modern Art of Bogota), university professor, communications advisor to the Directorate of Arts of the Ministry of Culture, and advisor to cultural projects in Colombia and Latin America. She is member of the Board of Advisors of the International Music Council (IMC), and belongs to the International Society for the Performing Arts in New York.

Douglas H. Wheeler

2023 Angel Award Recipient

Douglas Wheeler has worked in the field of arts administration since 1964 and was President of Washington Performing Arts Society (WPAS). He has taken a leading role in the founding of the Cultural Development Corporation for the District of Columbia, as well as developing collaborative approaches to improve arts education in the local public schools. Currently the Chairman of Friends of Music at the Supreme Court, he is past President of the International Society for the Performing Arts Foundation, has chaired panels at the National Endowment for the Arts, and is a former board member of the Cultural Alliance of Washington. He is a past President of the D.C. Chamber of Commerce and a past board member of Leadership Washington and the Federal City Council.



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, 2023 marks ISPA's 74th anniversary.

About ISPA Awards: As a leadership network, ISPA is committed to recognizing excellence in the performing arts globally. There is an annual call for award nominations. All nominations are reviewed by the Nominating Committee Members and then a slate of nominees is recommended to the Board of Directors for approval.

For more information on the ISPA Awards, visit www.ispa.org/page/awards_landing

Media Contact: Kally Zhao, Communication and Events Lead (kzhao@ispa.org)