

International Theatre Institute, Ghana Chapter: Event Report

July 2022 to April 2024

Introduction

The theatre scene in Ghana is vibrant, with numerous activities ranging from school productions, workshops, amateur projects, and various professional theatre programmes. The calendar has been packed with a range of events that showcase the best of Ghanaian and West African arts and culture. These events were designed to promote cultural exchange, collaboration, and development and were open to artists, practitioners, and enthusiasts from across the region.

1. World Theatre Day: March 27, 2023

The National Theatre of Ghana, in partnership with the KGL Foundation, celebrated World Theatre Day with a stage performance of "The Dilemma of a Ghost" by Ama Ata Aidoo. This was followed by a series of workshops in selected secondary schools in the Eastern Region of Ghana.

2. Sokan Theatre Workshop/Les Arts-Liances Performance West African sub-regional tour.

This regional workshop brought together cultural dance groups from West African countries, including Ghana, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire, for two months of touring, collaboration, and cultural exchange. The workshop, held in Ghana, featured sessions on traditional and contemporary dance techniques, as well as workshops on costume design, stage management, and marketing.



(Image Source: Antonio Martey, Les-Arts Liances, October 2023)

3. Mansa Musa Caravan tour after a successful launch on AU day, was performed in Ghana, France, and other countries.



(Image source: <https://www.myjoyonline.com/the-mansa-world-chief-moomens-play-to-launch-at-unesco-headquarters-in-paris/>)



4. Addiction by Vivie's Dance Factory
5. A Detective Calls, an adaptation of J.B. Priestly The Inspector Calls produced by April Productions & Image Bureau
6. Prince of Egypt performed by Tema International School.

2024 Theatrical Events

1. World Theatre Day: March 27, 2024

Hosted at the School of Performing Arts, University of Ghana, Legon, this event continued the theme of "Theatre and Cultural Diversity," focusing on the role of theatre in promoting social change and community development.

2. World Dance Day: April 29, 2024

Celebrated at the Centre for National Culture, Accra, this event featured a dance performance by the Blema Tesaa Theatre Company, showcasing the traditional Adowa dance as well as contemporary fusion dance styles.

3. Ebo Whyte Student Drama Competition Workshop

Currently ongoing, this workshop is preparing high school students from across Ghana for the upcoming Ebo Whyte Student Drama Competition, organized by the Centre for National Culture (CNC). The workshop includes sessions on playwriting, directing, acting, and stage management, designed to develop the skills and creativity of young Ghanaian artists.

The 2024 artistic year also featured the honouring of Professor Martin Owusu by showcasing his masterpiece, "The Legend of Aku Sika," which touched on the theme of shunning the physically disabled or challenged.

The Ghana Theatre Festival, a year-long celebration, took centre stage from January 2023 to December 2024, culminating in "December in Ghana," which hosted guests from the diaspora and beyond.

BRIDE OF THE GODS
 by National Drama Company of Ghana
 18th November 2023 - 7:25pm
 Amphitheatre


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The objectives of the festival were to:

- Provide a platform for Ghanaian theatre practitioners to showcase their work.
- Promote Ghanaian culture and heritage.
- Encourage collaboration and exchange between theatre practitioners.
- Develop the skills of practitioners and celebrate the diversity and creativity of Ghanaian theatre.

Overall, the ITI Ghana Chapter's events in mid-2022, 2023, and 2024 have demonstrated a commitment to promoting the arts and culture in Ghana and West Africa. They have provided a platform for artists, practitioners, and enthusiasts to come together, share ideas, and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the region.