

AITA/IATA International Digital Theatre Festival
Broadcast from Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada
21st - 25th February 2023

Festival Rules

Preamble

In accordance with agreements made between the Saint John Theatre Company Inc. from Saint John New Brunswick, Canada, and the International Amateur Theatre Association AITA/IATA asbl, the global organisation for amateur theatre.

The Festival will operate in a digital format with a series of Digital Theatre Works delivered from The Festival Digital Platform. Digital Theatre Performances will be initially presented in a scheduled format, and then will be available On-Demand for the duration of the Festival, or for a period up to and including 18 April 2023, subject to demand. To complement the Digital Theatre Performances, a series of collateral programs will be created including, discussion groups, colloquies, interviews and other similar activities. This collateral programming, which will directly relate to the Festival Digital Theatre Works and their host countries, will be digitally streamed live in a scheduled broadcast and then available On-Demand for the duration of the Festival, or for a period up to and including 18 April 2023, subject to demand.

Definitions

The Festival: refers to the AITA/IATA International Digital Theatre Festival

Broadcast from Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada 21-25th February 2023

Festival Digital Platform: refers to the broadcast platform to be used by The Festival to distribute Digital Theatre Performances and Collateral Programming

Digital Theatre Performances: refers to the various theatre productions which have been captured on video and that have been selected for inclusion in The Festival

Digital Theatre File: refers to the digital recording of the performance

Collateral Programming: refers to the range of discussion, interviews, colloquies etc, related to the Digital Theatre Performances at The Festival

Joint Committee: refers to a group, comprised of IATA Committee

Members and members of the Saint John Organization Committee. This committee will have jurisdiction over the selection process that determines Festival Participants

Festival Organizing Committee: refers to the group of individuals representing the Saint John Festival. This committee will have jurisdiction over the entire range of festival activities once the selection process is complete.

Festival Participants: refers to the organizations, and their key staff and volunteers, who have produced the Digital Theatre Performances to be shared by The Festival

Aims

Article 1:

The aim of AITA/IATA International Digital Theatre Festival 2023 (The Festival) is to present, via a variety of Digital Theatre Performances and subsequent Collateral Programming such as interactive discussions, critical analyses, colloques and workshops,

a wide spectrum of amateur theatre, representing a range of theatrical styles representing various regions of the globe. The Festival will operate on the theme of “*Connecting The World*”.

Article 2:

In accordance with the ideals of AITA/IATA asbl, it is essential that these Digital Theatre Performances present cultural diversities, through scenic forms and dramatic expressions.

Article 3:

A Joint Selection Committee made up of representatives from the Saint John Festival Organising Committee and the Council of AITA/IATA asbl, will select companies to participate in the festival, to create an interesting programme of diverse international theatre of high artistic quality.

Article 4:

There is a fee of € 25 to participate in the festival. AITA/IATA Members are exempt from this fee. For non-member applicants who wish to join the Association, the participation fee is also waived. For information on how to join as a National Centre or Associate Member see [HERE](#) on the AITA/IATA Website.

Article 5:

In accordance with the decision of AITA/IATA asbl, the AITA/IATA International Digital Theatre Festival 2023, is non-competitive, and no prizes or monetary awards are given.

Article 6:

To promote education, cultural and artistic development, the Festival will organise a variety of discussions between international theatre-makers as a means of connecting and sharing ideas about the work presented at The Festival. The Festival may also coordinate a range of collateral discussions between international theatre-makers on a range of subjects related to the use of theatre as a means to connect the world.

Conditions of Participation

Article 7:

The Festival will consist of six (6) to (12) Digital Theatre Productions selected by The Joint Committee. This number may vary given the Digital Nature of the Festival. The number of participants will not be determined on the basis of physical space requirements or the limits of venues. The number of participants selected will be based on geographical diversity as well as the variety and quality of the digital theatre productions proposed.

Article 8:

Applications to participate in The Festival are welcomed from AITA/IATA Members - National Centres and Associates. For countries with no AITA/IATA National Centre, another culturally representative organisation of amateur theatre may propose a company. The Festival Organising Committee may also invite companies to take part in the Festival, following consultation with the Joint Selection Committee.

Article 9:

Applicant countries may submit applications for several companies. The Joint Committee will examine all applications but will select only one company to perform from each country. The decision of the Joint Selection Committee is final.

Article 10:

Each participating company presents, in digital format, a complete theatrical performance, from the national or international repertory, experimental or traditional, classic or modern, published or unpublished. Whilst the committee recommends Digital Theatre Performances of more than 20 minutes and with a maximum of 60 minutes, the committee will ultimately make selections based on the quality of the digital presentation. Running Time will not be a major deciding factor.

Article 11:

The Festival plans to provide translation options for the Digital Theatre Performances to ensure they are viewed and understood in the three official languages of AITA/IATA: French, English and Spanish. Festival applicants should provide a 'side-by-side' text version of the script in the original language and, where possible, in English (if no script exists in English a Google Translation will suffice).

