

# Atelier for Arts and Production Managers

## Elefsina - Beirut Module III

27th Nov - 1st Dec  
Beirut, Lebanon

**Programme**

# Pool of experts

## Facilitator

- **Mike Van Graan** – South African Playwright and currently a Richard von Weizsaecker Fellow, Robert Bosch Academy, Berlin – Germany/South Africa

## Mentors and experts

- **Biljana Tanurovska-Kjulavkovski** – Co-curator Lokomotiva Festival for contemporary art and performance in Skopje – Macedonia
- **Eckhard Thiemann** – Former Artistic Director Shubbak Festival – London/ Mena
- **Ellada Evangelou** – Cofounder of Rooftop Theatre, member of the Leadership Circle of the IMPACT project, artistic director of Buffer Fringe Festival – Cyprus/United States of America
- **Lina Attel** – Founder, General Director The National Center for Culture and Performing Arts Jordan – Jordan
- **Angeliki Lampiri** - Director of Cultural Training Eleusis 2023 – Greece

## Speakers

- **Aurelien Zouki** – Actor, choreographer and performer, co-director “Nehna wel Amar wel Jiran” outdoor festival in Beirut, Collectif Kahraba – Lebanon
- **Mohamad Hamdan** – Production Manager Zoukak Theatre Company – Lebanon
- **Nabil Canaan** – Director Station Beirut – Lebanon
- **Omar Abi Azar** – Theatre Director and founder Zoukak Theatre Company – Lebanon

## Cross-sector experts

- **Milena Gehrt** – Project Manager – ArtEvolution
- **Mira El Mawla** – MENA lead program manager at Build Up – Lebanon
- **Rima Mismar** – Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC) – Lebanon (to be confirmed)
- **Helena Nassif** - Director of Culture Resource – Lebanon

# Programme

This programme (dated **28/11/2022**) can change prior to and during the Atelier as it considers the needs of the participants. All sessions take place at **Station Beirut** (Secteur 66, rue 90, Jisr El Wati) unless specified otherwise.

## DAY ONE: Sunday, 27 November

- 15:00** Registration at Station Beirut
- 15:30 – 17:30** Start – Introductory Session
- Welcome by Nabil Canaan – Where are we today? Where is Beirut today?  
Welcome by Inge Ceustermans – Introduction to the Atelier
- Individual introductions
  - Mentor introductions
  - Atelier outline
- 17:30 – 17:45** Departure to Restaurant by bus
- 17:45 – 18:45** **Dinner** at Li Beirut
- 18:45 – 19:00** Departure to Al Madina (10' walk)
- 19:00 – 20:15** Cultural programme: **The Valley of Sleep** (75 min) – Yara Boustany at Al Madina
- 20:20 – 20:30** Departure to Sunflower Theatre by bus
- 20:30 – 21:10** Cultural programme: **Rihet El Anbar** (40 min) – Issam Bou Khaled at Sunflower Theatre
- 21:30 – 01:00** DJ set - **telos** at Zoukak Theatre
- 23:00** **End of day programme – Return** to Citea Hotel by bus

## DAY TWO: Monday, 28 November

- 08:30** Gathering at the lobby of Citea Hotel and departure to Station Beirut by bus
- 09:00 – 10:30** Opening Session
- Setting the scene: An introduction to and an overview of Beirut/Lebanon and its economic, political, and cultural situation.
- Official welcomes
- Speakers: **Omar Abi Azar, Ellada Evangelou, Eckhard Thiemann, Mira El Mawla, Lina Attel**
- Facilitated conversation on Festivals, inequality and international collaboration:
- The opening panel discussion will set the tone for the Atelier, and address one of the key faultlines in the world today – inequality – and its impact on festival-making and cultural collaboration, particularly as these relate to this region.
- Key questions include: different forms of inequality and how they impact on festivals; disparity with regard to resources, capacity to travel globally, gender inequalities, the different impacts of climate change and capacity for mitigation, digital inequalities, etc.
- 10:30 – 11:00** **Break**
- 11:00 – 13:00** Working Groups
- Participants will be divided into working groups. Their brief is to devise a collaborative project that includes participation from and a tour across all three regions. Then on the final day, they will 'pitch' their project to international donors (played by the mentors) who will give feedback to their ideas.
- 13:00 – 14:00** Exchanges of placement experiences by participants. Feedback by mentors and peers.
- 14:00 – 15:00** **Lunch + Culinary performance** (50 min) by Hiba Najem
- 15:30 – 17:00** Plenary: Setting the scene for regional collaboration: Key challenges and possibilities within each of the regions represented for collaboration, exchange, and regional tours.

