

"In our Imagination there is no Space for Borders! - Let's dance again"

Dear friends of the ITI worldwide!

We experience a strange moment of crisis. But don't lose hope... The actual situation reminds us of the original aims of ITI. As you know ITI was created after the big crisis of World War II. The intention was to open the borders between nations, which have been enemies until that moment.

Now we realize that borders shut again - for completely different reasons. This is a sad experience, because it happens in a moment when the worldwide theatre community flourishes and the theatre and theatre artists could breathe in most parts of the world - not at least thanks to the wonderful work of national centres of ITI, the worldwide communication of ITI-members and the continuous work of the General Secretary. But remember: your work until now was not in vain.

In our imagination there is no space for borders. And in a not so far future theatres will open again. For the continuation of the festival „New Plays of Europe“, the playwright Mark Ravenhill from Great-Britain wrote last week to his colleagues and me: as the theatres are closed “Keep writing for the new theatre of tomorrow.” We have built up a basement, from which we can continue, when the nowadays crisis will be over. Right now we cannot meet each other, but we can communicate, we can encourage our colleagues and friends. Let's do!

I send you all my love.

My tender feelings go back to the 70th anniversary of ITI in Haikou, Hainan, China one year ago. At the farewell-party we heard wonderful music from our colleagues from Cuba and Africa. And all the ITI-delegates from all over the world started dancing. Within a very short time I will dance with you again, where ever it might be in the world.

Manfred Beilharz

Honorary President of ITI

Wiesbaden, Germany, 27th of March, 2020

