

ATELIER FOR FESTIVAL MANAGERS FESTIVALS AND SOCIAL COHESION ONLINE TRAINING #4

MENTORS AND SPEAKERS

We are delighted to announce the mentors and speakers for the Online Training #4. Check their bios below and on [this link](#):

Facilitator:

- **Mike Van Graan** – Playwright, Project Manager Sustaining Theatre and Dance (STAND) Festival - South Africa

Opening Keynotes – Artists changing the world:

- **Hajooj Kuka** – Founder of Refugee Club and director of Beats of the Antonov – Sudan
- **Hira Nabi** – Film maker and multimedia artist – Pakistan

Speakers:

- **Eckhard Thiemann** – Artistic Director of Shubbak – United Kingdom
- **Hooman Nassimi** – Founder of Society in Motion and the New Faces toolkit – Netherlands
- **John Speyer** – Director of Music In Detention – United Kingdom
- **Jurriaan Cooman** – Founder and Director of CULTURESCAPES – Switzerland
- **Keren Zaiontz** – Assistant Professor and Queen's National Scholar in Creative Industries in the Global City in the Department of Film and Media and Cultural Studies Graduate Program – Canada
- **Iman Aoun** – Artistic Director of Ashtar Theatre – Palestine
- **Tania El Khoury** – Distinguished Artist in Residence of Theater and Performance and Director of Center for Human Rights & The Arts at Bard College, New York – Lebanon/ United States of America
- **Vallejo Gantner** – Artistic Executive Director of the Onassis Foundation, chair at Hoovie – United States of America

Mentors and Working Group leaders:

- **Brett Pyper** – Associate Professor and Head of the Wits School of Arts at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, former CEO of the Klein Karoo National Arts Festival (Absa KKNK) – South Africa
- **Jurriaan Cooman** – Founder and Director of CULTURESCAPES – Switzerland
- **Lily Hughes** – Programme Manager, AU/UK Season of Culture 2021/22, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – United Kingdom
- **Tom Creed** – Theatre and opera director, festival director and independent producer – Ireland
- **Vallejo Gantner** – Artistic Executive Director of the Onassis Foundation, chair at Hoovie – United States of America

Toolkit Presentation:

- **Mauricio Lomelin** – Former producer at the Lincoln Centre New York, associate producer at Por Piedad Teatro - United States of America/Mexico
- **Samantha Nampuntha** – Event producer, PR and Communications Expert – Malawi

Guest:

- **Ellada Evangelou**

Observer:

- **David Teevan** – Festival Advisor to the Arts Council of Ireland – Ireland

ATELIER PROGRAMME

DAY ONE: Tuesday, 15 December

- 12:00** Introductory session
Introduction to The Festival Academy
Purpose and proposed outcomes of the Atelier
Introductions of all participants: everyone share their name, country, festival/organisation and **the primary social cohesion ambitions of your festival and/or society** (in one sentence)
- 14:00** Small group introductions: each participant share the primary social cohesion challenges within her/his society, and how they impact or confront their respective festival and/or organizational practice
- 15:00** One-on-one introductions: opportunity to meet everyone in the room
- 17:00** Opening speakers – **Hira Nabi and Hajooj Kuka**
- 18:00** Social time – artists' grouping representing 'social cohesion' to perform and then talk about what their collaboration means for them and if it has had any broader impact

DAY TWO: Wednesday, 16 December

- 12:00** Panel discussion: **Festivals and social cohesion: An unfair burden or a social responsibility?**
Speakers: Eckhard Thiemann, John Speyer, Keren Zaiontz, Tania El Khoury
Many societies are polarized along a range of dividing lines: gender, ethnicity, culture, language, race, class, age, foreigner/local, disability, religious beliefs, etc. Festivals do not take place in social vacuums, and may proactively seek to address these divides, or feel the pressure to do so because of their funding that obliges them to do so. Festivals face enormous sustainability challenges anyway: is 'social cohesion' a fair additional burden to place on festivals or is this something that festivals should embrace for their own survival?
- 14:00** *[Break]*
- 14:30** Roundtables
Participants choose two of the following roundtables, each 60 minutes in length. The purpose of the roundtables, facilitated by mentors and/or speakers, is to grapple with the theme, to share insights and to raise questions that need to be considered when pursuing 'social cohesion':
1. What does 'social cohesion' mean for festivals, and how can they practically pursue social cohesion within their constraints of geography, resources, programming and time?
 2. Online and hybrid festivals: adding to social divisions or platforms for inclusivity? How may technology facilitate (or inhibit) inclusiveness?
 3. What do 'they' want? Practical tools and strategies for building, curating and providing inclusive festivals?
 4. Thinking globally, acting locally: how may international cultural collaboration and curating impact local social cohesion agendas? Or vice versa?
 5. Obstacles to socially cohesive, inclusive festivals and how to overcome them.
 6. Physical, online and hybrid festivals and curating to meet social needs such as diversity and inclusion
- 16:30** One-on-one sessions with mentors
Social networking
- 18:00** Social Time
- 19:00** *Optional Evening Programme: Wits School of Arts, on the occasion of Reconciliation Day South Africa*

DAY THREE: Thursday, 17 December

- 12:00** International case studies of festivals that have actively pursued social cohesion: The good, the bad and the how-not-to-do-it
Speakers: Iman Aoun, Jurriaan Cooiman, Hooman Nassimi, Vallejo Gantner
- 13:30** *[Break]*
- 14:00** Presentation of Atelier Toolkit on Audience Development and Retention by **Mauricio Lomelin** and **Samantha Nampuntha**
Group discussions on relevant sections of the Toolkit
- 15:30** *[Break]*
- 15:45** Plenary: Panel of roundtable facilitators report on the previous day's roundtables and the Toolkit discussions
- 17:00** Closing speaker
- 17:30** Social session, evaluations, and group photo
- 18:00** *CLOSURE*

PREPARE IN ADVANCE:

- For the **Introductory session**, you will be asked to say your **name, country, festival/organisation and the primary social cohesion ambitions of your festival and/or society**. Please **email us your social cohesion ambitions statement beforehand** so we can share it with the other participants!
- Small group introductions: Share your social cohesion ambitions with your group. Discuss the biggest challenge your festival faces right now with regard to social cohesion.

KEEP IN MIND:

- All times announced above are following the **CET / Brussels Time Zone**. Please let us know if you have time issues with particular sessions.
- This programme (dated 9/12/2020) can change prior to and during the Training as it considers the needs of the Training participants.