

Activity Report

Ivorian Center of the International Theatre Institute

The Ivorian Center of the ITI, after having undertaken a number of actions that have significantly contributed to the dynamism and organization of the artistic and cultural landscape in Côte d'Ivoire, presents here a brief report on the centre's activities for the period 2022-2024. This report focuses primarily on the celebrations of World Days and related activities.

Activity

Celebration of World Theatre Day

1. 61st Edition of World Theatre Day (March 27, 2023)

➤ **The Ivorian Center of the International Theatre Institute**

Every year since 1962, March 27 has been dedicated to celebrating World Theatre Day.



For the 2023 edition, the Ivorian Center, in collaboration with the Regional Council of the International Theatre Institute, celebrated World Theatre Day on Monday, March 27, at the National Center for Arts and Culture in Abidjan. The celebration included a panel discussion on the theme: "*Performing Arts: What Challenges in a Developing Country? The Case of Côte d'Ivoire.*" This central theme was divided into three sub-themes, involving academics and professionals from the arts.

Dr. SOUPE LOU Touboué Jacqueline, Professor and Researcher in the Department of Literature at Félix Houphouët-Boigny University, Abidjan: "*What Challenges for Theatre and Related Forms (Storytelling, Humor, and Slam).*"

Francisco D'ALMEIDA, Co-Director of the NGO Culture and Development based in Grenoble: "*What Challenges Do Performing Arts Face in the Era of ICT?*"

Dr. Zié COULIBALY, Researcher and Lecturer at INSAAC

President of the Ivorian Center of the International Theatre Institute:

What are the challenges for the professionalization of the performing arts ?

Pr. KAMATÉ Banhouman, Dean of the Faculty of Information, Communication, and Arts at Félix Houphouët-Boigny University, delivered the *inaugural conference*.

Adama DAHICO, renowned Ivorian comedian, writer, and humorist, read the message for the 61st edition, written by Egyptian actress Samiha AYOUB.

The session began with an online address by M. TOBIAS Biancone, Director General of the International Theatre Institute.

The ceremony was notably attended by several prominent figures in the theatre community in Côte d'Ivoire, including Dr. BANA Jeanne, BOMOU Mamadou, Amélie WABEHI, Loua DIOMANDÉ, OUATTARA Aboubacar Klotamna, and many other national celebrities from the performing arts world.

- **The National Superior Institute of Arts and Cultural Action**

On Thursday, March 23, 2023, the INSAAC, through the School of Theatre, Cinema, and Audiovisual (ESTCA), celebrated World Theatre Day. On this occasion, a heartfelt tribute was paid to the actor GRAHOUAN GUEDEBA Martin. This legend, guest of the event "MEETING WITH THE LEGENDS OF THE THEATRE," shared his passion for theatre with young actors eager to draw from his rich experience.

- **The School of Artistic Education**

Honored women in theatre, including actress Mai la Bombe and Zebato Patricia, the first female lighting and stage manager.

- **The Cultural Action Center of Abobo** highlighted the contributions of the pioneers of Ivorian theatre.

- **The National Theatre Federation** aligned this day with the first edition of National Theatre Week, which took place mainly in two inland cities (Bouaké and Adzopé) and, of course, in Abidjan.

1. 62st Edition of World Theatre Day (March 27, 2024)

World Theatre Day 2024, as in previous years, was first celebrated by several organizations, each with an exciting program.

- **Celebration by the Ivorian Center**

In collaboration with the African Regional Council, the Ivorian Center of the International Theatre Institute celebrated World Theatre Day with a series of events held at the Bureau des Arts et Communication.

- Presentation of the Bureau des Arts et Communication, which hosted the official World Theatre Day celebration.

- Address by the President of the Ivorian Center of the International Theatre Institute.

- Address by the President of the African Regional Council.

- Reading of the official message for the 61st World Theatre Day.

- Screening of videos showcasing the activities of the Ivorian Center.

- The event brought together numerous professionals from the arts and performing arts sector, including leaders from theatre federations, puppetry, and street arts.



Celebration by the School of Theatre, Cinema, and Audiovisual Arts

The School of Theatre, Cinema, and Audiovisual Arts took the opportunity to organize a mini theatre festival over three consecutive days, featuring a diverse program.



1. **Celebration by the National Theatre Federation**

The National Theatre Federation, chose to celebrate World Theatre Day with a formal ceremony that brought together, in addition to the member theatre companies, a significant number of theatre professionals from Côte d'Ivoire. The theme adopted for this year was 'Tribute to the Pioneers' of theatre. The ceremony began with the reading of the official World Theatre Day message, proposed this year by Norwegian playwright Jon Fosse. The text was read by Dr. Zié Coulibaly, President of the Ivorian Centre of the International Theatre Institute. The Federation then proceeded to present the Koffi Gadeau Award, created to honor the veteran figures of theatre in Côte d'Ivoire.