

## Keynote Speaker Announcement: Luanda Casella

We are thrilled to announce that **Luanda Casella** and **Milo Rau** will be the keynote speakers at the 37th ITI World Congress. They will deliver their addresses **on the morning of 19 September**. This year's Congress, themed "Connect and Embrace," emphasizes our commitment to promoting cultural diversity and fostering international collaboration in the performing arts.



*Photo credit: Michiel Devijver*

The title of Luanda's speech " ***Hijacked Imagination & The Aesthetics of Speculation*** "

**LUANDA CASELLA** is a writer, performing artist and theatre director from São Paulo based in Ghent. She's a house artist at NTGent and artist in residence at deSingel International Arts Centre. Above all, she is an ingenious storyteller who knows exactly how to get her point across.

Her work is about the deconstruction of language with a main focus on how storytelling influences the ways in which we perceive the world and the role of literature in the development of critical thinking. Her pieces have been referred to as 'awfully intelligent', 'surprisingly light-footed' and 'horribly funny'.

Casella has created four performances in recent years: *Short of Lying* (2018), *Killjoy Quiz* (2020), *Ferox Tempus* (2022) and *Elektra Unbound* (2024), all of which are touring internationally. Casella's work has been shown at Theater Spektakel (Zurich), Edinburgh Theatre Festival, HAU, (Berlin), Kaserne (Basel), Spielart Festival (Munich), Dublin Theatre Festival, Venice Biennale, a.o.. Her work has been selected for the Belgian Theaterfestival three times as best performances of the season.

Alongside her performances, Casella has a career in education and academia. She is currently a teacher at the drama department at the KASK Conservatory, Ghent, and has also been a guest lecturer at several master programs such as DAS Graduate School (Amsterdam), KABK (The Hague), P.A.R.T.S, School for Contemporary Dance (Brussels), Toneelacademie (Maastricht), Universität der Künste Berlin, Cité Universitaire de Paris, a.o.