

ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts



Network of UNESCO & ITI with Higher Education and Research Institutions

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To the Participants of the 2nd Student Festival "Home" of the ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts

Network Secretariat, Shanghai, 17 March 2020

Cancellation of the 2nd Student Festival "Home" of the ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts at Piccolo Teatro di Milano - Teatro d'Europa

Dear Applicants,

Together with our Festival Host, the Piccolo Teatro di Milano – Teatro d'Europa, we regret to inform you that because of the grave situation caused by COVID-19 virus in Milan, Italy, the Second Student Festival "Home" of the ITI/UNESCO Network in this July will be cancelled. Our Festival Host has graciously submitted an official notice to this effect.

We are very sad about this sudden turn of events. However, because of the unpredictable and high-risk situation, the world faces now, we fully support Piccolo's decision to cancel the event. As the Network Secretariat has emphasized in previous notices, the Festival can only happen when people's health and safety are not in danger.

We would like to express our great gratitude our friends at Piccolo Teatro; furthermore, we appreciate very much the enthusiasm you showed in completing festival requirements and the passion you and your students shared in staging the performances. These works will not go in vain. As an excellent platform for international exchange among young performing arts talents, the 2nd Student Festival of the ITI/UNESCO Network will remain our priority. With the outbreak of the virus controlled and the state of public anxiety reduced, both the Network Secretariat and Piccolo will actively seek opportunities to relaunch the event. We believe the Festival can do wonders for young people and even to the whole world, especially after emerging from a tough period of lockdowns, quarantines, and social distancing.

Thank you again for your understanding and support. Please take care, our sincere wishes to all for good health and our fondest hope that this uncertain time-ends soon.

Best regards,

Tobias Biancone

President of the ITI/UNESCO Network