



International Theatre Institute
World Organization for the Performing Arts

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE INSTITUTE- GHANA CHAPTER MESSAGE FOR WORLD THEATRE DAY 2020

27th March, 2020

Globally, theatre practitioners and non-practitioners are celebrating the World Theatre Day at a time when we all need to come together to fight a pandemic. We, at the ITI-Ghana, want to assure all Ghanaians and citizens of the world that, in these times of crisis, we are here with you.

The global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic demands that we all adhere to the World Health Organization's guidelines for our utmost safety and the safety of those around us. We have been cautioned to practice social distancing, wash our hands regularly with soap under running water for, at least, 20 seconds, use alcohol-based sanitizers to disinfect your hands regularly, avoid touching your face with unclean hands, avoid shaking hands and crowded places and so on.

It is in times like this that the need to “touch” someone's heart and soul is definitely appropriate and welcome. That's what we as performers and members of the ITI-Ghana chapter do and will continue through all times. Now more than ever, we need to put our creative and imaginative prowess into practice. It falls on us to find new ways to use the theatrical art as a conduit to reach people regardless of how far or close they may be. It is our responsibility to come up with alternative ways to reach children, the aged, and the disabled, the sick and the healthy alike and the general populace in the quest to inform and educate everyone on the current state of affairs.

As artists and creators, this is the time for us to band together to inspire hope to the countless others around us who may be in despair. It is the time to use the arts to provide comfort and assurance to those around us who may be overwhelmed with the current crisis in which we find ourselves, especially the more vulnerable members of our society who may have no safety nets in place and the health workers who are in the frontlines of this adversity. It is essential to reiterate now more than ever through the power of imagination, creativity and practice that no matter how dark it may seem, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

We encourage everyone to do their best not to panic but rather spread calm, stay positive and lend a helping hand whenever you can and with caution. Do your best to adhere to the health guidelines. Please stay safe and healthy, use the power of imagination positively and stay home as much as you can.

Thank you and blessings.

Dr. Akosua Abdallah
(President, ITI Ghana)