

Shanghai MS 1 artist biographies

Artist biographies



Ulrich Gottlieb – Artistic director (AD)

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.

I'm deeply interested in creating crossover work where the wonderful diverse elements of dance, physical theatre, visual art, martial art, literature and poetry meet. In these works I direct, choreograph, perform, witness and wonder.



Katie Milton – Rep

I found my passion for theatre at age five as the fairy in the Christmas play. However, that passion lay dormant for too long, until my son found theatre in grade 6. I started out small—decorating the theatre lobby. That was eight years ago and since then my second home has been backstage.

ISTA offers an amazing experience—it allows drama students to flourish in their element. To watch them talk drama with others of their species is inspiring. I love the fact that as Rep I can be there in the thick of it with these amazing young people following their passion.

What do I bring to ISTA? My passion, my organisational and interpersonal skills. I have a strong passion for the workings of the theatre and I will be there to support the artists and teachers and help all students find their place at the festival.

Student ensemble leaders (SEL)



Juliette O'Brien

I am a theatre and English teacher with over 15 years experience. I have a Masters in Theatre and Performance Studies and a PhD in Dance and am studying for a Certificate in Dance in Education. I have studied many dance and theatre styles and musicalities from many different cultures.

I am interested in weaving together my knowledge of music, movement, dance, literature and theatre, and I love experimenting with how these elements can interplay to create enhanced, alternative and layered meanings.



Annie Philip

I have had 20 years of experience teaching and working with young people in a range of settings – at summer play schemes, in refugee camps, in language schools and in schools in Europe and Asia. During this time I have directed and devised over 50 performances from *Jekyll and Hyde* in east London to Shakespeare on the Saigon River.

I love to work with different people, from different cultures, in diverse and vibrant settings. I firmly believe that drama is a powerful tool for self development and change and I am grateful for every opportunity I have to collaborate and create with people from all over the world.



Rob Russell

I love to write musicals and outside of teaching I work as composer and performer. I have composed and worked on soundtracks for films in Thailand and Bangladesh such as *Beautiful Boxer* and I am a frequent collaborator with Sufi Musicians for Bangladesh TV.

I love new connections and I have collaborated with the American International School of Muscat and the Nishimachi International School of Tokyo choirs as vocal arranger. I have a passion for delivering a theatre programme for the Dhaka Street School, Shine in Shahdadpur and in my free time I love to unicycle.

External workshop leader biographies

Yu ZhongAn (Andy)

I was born and raised in Xuzhou, Jiangsu province and started Kung Fu when I was only five years old. When I was fourteen I achieved the first place in Jiangsu province for Kung Fu with sword and sticks. In 2003 I moved to Shanghai to teach Kung Fu and have done so for the past 11 years for both children and adults. I also teach Tai Chi, Kickboxing, body combat and work as a personal trainer all across Shanghai and in several international schools.

Zhang ShuYuan

I am from Hefei, Anhui province and I started Kung Fu when I was three years old. In 2017 I was awarded first place in Shanghai (60kg category) and then in the following year third place in China (65kg category) for Tai Chi Tui Shou. I also enjoy practising Tai Chi with a sword and kickboxing. I studied Martial Arts and Traditional Ethnic Sports at Shanghai Institute of Physical Education. I graduated in 2019 and am now the head coach at Shanghai Sports University.

Zhu Dong Bin

I am a coach for Taiji, martial arts, kickboxing and also coach children at the Longwu Kongfu Centre. I have been a martial arts coach in Wusen Kongfu School of Shaolin Temple, a kickboxing coach in Jia Ding Kongfu School in Shanghai and a Taiji pushing hand coach in Chen Jia Gou martial arts school. I first studied traditional Taiji and kickboxing where Taiji first originated and then further developed my kickboxing skills in Liuyi Boxing Club in Chongqing. Notably, I also won the Chongqing Huilongwan Cup – a championship kickboxing competition.