

Zug and Luzern HS festival artist biographies

Artist biographies



Sacha Kyle – Artistic director (AD)

I am a theatre and television director living in Glasgow, Scotland, and I was born in Vancouver, Canada. I trained at the Royal Scottish Conservatoire and have studied and worked with companies around the world including Teatro De Los Sentidos in Spain and Eugenio Varga in Italy.

As an artist I'm drawn to the magic of creating and I love experimenting and working with new ideas. I specialise in directing new writing, devised work and comedy. I create work for both children and adults – most recently directing new television drama for BBC across both age groups.

I have been working as an artistic director with ISTA for 14 wonderful years and am passionate about delivering engaging, inspiring and creative experiences for children and young people.



Elizabeth Hunt Lucarini – Rep

I grew up on a large cattle ranch in southern Arizona that bordered Mexico and was a wealth of cultural activity. Childhood was a wonderful mix of languages, music, dance, riding horses and roping cattle. At the age of 13, I began working as an actor which carried me into teaching, which in turn carried me into counselling – using theatre as a therapeutic technique.

I am a licensed psychotherapist, IB Theatre teacher and have performed and taught in the United States, Russia, Romania, Germany, Austria and Vietnam. I have trained with Augusto Boal and believe theatre can change the world.

As a teacher, I have hosted three festivals and as an ISTA artist I have worked numerous festivals as an ensemble leader and Rep in Europe and Asia. ISTA continues to be my creative and artistic compass. The experiences I have had and the amazing artists, teachers and students I have had the honour to work with enrich my life and engage me in creative globalism.

Student ensemble leaders (SEL)



Pete Benson

I am an experienced performer, playwright, theatre director and qualified (BEd) teacher. I've written pantomimes, musicals, comedies and dramas. My theatre company worked closely with the Prince's Trust touring drugs-awareness theatre programmes. A feature film I wrote and directed won the London Independent Film Festival award for best sci-fi/horror film.

I believe in the philosophy of the performer as creator and in the pursuit of imagination. Some loves are: Shakespeare, clowning, mime, directing, devising writing and technology. Drama taught me the best lessons at school – it set me free.



Alessandra Fel

I am a physical performer, director, writer, choreographer and teacher. After eleven years of training and working in London, I relocated to Singapore in 2013 where I founded my own company TheatreLab. Since then I have been teaching Jacques Lecoq as a method of actor's training and creating my own work. I am currently based as a freelancer in Europe and under the mentorship of David Glass and The David Glass Ensemble.

As a teacher I am interested in facilitating the creativity of young people. As a performer/creator I like to collaborate internationally and devise meaningful work. As for my own work at the moment I am adapting an Italian fictional book into a theatre play.



Emily Jane Grant

I am a bilingual facilitator, director and performer and run my own company Join the Dots Theatre as well as working freelance. I trained at Middlesex University, E.N.S.A.T.T in France and then with Moon Fool company with whom I work with as an associate artist. This collaboration has been instrumental in shaping my physical work and building on my musicality.

I have been lucky enough to work across the world touring shows and workshops. I am always amazed at how theatre opens the mind – creating spaces in which we question, dream, create and share and connect. I thrive on the magic of masks, the power of ensemble work and the rhythm and music that exists in everything we do.



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.



Chris Salisbury

I am director for the Westcountry Storytelling Festival since 2002 and now the all-new Oxford Storytelling Festival. I was part of the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain ensemble, studied A-level Theatre and Theatre at Kent University and then acted with various touring theatre companies. I then founded Scallywag Theatre-in-education Company and trained as a dramatherapist.

In 1993 I told my first story around the flickering flames of a campfire and a love affair began with traditional storytelling that continues to the present day in a professional capacity, teaching and performing for a wide range of client-groups. The power and enchantment of the simple narrative form has been a revelation and has sustained my curiosity and passion for this mysterious, ancient and purely oral tradition and what it can contribute to theatre-making.

External workshop leader biographies

Michaela Albright

Even after ten years living in Switzerland I still call the Great White Way (New York City) home. I am a theatre director and production artist and enjoyed working on the Broadway productions of *Fiddler on the Roof* starring Harvey Fierstein and Rosie O'Donnell, *Taboo!* and numerous off-broadway and festival productions during my ten years there.

I now live in the Zurich area teaching performing arts in international schools and in 2016 I founded Albright Yoga - offering teens, kids and performers yoga and meditation. Through the integration of yogic philosophy and the techniques of Uta Hagan, Michael Shurtleff and Kristin Linklater to character development and voice work, my approach allows actors to connect honestly with their bodies and voices to create more believable characters and theatrical moments.

Alexis Dahl

I am an actress by training who also enjoys playwriting in my free time. Since 2006 I have taught at the New York Theatre Workshop for the Handicapped, Fordham University at Lincoln Center in NYC, the Yale Summer Conservatory, the Guthrie Theatre, Horace Mann School and the International School of Zug and Luzern.

I am interested in how space shapes our bodies and how our bodies, in turn, impact space. Whether in a black box, on a proscenium stage, or in a garden, we move in response to the stimuli around us and the internal emotional landscape we carry with us wherever we go.

Raschid Kayrooz

I studied theatre directing and drama in Australia before returning to my roots in Switzerland. Since then I have directed, designed, written and acted in more than 60 productions which range from classical plays to musicals, operetta and opera.

Seven years ago I became aware of the work of a theatre company in Chicago called 'Manual Cinema'. Through them I became aware of the powerful possibilities this dramatic form of expression has to offer. This has had a transformative influence on my artistic oeuvre since that time, with its innate ability to fascinate and inspire the imagination.