

## ITI Center of the Republic of Congo

### Activity Report July 2022 - April 2024

#### September 2022 Activity

##### September 25 to 30, 2022: Emerging Scenes in Africa

We actively participated in the 2nd edition of Emerging Scenes in Africa, organized by the African Regional Council of ITI in Accra, Ghana.

#### 2023 Activity

##### February 20 to 25: Participation in the 36th ITI World Congress in Fujairah, UAE

Our Center was represented by its president, the poet, writer, playwright, and director Yvon Wilfride Lewa-Let Mandah. He presented the activity report of the Center for previous years and led a conference on the anthology of Congolese writers titled "From the Chaos of Coronavirus to the Emergence of a New World" during the *Speaker's Corner* segment. He also participated in all the activities scheduled at the Congress, which was held under the theme *Gathering for Performing Arts and Humanism* (see photo No. 1).

##### March 4: First Debriefing of the 36th ITI Congress Proceedings

This debriefing took place during a press conference in Pointe-Noire at the Cercle Africain Museum. Several artists attended, along with invited city officials and journalists who covered the event.

##### March 16: Second Debriefing of the 36th ITI Congress Proceedings

The second debriefing event was held in Brazzaville at the Cercle Culturel Sony Labou Tansi, with a gathering of artists and guests eager to learn more about the International Theatre Institute. Their curiosity was satisfied through a series of questions and answers.

##### March 27: Celebration of World Theatre Day

The celebration was combined with the opening of the 6th edition of the International Festival of Theatre and Other Performing Arts (FITAAS) at the Cercle Culturel Sony Labou Tansi in Brazzaville, under the theme: *Panorama of Congolese Theatre*. This theme also fueled discussions during a roundtable with speakers such as Pierre Ntsemou, Alphonse Mafoua, Harvey Massamba, and Fortuné Bateza, moderated by Yvon Wilfride Lewa-Let Mandah. In the artistic segment, the dance group Racine d'Afrique delivered a vibrant performance, and the CBE troupes from Makélékélé and Mfilou each presented a theatrical performance.

##### March 29 to April 1: Continuation of the 6th Edition of FITAAS in the City of Pointe-Noire

The event was hosted at the Obosso Arts and Yaro spaces. The Autopsie, Bivelas, and CBE of Loandjili companies competed on stage with high-quality performances. The actor and musician Mokondji captivated the audience during the evening shows. Two days were dedicated to a workshop on acting and playwriting, benefiting many emerging and talented artists.

##### April 22: Extraordinary General Assembly

Among the agenda items was the partial election for positions within our National Board. Accordingly, Délice Mankou, Blaise Managa, and Chérisse Kinga were elected as Secretary General, Treasurer General, and Deputy Treasurer, respectively (see photo No. 2).

##### November 18: Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of Congolese Literature

We organized this significant event at the Institut Français du Congo in Pointe-Noire, in partnership with the publishing house *Les Éditions +*. In tribute to the recently deceased Congolese novelist Henri Lopes, the Autopsie company performed an adaptation of his work. The Africa Graffitis company also staged a performance of Jean Malonga's play *L'Aigle et la Colombe*, honoring the pioneer of Congolese literature. Additionally, two conferences were held, featuring writers, poets, and playwrights from Pointe-Noire, Brazzaville, and the poet and publisher Maha Lee Cassy from Paris, France.

## December 15: First Phase of the Launch of the 7th Edition of FITAAS

This activity took place during an artistic evening at the Espace Culturel Yaro, featuring a performance by the Kadja Kossi Association from Chad and a presentation by the Autopsie company based on the novels of Henri Lopes.

### 2024 Activity

## January 13: Second Phase of the Launch of the 7th Edition of FITAAS

Held in Brazzaville, specifically at the Ateliers Sahn, this activity laid the groundwork for the festival. Harvey Massamba, actor and director of the Nsala company, performed a staged reading of a text by Criss Niangouna. The musical group from Ateliers Sahn captivated the audience with their performance. Actors Galilée and Schadrac kept the audience enthralled with their performances.

## March 27: Celebration of World Theatre Day and 7th Edition of FITAAS

The Cercle Africain Museum in Pointe-Noire hosted this vibrant and lively event. The opening featured two speeches: one by the FITAAS Director, Yvon Wilfride Lewa-Let Mandah, and another by Chardin Alphonse Nkala, Director General of Arts and Letters of the Republic of Congo. Gisèle Tchicaya and Brice Ebakata presented a story as a transition, followed by a conference on the theme: *Theatre for a More Equal World*. The play *Ebonga Ebongaté* was performed by the Autopsie company. This was followed by the presentation, sale, and signing of the book "Les Talents Enfouis" by Dr. Péres Malia. The event concluded with a celebratory reception for all attendees.

## March 28 to 31: Continuation of the Festival

The activities related to the 7th edition of the International Festival of Theatre and Other Performing Arts (FITAAS) continued over the following days at the École Elites de la Nation and Yaro, featuring a masterclass in dramaturgy led by Guy Bassinga, as well as performances in storytelling, dance, slam, and theatre. It is worth noting that the festival concluded on Sunday, March 31, with a sightseeing tour of the Maloango Museum, the Diosso Gorges, and the beach.

Matombi in the Kouilou Department (see photo No. 3).



Photo No. 1



Photo No. 2



Photo No. 3

### Report presented by:

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Note: The photos are the work of members of our Center, especially photographer and filmmaker Obadias Teddy SAMBA DADET.