



ISTA's Fest Track (CPD) programme - all you need to know...

What it is

Our Fest Track programme enables you to:

1. actively observe the ISTA festival pedagogy or TaPS experience from the perspective of an ISTA artist;
2. observe, reflect and learn from the process that an ensemble goes through from initial brainstorming through to final sharing/performance (festivals) or how the artists teach the IB curriculum;
3. understand the dynamic between student and artist;
4. use this experience -
 - a. to reflect on your own practice;
 - b. and to inspire, influence, inform and develop your own methodologies.

How it works

1. Select the festival or TaPS you would like to attend – this is usually determined by date and venue (it's important that you attend without students unless you have another chaperone attending with students).
2. Apply using our online registration form: www.ista.co.uk/our-forms.
3. We will ask you to give us some information about your own individual goals.
4. We will then match you with an ISTA artist.
5. You will travel to the festival or TaPS and shadow the artist for the duration of the event.
6. There will be opportunities to talk to the artists, the Rep and the AD (at festivals) throughout the event*.

The nitty gritty

1. Registration fees for the current year are posted on the ISTA website > Our fees.
2. Having registered you will be entered into our admin area and considered a festival/TaPS participant in the role of Fest Track.
3. You will need to cover the costs of:
 - a. registration fees;
 - b. hotel (you will be booked into the same hotel as visiting teachers and ISTA artists at festivals and invoiced accordingly); unless you are attending a TaPS in which you must book your own accommodation;
 - c. travel to the host country/city; you will be collected from the airport/train station by the host school and taken to the hotel/venue (school etc.).

Why Fest Track is such great PD

"Being an ensemble leader is quite different from being a teacher. I felt I had

to leave quite a few of my 'teacher instincts' behind. As an artist you lead, guide and advise; it is a great skill to turn a blind eye when appropriate to allow the work to move on; students have the opportunity to explore a 'variety' of roles and are less inhibited. This idea is a valuable lesson for me as a teacher and was one of the benefits of participating."

Nikki Gifford, Tarsus American College, Turkey

"I would like to thank ISTA for this opportunity. I think that theatre teachers can benefit greatly from observing the 'ISTA process' and I appreciate this chance to have done just that. Thanks especially to the ISTA leadership team at the festival for their gracious acceptance of both me and this new concept."

Mike Ludwick, American International School of Guangzhou, China

"In previous professional development courses, I have approached drama companies and collaborated in the design of a week-long PD course that best meets my needs. Had I requested a tailor-made course on devising and curriculum development, I would have been hard pressed to find one that matched what the ISTA Fest Track and CPD offered. Having also done an ISTA Artists in Residence course with Mike Pasternak three summers ago, I can testify to the pertinence and immediate application any ISTA professional development course offers. With such a wealth of international drama, theatre, multimedia and performance practitioners and artists at their fingertips, they can hook you up with an unbelievable database of talent! And for a fraction of the cost of most PD courses. They are also 101% responsive to your needs – making sure they communicate promptly and effectively at all stages of the process so you feel like a well-cared for client whose every need is carefully attended to. The added advantage of the Fest Track is that you not only get to have a world class mentor 1:1 for three days but you are also continually connecting, re-connecting and networking with both international drama practitioners and ISTA facilitators – which is a vital part of any dynamic drama teacher or practitioner's programme and practice. As Padraig so eloquently put it in his thanks to all the ISTA participants: "This ISTA festival was the best way imaginable to support understanding of this complex work. ISTA fans the flames and is a lifeline for us on the ground and you remind us all as to why we are doing what we are doing."

Jo King, International Community School of Addis Ababa

**Please note that there is no connection between participation in Fest Track and ISTA's recruitment of practitioners for the artist pool.*