

# PARTNERS IN OR OFF THE SHIP?

Creating space for dialogue on international partnership

A series of conversations  
about the ethics of international  
cooperation and partnership in  
the Performing Arts (Online)

gefördert durch:



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung  
für Kultur und Medien

# PARTNERS IN OR OFF THE SHIP?

Creating space for dialogue on international partnership

Amidst the global crises that continue to impact the arts, international and transcultural cooperation in the performing arts is indispensable. In an environment of increasing polarization, in which forms of discrimination and exclusion take place at a daily rate, daring to take the step of starting an artistic relationship, crossing borders, and working together gives cause for hope. Artists often provide new, participatory ideas for our common grounds and society through their alternative approaches – but these experimental spaces are often rare and shrinking. Even more, it's brave to take this step and establish a space for free artistic expression, encounters, and debates.

Further, for emerging artists and arts professionals, the need to partner and collaborate is central to the growth of our crafts. Partnerships have to be done in an equitable and ethical way to empower and amplify change. Thus, what are the conditions necessary for equitable and ethical partnership?

To explore this topic, The Network of Emerging Arts Professionals (ITI Worldwide), the ITI Academy (ITI Germany) and the Centre for Socially Engaged Theatre (C-SET) curate a series of dialogues (three in total) on the ethics of international cooperation and partnership in the performing arts. The discussions are guided by the following questions: What does it mean to establish and hold a Safer and Braver Space? How do we stay with a caring practice? How do we navigate conflicts and misunderstandings? How are artists dealing with risks and limitations in freedom of expression? In what way do artists develop methods that contribute to transnational democracy? What are the conditions of co-creating an equitable international cultural exchange?

The goal of dialogue is not to find solutions but rather to create opportunities for emerging artists to share their experience, co-learn, and exchange knowledge on ways they are working around these questions in their practice. The dialogue series is conceptualized within the context of intra-national and international partnerships, with emerging artists and art professionals working against inequitable systems and structures.

# PARTNERS IN OR OFF THE SHIP?

Creating space for dialogue on international partnership

Dialogue I

**22-5-2024: Creating Safe and Brave Spaces**

**Time: 3pm CET (Online, 90 mins)**

**with: Charles Etubiebi, Gerald Odil Ronnie & Nora Tormann**

**Facilitated by: Dr. Taiwo Afolabi**

What does it mean to establish and hold a Safe(r) Space and a Brave Space? In this first session, discussants articulate what these terms mean to them and share practical experiences on the ways they have created and continue to create Safe and Brave spaces in their partnership and practice.

[> Registration Dialogue I](#)

gefördert durch:

# PARTNERS IN OR OFF THE SHIP?

Creating space for dialogue on international partnership

Dialogue II

**26-6-2024: Practices of Care**

**Time: 3pm CET (Online, 90 mins)**

**with Aganza Kisaka, Alex D. Loo**

**Facilitated by: Jeff Fagundes**

How do you create a caring practice? How do we realize and implement an awareness concept? From Peru to Uganda, our panellists will share practical tools and resources on caring practices and the challenges and opportunities in creating caring practices in partnership.

[> Registration Dialogue II](#)

gefördert durch:



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung  
für Kultur und Medien

# PARTNERS IN OR OFF THE SHIP?

Creating space for dialogue on international partnership

Dialogue III

10-7-2024: Practices of Working through Conflict

Time: 3pm CET (Online, 90 mins)

with: CJ Ochoco, Samba Yonga

Facilitated by: Lloyd Nyikadzino

How do we navigate misunderstandings and conflict? The last session focuses on the practice of working through conflict. While conflict looks different across cultures, how it is resolved is also different. It is even different in the case of international partnerships. Our panellists will be challenged to offer their perspectives on ways to navigate conflict in intra- and international partnerships.

