



ITC Annual General Meeting 2024

BOARD ELECTION PROFILES

Below are the board nomination profiles of those who have chosen to stand. There are 5 nominees and 5 places available for election.

Dougie Irvine, Visible Fictions (Scotland)

I'm the Artistic Director of Visible Fictions and have been a senior artist & manager for the past three decades, having served on the board of the ITC for the past three years. I've been an actor, community artist, freelance director and regularly guest lecturer at various drama schools and universities.

I've also served on other boards (Federation of Scottish Theatre, Puppet Animation Scotland, & International Performing Arts for Youth).

My whole career has been dedicated to the creation and touring of theatre work of all scales – both indoors & out - from small village halls to New York's West 42nd Street. This experience has given me a sharp understanding of the realities, challenges & opportunities facing the theatre sector. I'm eager to continue sharing this knowledge & experience as an ITC board member.

My artistic work is multi-disciplinary and through it I've gained a keen understanding of artists from many different backgrounds & perspectives. Giving ITC regular access to these views helps inform the understanding, direction & strategy of the organisation for the *whole community* ITC serves; helping maintain ITC's admirable ethical values and connection to the work that is being created around the UK.

As a Scottish member, I can bring a distinct perspective to the Board's understanding of what is happening & being learned (good and less so) in the north of the UK. This is important for a UK-wide organisation. I believe that only as a whole community can we make things better - promoting inclusivity and fairness as much as possible.

Since Visible Fictions' inception in 1991, ITC has been there by our side. It's been an honour to have been part of the ITC board and I hope you support my nomination to continue serving and to helping our sector grow.

Nominated by Lian Wilkinson (New Earth Theatre) and Philippa Cross (Talking Birds)

Lian Wilkinson, New Earth Theatre (London, England)

I am the Executive Director and Co-CEO of New Earth Theatre, hoping to bring my experience of working with under-represented voices and communities to the ITC Board. New Earth Theatre produces work for, by and with British East and South East Asian (BESEA) artists and communities. We present productions and readings, nurture BESEA talent and engage artists with communities, museums and schools. Prior to this, I have worked in venues and other touring companies, including Belgrade Theatre Coventry, English Touring Theatre and COMEDIA Theater Cologne.

I have enjoyed being able to have an active voice in conversations at industry-scale, drawing upon my knowledge of producing at project grant, touring company and theatre building level. I want to bring my expertise, enthusiasm and attention to detail to the Board, particularly as we look to ITC's 50th anniversary.

Nominated by Jodie Gilliam (Paines Plough) and Ria Parry (North Wall)

Maria Oshodi, Extant (London, England)

I worked as a script writer for theatre from 1984-1992 and continue to work as a freelance writer.

After graduating with a 1st BA honors in Drama and English I worked in arts management, for BBC drama production and in 1997 founded Extant, which has become the leading performing arts organization in the UK, managed for and by visually impaired professional arts practitioners.

As the Artistic Director of the company, I have led Extant in:

Producing ground-breaking touring theatre productions such as Resistance 2005, Obscurity 2009, Sheer 2012, The Chairs 2014/16 and Flight Paths 2019/20 -

Producing international tours to the UK by Croatian and US artists.

Led on the Research, development and production of site specific experimental haptic performance exploring access, navigation, and technology (The Question 2010 and Flatland 2015)

Developed theatre training programmes for emerging visually impaired artists.

Developed awareness training programmes for venues, education, and other institutions.

Pioneered consultancy on integrated access within theatre productions for visually impaired audiences.

I have served on the ITC Board for three years (elected in March 2021)

I hope to continue to bring the knowledge and experience that I have accumulated over the last 25 years of working in the arts as a professional disabled practitioner and founder of a disability and artist led small NPO touring theatre Company to the board of ITC.

Nominated by Emma Rees (Theatre Centre) and Ali King (Turtle Key)

Michael Johnson, Luca Silvestrini's Protein (London, England)

I am a producer with over a decade of experience working across dance, theatre, live performance, fashion and film. I support artists, choreographers and communities to realise their ideas; from independent research and development programmes, to large scale intergenerational & outdoor participation projects.

For the last 5 years I have worked for ITC member organisation, Luca Silvestrini's Protein. Through Protein I have worked directly in delivering projects with a wide range of community settings including, primary and secondary schools, pupil referral units, as well as with refugees and migrants. My work with Luca Silvestrini's Protein won the Community Project of the Year at The Stage Awards 2023.

As an independent producer I currently support Jean Abreu Dance and Gateway Arts/ Sonny Nwachukwu. In 2022 I co-founded Stretch with Diagonal Dance - a new festival for tomorrow's

dance sector, open to everyone working in and around the dance sector, no matter the occupation or career stage.

I am currently a member of IDMN, the Independent Dance Managers Network and was a founder member of Equity's Freelance Dancers Network.

As a member of the ITC board, I will contribute my skills, experience, and values to advance the interests of the organisation and its membership body across the UK, ensuring a supported and thriving future for the sector.

Throughout my career I am committed to actively listening to diverse voices, translating their stories, and advocating for equality and equity in all aspects of arts engagement. Collaborating in partnership with other trustees, stakeholders and I seek to contribute to the vital work that ITC does across our sector.

I seek to champion for a more equitable, fair and sustainable industry, listening and responding to the needs of our membership. I feel it is the right time to take this opportunity to give my time & energy to an organisation that has supported my own development as a producer and ethical manager.

Nominated by Lizzy Luxford (Graeae) and Bakhtawar Niaz (Amina Khayyam Dance Company)

Ria Parry, North Wall (South East, England)

I would like to re-stand to be a member of the ITC board.

I am a producer and theatre director. I have been Director of The North Wall Arts Centre in Oxford for 6 years, leading on the financial and creative well-being of the organisation, overseeing a significant participation and artist development programme for young people, local community and early-career artists, as well as our public programme of events including music, dance, theatre, exhibitions and talks. Before The North Wall, I worked as a freelance artist for several years; I have experience of touring shows and developing new work - particularly new writing - and I also have experience of the complexities of working in a building, having spent time at Watford Palace as a producer and National Theatre Studio as a resident director, before coming to The North Wall.

I am aware that the exact support the team need over the next few years may change depending on the challenge, the climate, the unexpected event that none of us can for-see. As well as being a producer, maker and creative leader, I pride myself on being a facilitator - ready to adapt and think on my feet in response to whatever challenge comes our way - and to problem solve with the person in front of me, rather than in isolation.

I'm very aware of the historical and current complexity in the relations between independent artists, companies, venues and funders, and as a board member I'd love to delve in to how we collectively move forward in a positive, constructive way - with Charlotte and the ITC staff team, with the rest of the board, and with the ITC membership as a whole.

Nominated by Keisha Thompson (Independent) and George Mann (Ad Infinitum)

Voting will take place at the AGM on 7th March 2024. If you/your organisation are unable to attend the AGM and would still like to vote, please contact us for a voting form. Voting is only open to Full Members of ITC with one vote per member.