

Dubai PS artist biographies

Student ensemble leaders (SEL)



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.



Desta Haile

I'm a Bangkok-born British Eritrean, who grew up all around the world and now calls London home. I've been part of ISTA festivals for almost 20 years now, as student, ensemble leader, visiting teacher and host.

Each festival is an adventure. I'm fascinated by music, language and how theatre is used to build communities and improve lives. Working with the Theatre of the Oppressed in Brazil and touring as a vocalist with many different international artists has really informed and enriched my practice. I feel fortunate to have learned so much with every ISTA experience.

External workshop leader biographies

Vicki Galloway-Place

I am an English theatre specialist, director and playwright currently based in the United Arab Emirates. I have been teaching and directing for over 17 years both in the United Kingdom and internationally. I specialize in creative Verbatim theatre and ensemble performance.

My practice focuses on developing creative Verbatim performances from recorded interviews within an identified community, with the aim of giving voices to the voiceless, drawing on a range of theatrical techniques. I love never knowing what the final performance will look like and collaborating with many different arts specialists along the way. I am passionate about ensuring theatre is accessible for all no matter your location or background.