> [Registration Dialogue III](#)

gefördert durch:



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung  
für Kultur und Medien

## PARTNERS IN OR OFF THE SHIP?

Creating space for dialogue on international partnership

Dialogue I  
SPEAKER

### Charles Etubiebi

Charles Etubiebi is an actor, the artistic director of Theatre Emissary International and a registered member of the International Theatre Institute (ITI). His credits for stage, film and television includes; The Armenian International Theatre Institute's Prospero, IOPENEYE's Tram 83, amongst others. He was awarded the Best Male Actor prize at the Al Bugga International Theatre Festival, Khartoum, Sudan. He won the award for Best Supporting Actor at the 2018 RealTime International Film Festival for his performance in Kunle Nodash's The Delivery Boy. Charles performed the one-man adaptation of the play 54 Silhouettes written and directed by Africa Ukoh at the 2018 NEAPFEST, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the 2019 Lagos Theatre Festival in Nigeria, and the 2019 United Solo International Festival in New York where it won the award for the Best International Show. Passionate about storytelling, he believes in creating art with fellow creatives who share a passionate connection to the world around them. Charles is based in New York City, crafting a new chapter.

### Gerald Odil Ronnie

Gerald Odil Ronnie is a curator, producer, and multi-disciplinary artist whose work glides through queer perspectives, Afrofuturist manifestations, and regenerative practices that centre community and communal care. They are a founding member of a queer artist collective, Anti-Mass; a collaborative art collective based in Kampala. They were curator-fellow at the KLA ART21 public art, Uganda's only public art festival produced by 32° East|Ugandan Arts Trust. They are Alumni of the Independent Curators International; Curatorial Intensive 2022. They are currently living in exile.

# PARTNERS IN OR OFF THE SHIP?

Creating space for dialogue on international partnership

Dialogue I  
SPEAKER

## Nora Tormann

Nora Tormann is a Berlin-based choreographer, dance dramaturg, and curator. With a background in political philosophy and contemporary dance, their practice navigates the intersections of artistic and theoretical research. Nora is interested in creating care-principled contexts and facilitating gatherings for people to address pertinent matters in their midst and beyond. Alongside their own artistic endeavors, Nora co-founded Celestial Bodies, a mobile platform for artistic exchange and research, and LIK, a collective focused on caring practices within the performing arts.

## Taiwo Afolabi

Taiwo Afolabi is a theatre-maker, scholar, theatre manager and entrepreneur. His interest is in amplifying voices and experiences; and re-centering governance models, strategies and systems on the margin through the lens of decolonisation, equity and anti-oppressive approaches. His experience in over a dozen countries across four continents in a variety of contexts focused on socially engaged and community-based creative practice for transformational change. Through storytelling and devised theatre, he works with communities on social issues pertinent to them, and his research continues to advance broad-minded thinking within the art and culture sector. He is the Canada Research Chair in Socially Engaged Theatre and the Director of the Centre for Socially Engaged Theatre (C-SET) at the University of Regina. He is also a Senior Research Associate at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa and the founding director of Theatre Emissary International (TEMi) in Nigeria and Canada.

## PARTNERS IN OR OFF THE SHIP?

Creating space for dialogue on international partnership

Dialogue II  
SPEAKER

### Aganza Kisaka

Aganza Kisaka is a Ugandan multi-talented performing artist. She is a playwright, director, theatre producer, published author and award-winning film actress. She has produced outstanding works such as "The Betrothal" by Joshua Mmali, and "Red Hills" by Asimwe Deborah Kawe as well as the Kampala International Theatre Festival 2019. In 2022, she completed an assistant directorial role for the "Merchant of Venice" and her most recent theatre directorial work is for the outstanding production of My Fair lady Musical in Kampala. Kisaka is the founder of Yenze Theatre Conservatoire (YTC) that equips performing artists through various training courses for film and theatre. She is a proud fellow of Georgetown University lab for global politics and performance and she currently producing a Broadway romantic comedy musical entitled, She Loves Me, set to premiere at Uganda National Theatre in July 2024.

### Alex D. Loo

Alex D. Loo is an activist for women's and LGBTQI+ rights in Peru. She is co-founder of AFFIDARE (Association of Independent and Diverse Feminists of Arequipa), and of the activist drum ensemble Bomba Cuir. Her work challenges the pervasive heterocisnormativity, sexism, and colonialism in Peruvian society through courses, workshops, and artistic interventions in the public space that denounce human rights violations and systemic oppression. She's Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics with the University of Leicester, UK, and has also studied cultural anthropology and education.



