

MEDIA RELEASE
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JUSTIN DEIMEN APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ITI



6 NOVEMBER 2024, SINGAPORE —

Intercultural Theatre Institute (ITI) announces the appointment of Executive Director Justin Deimen, a seasoned film & television producer and senior creative executive who has led major cross-cultural initiatives across the wider creative economy through his roles as the former Executive Director & Co-Founder of the Southeast Asian Audio-Visual Association (SAAVA), an ASEAN-focused creative producing trade organisation, and the Managing Partner of Aurora Media Holdings Inc, a cross-border media investment firm.

His new role at ITI succeeds General Manager Goh Su Lin, who has led strategic planning and overall management of the school since 2001 and will be retiring from arts management at the end of November 2024.

The Executive Director is responsible for the overall management of the school, working closely with ITI Co-Founder and Director T. Sasitharan to plan the long-term strategic direction together with the Board of Directors.

Of taking up the role, Justin says: “It is a profound highlight in my professional and personal journey to be able to join ITI and its leadership team in their next steps of growth and transformation - from being that shining beacon upon the hill as Singapore's most prestigious performing arts conservatory into a leading cultural

institution in the region creating sustainable impact and value creation across a wider ecosystem. Together with the Board, we aim to build a more resilient platform for international artists to hone their talent and tell culturally resonating stories across the world. The deepest of gratitude and respect must also be paid towards Su Lin, whose generosity of spirit and incredible acumen in leading ITI over the years has cemented her with an indelible legacy as one of Singapore's most important arts professionals, surely leaving behind tough boots to fill."

ITI Head of Acting Koh Wan Ching says: "I am excited to welcome Justin to the Intercultural Theatre Institute—an environment that is intercultural, multilingual and challenging in many ways. With renewed leadership at the school, we maintain our commitment to intercultural and humanistic approaches to theatre-making while staying dynamic and adaptable. I hope that together we can forge meaningful exchanges between ITI and local as well as regional partners."

Chairman of the Board of Directors Andrew Nai says: "On behalf of ITI's Board of Directors, we welcome Justin to ITI, and look forward to his contribution to this unique endeavour that is putting Singapore at the forefront of theatre training and intercultural work. The Board would also like to thank Su Lin for 24 years of exemplary service and leadership of ITI. We wish her all the best for the future."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Justin Deimen joins ITI from a storied career as a journalist, film critic, media strategist, screenwriter, producer and film financier at companies including ONE Championship, Hyde Park Imagenation, VH1, Fox Searchlight, The Village Voice, and the International Film Festival Rotterdam. He is also a thought leader at local and regional media and arts conferences, sharing insights on intellectual property, talent development and commercialisation, with a specialised focus on the intersection of art and technology, and the future of creative leadership and sustainable producing practices.

He collaborates with government bodies and organisations around the world towards investing in capability upscaling for creative professionals and social entrepreneurs, as well as with prominent local arts organisations including the Singapore Film Society and the National Arts Council in exporting the best of Singaporean talent and stories to the rest of the world.

Justin has been a pioneering figure in the financing and producing of international films and television from Singapore, where he produced films toplined by Geoffrey Rush, Sofia Vergara, Irrfan Khan, Reza Rahadian, Golshifteh Farahani, Bea Alonzo, and Nicolas Cage. Through his work in bringing together co-productions with multicultural teams and stakeholders, Justin bridges the corporate and independent creative worlds, forging impactful partnerships across the creative and content ecosystem.

APPENDIX A



Traditional Japanese Noh Theatre presentation by ITI students

ABOUT ITI

ITI began as the Theatre Training & Research Programme (TTRP), founded in 2000 by renowned dramatist **Kuo Pao Kun** (1939–2002) and current Director **T. Sasitharan**. ITI was inspired by the unique experience of contemporary theatre in Singapore over four decades prior to its inception and, in particular, by Kuo Pao Kun's artistic vision and multicultural practice. ITI's teaching methodology draws from a matrix of traditional theatre systems and conceptions of theatre-making from different cultures, with a view to producing critically and socially engaged artists who make original, contemporary theatre.

In 2023, veteran Singaporean theatre practitioner **Koh Wan Ching** was appointed Head of Acting at ITI. In the span of a year, Wan Ching has implemented new initiatives such as launching the first Residency at ITI and facilitating theatre training workshops in Taiwan, Malaysia, and the Philippines to expand ITI's profile regionally.

ITI's distinguished alumni include **Yeo Yann Yann**, winner of two Golden Horse Awards for her performances in *Wet Season* and *Ilo Ilo*, International Emmy Award nominee for her role in *Invisible Stories*, and current lead actor in *American Born Chinese* on Disney+; **Grace Kalaiselvi**, theatre actor, director, educator, translator and writer, founder of Brown Voices: a playwriting collective through which she makes work that expands representation of minorities in Singapore; **Caroline Chin**, Singaporean artist and full-time company dancer at Chowk, a unique dance company that asserts the contemporaneity of Asian traditional dance forms through living embodiment in training, community-building, and performance.

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ITI: Upcoming Events

7–9 November

Metamorphosis by Steven Berkoff, adapted from Franz Kafka
Performed by the ITI graduating cohort of 2024

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