

Chiang Mai artist biographies

Artist biographies



Darren Scully – Artistic director (AD)

ISTA has been a big part of my life since the early 90s. I am proud to have been vice president of ISTA and a trustee. You may have seen me as AD, Rep or host of ISTA festivals both in Europe and Asia. I'm the artistic director at Western International School of Shanghai.

I've directed a lot of theatre, from classic musicals to edgy experimental work. More recently I have been working on re-interpreting classical texts through physical theatre approaches and devised work in immersive, site-specific venues. This year we launched an exciting initiative: the Performing Arts Academy, Shanghai with the school's ISTA artists.

I'm an experienced AD at over ten festivals and SEL leader at TaPS. I have also worked a lot with teachers as AiR and at festivals. I have hosted six festivals at MS, HS and TaPS levels. I have been a contributor to *Scene* and co-authored IB Theatre Arts training for teachers.



Kate Caster– Rep

I have been around the world, working as an international school drama teacher in the United States, England, Germany, Australia, Vietnam and now in Romania. The places I've seen, the people I've met along the way and the experiences I've had have all shaped me into the person I am.

I love working hard and playing hard which is why I love drama so much. Being part of an ensemble, learning, teaching, guiding and being guided are all the things I thrive on as a creator.

I've also had many leadership roles wearing the hats of teacher, mentor, director, theatre manager, tech supervisor and head of the Arts programme. Because of these varied experiences I feel well-equipped to handle any festival and the many details that go into making an ISTA festival a unique and fabulous experience for all.

Student ensemble leaders (SEL)



Bong Cabrera

I am an award-winning film and theatre actor from The Philippines. I was awarded the Asian Cultural Council Fellow in 2010 which allowed me to undertake further study in New York for Suzuki and Viewpoints, Meisner, Alexander and voice techniques, contact improv, rehearsal techniques and ensemble training.

My present work as a freelance actor and theater teacher enables me to collaborate with different types of artists. I am always driven to promote an artist's uniqueness and cultural background, and encourage them to incorporate it in their works. Because I believe theater is a way of sharing yourself to the world - on and off stage.



Leanne Fulcher

I have been in love with the theatre since age three when I followed Snow White to center-stage. Unfortunately I was supposed to be waiting in the wings with the other dancing buttercups but I could not resist the lure of the limelight. Originally from Canada, I have had the opportunity to live and work in Mexico, England, Malaysia and now Singapore where I teach middle school drama and direct the annual productions.

My biggest passions in life are theatre, teaching, writing and travelling. I really enjoy adapting popular stories for the stage such as *Wrinkle in Time*, *Nightmare Before Christmas* and even *Harry Potter*. As a director, I no longer need the limelight for myself but I love the relationships that form during this creative process and all the details that combine to bring magic to the stage.



Ulrich Gottlieb

Trained in mime, physical theatre as well as taijiquan, I started as a street theatre practitioner which later led to the stage at the Bavarian State Theatre in Munich. My work developed into physical theatre and I moved to Bangkok where I worked for Patravadi Theatre and was a lecturer at the Faculty of Fine Arts at Srinakharinwirot University and Chulalongkorn University in the subjects Stage Movement and advanced movement for both Dance and Theatre.

The magic of physical theatre keeps me fascinated. Theatre is life and it happens live. I love the magic and surprises in theatre where we can be part of a moment of life under a magnifier – which still holds the risk of a real life moment. I'm passionate about how the performer creates their own physical language.



Shawn O'Docherty

My mother worked reception and my father was the bellhop in an Alaskan hotel. At sixteen I read Walt Whitman and his poetry rewrote my universe. I went on to study writing in Santa Cruz, acting in New York and depth of creation with Jacques Lecoq in Paris.

Comedy, circus, clowns of all kinds, secret rituals, magic incantations, Greek tragedy, classical literature, the Mahabharata, the Arabian Nights, Gilgamesh, mime, physical theatre, always poetry, Native American myths, Balinese theatre, Kabuki, Noh, Chinese opera and French farce have been my life. I act, write, design and direct with gratitude.



Nick Pillow

I'm a comedian, actor, theatre education consultant and teacher, originally from the United Kingdom but now based in Mumbai. Prior to freelancing, I was a full time teacher for 12 years in London and Mumbai, and have also worked for the Royal Shakespeare Company in London, and as a stand-up comedian and comedy actor here in Mumbai and across the globe.

As an artist, I have pursued two passions: comedy and Shakespeare, which aren't as far apart as one might think. Both involve exploring the interplay between

words and the body, and finding new ways of expressing yourself. I've also taught IB Literature and Performance for many years, and love exploring the relationship between page and stage.

External workshop leader biographies

Claire Gordon

I have been teaching drama since 2004 and have had the privilege of being inspired by young people across the UK and internationally. I am passionate about youth-led approaches to devising and have worked in partnership with various 'young-people' focused theatres and arts organisations in and around London

Joe Holroyd

I am a passionate writer, filmmaker, Philosopher, DJ, M.C and creative musical collaborator. A fan of expression through many artforms, my personal love lies within the field of 'spoken word', rap and the MC'ing that accompanies various forms of electronic music.