A speaker/mentor from each of the Arab world, Mediterranean and Balkans provides an overview of the state of politics, funding, and artistic practice in their respective regions

Speakers: **Biljana Tanurovska-Kjulavkovski, Milena Gehrt, Angeliki Lampiri**

- 17:00 – 17:30** One-on-ones with mentors
- 17:30 – 18:00** Departure to Frequent Defect by bus
- 18:00 – 18:50** Cultural programme: **I'm not in a place** (50 min) – Mada Harb at Frequent Defect
- 19:00 – 19:15** Departure to Restaurant by bus
- 19:15 – 20:15** **Dinner** at Riwaq Beirut
- 20:15 – 20:30** Departure to Zoukak Theater (10' walk)
- 20:30 – 21:30** Cultural programme: **Meaning Making Cocktail** (60 min) – Jana Bou-Matar at Zoukak Theater
- 21:30** **End of day programme – Return** to Citea Hotel by bus

### DAY THREE: Tuesday, 29 November

- 08:30** Gathering at the lobby of Citea Hotel and departure to Zoukak Theater by bus
- 09:00 – 10:30** Breakfast at Zoukak with Artists and Curators – Networking Exchange.
- 10:30 – 11:00** Departure to Station by bus
- 11:00 – 13:00** Working Groups
- Participants will be divided into working groups. Their brief is to devise a collaborative project that includes participation from and a tour across all three regions. Then on the final day, they will 'pitch' their project to international donors (played by the mentors) who will give feedback to their ideas.
- 13:00 – 14:00** **Lunch**
- 14:00 – 15:30** Plenary: Culture, Values and History and the makings of contemporary art and festivals
- A second key Faultline globally – after inequality – is 'culture', different belief systems, values, worldviews, historical traditions that shape societies, and inform personal and group identities. What are the different ways of being in and making sense of the world within the different regions, and how could they impact on regional cultural collaboration?
- Speakers: **Helena Nassif, Biljana Tanurovska-Kjulavkovski, Aurelien Zouki, Ellada Evangelou**
- 15:30 – 16:00** **Break**
- 16:00 – 17:30** Working groups continue to work on their pitches.
- 17:30 – 18:30** One-on-ones with mentors
- 18:30 – 18:45** Departure to Restaurant by bus
- 18:45 – 20:00** **Dinner** at Restaurant Seza
- 20:00 – 20:15** Departure to Zoukak Theater (10' walk)
- 20:30 – 21:10** Cultural Programme: **Strange Land** (40 min) – Randa Mirza & Youmna Saba at Zoukak Theater
- 21:30 – 01:00** **Drinks with artists** and DJ set – **El Lahlouba** at Zoukak Theater
- 23:00** **End of day programme – Return** to Citea Hotel by bus

### DAY FOUR: Wednesday, 30 November

- 08:15** Gathering at the lobby of Citea Hotel and departure to **Collectif Kahraba's Hammana Artist House** (45 minutes' drive)
- 09:00 – 10:30** Plenary: Role-Plays
- Each working group presents their pitch.

Discussion with mentors and all participants.

**10:30 – 11:00**    **Break**

**11:00 – 13:00**    Introductions to the Festival Academy's Toolkits and discussions around their themes, particularly as they may apply to the regions represented at the Atelier.

Each roundtable will last for one hour. Participants may choose two roundtables.

1. Models for Curating and Programming Festivals – Biljana Tanurovska
2. Climate Change and its meaning for festivals
3. Digital Technology and Festivals – Ellada Evangelou
4. Sustainable business models and practices for Festivals
5. Caring for Artists and Technical Crew - Eckhard Thiemann
6. Audience Development and Retention – Lina Attel

**13:00 – 14:00**    **Lunch**

**14:00 – 16:00**    Closing Plenary/ Closing session

Each participants shares:

- Key learnings, takeaways from the Atelier
- What each most needs going forward; what each can offer
- Atelier Beirut: The good, the enjoyable and the not-so-great

Participants complete an Evaluation Form.

**16:00 – 19:00**    Departure to Beirut by bus - Free afternoon

**19:00 – 20:15**    **Closing Dinner** at Makan

**20:15 – 20:30**    Departure to Zoukak Theater (10' walk)

**20:30 – 21:30**    Cultural Programme: **Tomorrow is the Best Day of my Life** (60 min) – Yara Bou-Nassar at Zoukak Theater

**22:00 – 01:00**    Party and DJ set – **Nasri Sayegh** at Zoukak Theater

**23:00**            **End of day programme – Return** to Citea Hotel by bus

## Organiser

The Festival Academy believes festivals are bridging platforms with a direct link to people and civil society structures. We believe a critical reflection between artists, arts and cultural managers worldwide and cross-sectoral stakeholders can bring about positive change, informed awareness, ideas and proposals for actions through personal human relations and based on knowing, respecting and tolerating different value and belief systems. We are



## The Festival Academy's initiator, European Festivals Association

The Festival Academy is an initiative of the **European Festivals Association (EFA)** which unites distinguished music, dance, theatre and multidisciplinary arts festivals from Europe and beyond since 1952. It connects about 100 festivals and festival associations in 40 countries. EFA's activities are implemented with the support of the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.



## With the support of Open Society Foundations

Thanks to the support of the **Open Society Foundations**, The Festival Academy is able to further extend its activities geographically as well as its global community of festival makers. More people worldwide will have the chance to participate in its programmes and will become part of its growing community.

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