Article 12:

The theme of the festival is *CONNECTING THE WORLD*, and one aim of the organising committee is to foster communication between cultures. Participating companies will not be bound by the theme and are free to select the performance of their choosing. This theme will be an overriding concept of the festival and need not limit the subject matter of any individual work.

Article 13:

Each company is responsible for obtaining, from the relevant agent, written permission to present its performance at the AITA/IATA International Digital Theatre Festival. This authorisation must reach the Organising Committee by **January 9, 2023. No Digital theatre Performance will be broadcast at the festival without proof of licensing.**

Article 14:

All information and documents requested by the Organising Committee must be supplied promptly and by the notified deadline. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of the company's participation in the Festival.

Article 15:

The Organising Committee will decide the date, time, and virtual platform of the broadcast of the performances, according to the requirements of the programme. The Organising Committee sets the planning of the festival activities and Collateral Programming, which will be notified to the participants by means of e-mail correspondence.

Application Process

Article 16:

All applications to participate in the Festival imply acceptance, without reserve, of the Festival Rules, as well as a commitment to guarantee a high level of artistic quality. Each company invited to take part in the Festival is duty bound to respect these rules.

Article 17:

All theatre companies invited to participate in the festival will work with the festival team to ensure that their Digital Theatre File is available and accessible to the Festival by the stated deadlines, which will be conformed in the acceptance document. Failure to meet these deadlines may result in the cancellation of the company's participation in the Festival.

Article 18:

All applicants understand that, if their work is selected, they will need to nominate at least one representative willing to appear in the Collateral Programming. These discussion groups will be recorded and made available virtually to Digital Festival Viewers via the Festival Viewing Platform. Participation in the Collateral Programming is a condition of participation in the festival. The Festival will maintain a Proprietary Interest in the Collateral Programming and may, at the discretion of the Festival Organizing Committee, rebroadcast any interviews, colloquies of other such Digital Collateral Programming events.

Article 19:

Further to this, all applications to participate in The Festival imply that all licensing agreements related to all aspects of the production including, but not limited to, the digital broadcast of the performance, the script, the licensed scenic designs, and any live or recorded music, are in place. The Festival will assume no liability related to any licensing body, artistic union or guild, or any other licensing or rights holding organization. Participants will be required to attest to holding clear title to all materials included in the Digital Theatre Presentation. Should any issue related to licensing or royalties be brought to the attention of The Festival, the Digital Video Production will be immediately cut from The Festival broadcast schedule.

Article 20:

Applying to participate in the festival implies that The Festival has the explicit and exclusive right to broadcast the Digital Theatre Production, during the duration of the festival, or for a period up to and including 18 April 2023, subject to demand, and will make the performance available via the Festival Streaming Platform to audiences worldwide.

Article 21:

The applicants understand that The Festival will have exclusive access to the Digital Theatre Work for The Festival Period. The applicants, if selected, agree not to broadcast, or allow to be broadcast, their selected Digital Theatre Work on any platform for a period of 90 days prior to, or 90 days after, The Festival. Further to this, The Festival reserves the right, should audience interest be deemed to be sufficient by the Festival Organizing Committee, to extend the Broadcast Schedule of the digital festival events for a period up to and including April 18, 2023.

Article 22:

Applying to participate in The Festival implies that The Festival has the explicit right to broadcast brief segments (less than one minute), screen captures, or photographs of the Digital Theatre Production as a form of advertising The Festival events. These promotional clips and photographs will be selected at the discretion of the Festival Management and Marketing team. Applying to participate in The Festival also implies that the Festival may make private use of these same brief clips when reporting to various funders and stakeholders about the activities of the festival.

Article 23:

In order to better promote the Digital Theatre Festival to a worldwide audience, The Festival grants permission to Festival Participants to share festival marketing materials throughout their local networks. This would include the sharing of promotional video clips, web links, and social media posts. The Festival would also welcome the engagement of festival Participants in social media discussions about the festival and the various Festival Collateral Programming.

Article 24:

The festival reserves the right to include promotional video clips as part of any Digital Theatre Broadcast on The Festival Schedule. This includes promotional videos for other festival events or video clips acknowledging and promoting festival stakeholders. These video clips will not interfere with, or pause, the broadcast of the Digital Theatre Work, but will play immediately before, or immediately after, the broadcast.

Article 25:

The festival commits to delete the full-length Digital Theatre Work or eliminate any links to the same digital material immediately upon the end of The Festival program, **or for a period up to and including 18 April 2023, subject to demand.** The Festival commits that it will not share or distribute the Digital Theatre Works to any third party unrelated to The Festival without the express written consent of the Digital Theatre Works rights holder. This clause will not apply to the promotional clips described in Article 21. This clause will not apply to any of the Collateral Programming created by The Festival.

Article 26

In the spirit of developing as large an audience as possible: The Festival may, at the discretion of the Festival Organizers, extend the viewing period of the Digital Theatre Works in the event that viewership is deemed to be growing. This extension period could extend until 18 April 2023.

Article 27:

Applications must be submitted no later than **October 31st, 2022** using the Google Form [HERE](#).

Questions and queries should be addressed to:
digitalfestival2023@saintjohntheatrecompany.com