



Swedish Centre  
of International  
Theatre Institute

## Report from Swedish ITI for the 37th ITI World Congress 2024

### Office Bearers:

Ulricha Johnson (CEO, Managing Director), Johanna Byström (Project Manager), Sandra Karlung (Operations Coordinator and Head of Member Service), Inger Einheri (Producer Swedstage, Performing Arts Biennale), Valdemar Sefflin (Accounting), Angelica Adolfsson (Accounting)

### Board:

Chairman Stefan Hansen (CEO), Vice Chairman Pontus Plaenge (Director/Actor)

Board Members: Niklas Hjulström (Artistic Director Theatre), Daniela Kullman (Playwright), Isabel Cruz Liljegren (Playwright), Therese Hörnqvist (CEO, Director), Hellen Smitterberg (Artistic Director Circus), Isak Nordström (Actor), Jenny Månström (Managing Director Dance), Jan Bratt (Legal Expert Performing Arts), Theodor Ryan (Actor), Frida Röhl (Artistic Director Theatre), Josefín Rosales (Artistic Director Circus)

Tommy Nilsson (Auditor), Puma Lagos (Elected Official Auditor), Tomas Nodbrink (Elected Official Auditor)

Election Committee: Anna Carlson (Actress), Hanna Falk (Dance Producer), Maria Häggglund (CEO)

### About us:

Swedish ITI/Swedish Performing Arts Coalition (SPAC) is the country's largest member organization for the Swedish performing art sector and a national and international competence center to promote and develop professional performing arts domestically and abroad. Our funding comes from members fees, the Swedish Arts Council, Swedish Institute, Swedish Art Grants Committee and other collaborators. We are also members of ISPA, IETM and Europe on the Move.

By collaborations, sharing knowledge and exchanging ideas our aim is to deepen the understanding of the art form and shaping the possibilities of tomorrow, as well as finding new partnerships and international exchanges for our members and the entire sector. Our 201 members consist of large institutions, independent creators, artistic universities, the union, the employers, interest organizations, agents, alliances and critics. We house an education committee and a cultural politics committee. Together with our members we are a voice for artistic freedom and diversity of the arts and our mission is to safeguard the freedom of expression and to be a partner in the global dialogue of the arts.

Every year we host our annual General Assembly in the spring and a Council Meeting in the fall.

## **Activity Report 2022-2024 of ITI Sweden**

### **2022**

#### **The Swedish Performing Arts Biennale**

##### **7-12 June**

This year the Biennale took place in Västerås. We had 1000 visitors enjoying 14 selected Swedish performances and 1 US collaboration performance. We invited international guests from Ukraine, South Africa, Greece, Spain, Russia and USA. Some of the key topics in the 100 seminars were mental health, supporting refugee artists, defending artistic freedom and work collectively through the grief after what we lost in the pandemic.

#### **Take care**

With funding from the Swedish Arts Council to heal the sector and community after covid, we created the project Take Care, to share knowledge and experiences about selfcare, grief, self leadership, minority stress and NPF diagnosis among artists. An analyst performed 15 deep interviews with various people in the business, and held several lectures, both at the biennale but also at our council meeting. She will now go on to investigate how the acting students who are getting their exams next year are feeling and handling their thoughts and worries.

#### **Proud Performing Arts Festival Stockholm**

##### **1-5 August**

Our Proud Performing Arts Festival, which works to celebrate, promote and deepen performing arts with an LGBTQ+ perspective, took place in August during Stockholm Pride. We offered a program filled with theater, dance, musical, opera and workshops.

#### **Colleagues in Crisis**

Colleagues in Crisis platform is an initiative to inform about ongoing initiatives, contribute with our contacts and networks to the performing artists who are permanently or temporarily in the country, promote the exchange of experiences and disseminate newly translated contemporary drama from countries where democracy is under threat. With the platform, we want to sharpen our international outlook, with a particular focus on performing artists living under threat and oppression, in their own country as well as in exile.

## 2023

### **The Swedish Performing Arts Biennale**

#### **30 May-4 June**

2023 was a very special year for the Swedish Performing Arts Biennale as it marks the festival's 30th anniversary. It took place where it all started in 1993, the Royal Dramatic Theatre in Stockholm. Over 2000 visitors enjoyed the fourteen selected Swedish performances and the guest performance from Finland, as well as a rich program of seminars, lectures and workshops. A large number of international guests attended the festival and participated in the program. During the Biennale, the report "*Take care - a report on mental health and self-leadership in the performing arts*" created within the Take Care project was launched. The report was translated to English and distributed on our website.

### **Proud Performing Arts festival**

#### **1-4 August**

Twentyfive artists, performing on five stages around Stockholm, were presented during The Proud Performing Arts festival. We also had the great pleasure of welcoming The Lost Art of Dreaming by Sean Dorsey Dance, all the way from San Francisco.

### **Planning for a new network**

In September SPAC was invited to Belgrade by Heartefact to discuss the possibilities of creating a new European network for queer performing arts, together with Istrian National Theatre (Croatia), Nomantinel (Slovakia) and Wiener Wortstaetten (Austria). The main orientation of this network is to create meeting points, exchanges and residencies for queer performing arts and queer performers.

## 2024

### **Swedstage and Proud Performing Arts**

#### **26-30 August**

For the first time, Scensverige's export festival Swedstage and the queer festival Proud Performing Arts, together with the Stockholm Fringe Festival (STOFF) and the World Fringe Congress, are holding their events at the same time in Stockholm, in order to lift Swedish performing arts on the global cultural map with joint power.