# PARTNERS IN OR OFF THE SHIP?

Creating space for dialogue on international partnership

Dialogue II  
SPEAKER

## Jeff Fagundes

Jeff Fagundes is the president of the Brazil Center of the International Theatre Institute/UNESCO. With a Master's degree in Performing Arts from the Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro, he excels as an actor, director, playwright, and theatre producer at the SESC RJ. He was recognized for his commitment to the Black community and received a commendation from the Rio de Janeiro City Council through the Confraria do Impossível for his artistic work.

As a performing artist, his plays have succeeded nationally and internationally, participating in over twenty productions as an actor, director, and playwright. His skill as a director and actor has been acknowledged with nominations for Best Director and Best Actor awards over his 12-year career.

Jeff is also the visionary behind NEAPFEST - the International Theatre Exchange Festival of the Network of Emerging Arts and Professionals, which supports artists aged 18 to 36 from 80 countries. His influence extends beyond national borders, with appearances at theatre events in more than 15 countries and touring with his solo theatre piece through Colombia, Spain, Zimbabwe, the Philippines, and Thailand.

## PARTNERS IN OR OFF THE SHIP?

Creating space for dialogue on international partnership

Dialogue III  
SPEAKER

### CJ Ochoco

CJ Ochoco is a Guam-raised theatre creative who currently travels between Nashville, Guam, and everywhere in-between. She earned her BA in Fine Arts: Theatre from the University of Guam (2016), her Masters of Arts Leadership and Cultural Management through Colorado State University (2019), and her Graduate Certificate and Masters in Strategic Communications from the University of Maryland Global Campus (2023). CJ enjoys wearing many hats. While her first passion was stage management, she has found joy in producing, arts administration, playwriting, and even bass playing for Guam band "Friends with Instruments." From the University of Guam Theatre to the Guam International Film Festival to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, CJ has been involved with various arts organizations. In 2018, she helped Breaking Wave Theatre Company, where she serves as the President and primary Producer for the company. CJ believes in the healing power of the arts, and she believes that healing can begin when everyone has the space and opportunity to share their stories. She aims to use her skills to create and elevate diverse storytelling, on stage and behind it.

### Samba Yonga

Samba Yonga is a communications and media specialist and founder of Zambian based Ku-Atenga Media, a company that specialises in developing bespoke communication platforms and tools with a focus for Africa. The company has consulted for international, regional and local corporate and development firms but her heart is set on using communications as a way to positively affect the collective narrative of Africa's development in a positive and productive way. She is also co-founder of the Zambian Women's History Museum whose mandate is to research and restore African indigenous narratives, knowledge and 'living histories' focused on women. She is a proud graduate of Evelyn Hone College School of Journalism and holds an MA in Transnational Communications and Global Media from Goldsmiths College, University of London.

# PARTNERS IN OR OFF THE SHIP?

Creating space for dialogue on international partnership

Dialogue III  
SPEAKER

## Lloyd Nyikadzino

Lloyd Nyikadzino continues to work extensively, locally and internationally as an arts consultant of creative and cultural products and services, arts administrator, creative director, deviser, educator, and columnist. Lloyd is a multi-award-winning theatre professional and a graduate of the University of Zimbabwe with a BA in Applied Media Arts and Performance Studies and an MA in Multi-Media Production Designs and Systems and Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre. He is a fellow at the John F. Kennedy Centre for the Performing, Theatertreffen, Magnet Theatre, and The Lab at Georgetown University. Lloyd is the Executive director for the Zimbabwe Theatre Academy Trust and the Mitambo International Theatre Festival. Furthermore, Lloyd is one of the Vice Presidents of the African Regional Council of the International Theater Institute. Lloyd has worked as a guest theater lecturer at Ecole De Sables in Senegal. He serves as a coordinator of the Network for Emerging Arts Professionals (NEAP) and also a Theatre Communications Group (TCG) Global Connectivity Taskforce member and a drama coach at Dominican Convent High School. In recognition of his dedication to excellence, Lloyd has been honored with the prestigious Håbets Pris of Hope award -Denmark&USA, Rubens Barbot Award-Brazil, and two Zimbabwe National Arts Merit Awards for best outstanding national theatre director (2019, 2024).

gefördert durch:



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung  
für Kultur und Medien