

**FIRST REVOLVING LOAN FUND FOR ACTOR STUDENTS –  
THE MÖBIUS FUND – HAS RAISED \$500,000 BY  
OFFICIAL LAUNCH DATE**

INTERCULTURAL THEATRE INSTITUTE



**MÖBIUS FUND**

THE FIRST STUDENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND FOR ACTOR TRAINING



With support from:



Official Photographer and Videographer:



Intercultural Theatre Institute Ltd  
Emily Hill, 11 Upper Wilkie Road  
Singapore 228120

T +65 6338 5133  
admin@iti.edu.sg  
www.iti.edu.sg

**Co-Founders**

Kuo Pao Kun (1939 – 2002)  
T. Sasitharan

**Board of Directors**

Arun Mahizhnan (Chairman)  
Kwok Kian Woon  
Chew Kheng Chuan  
Tan Tarn How  
Abel T. van Staveren

**24 August 2017, Singapore** – Intercultural Theatre Institute (ITI) officially launched the Möbius Fund earlier this week, on 21 August 2017, at Suntec Singapore.

The first such revolving loan fund for actor students, the official launch saw the lead donors of the Möbius Fund, ITI Angels, alumni, other supporters of ITI and representatives from the National Arts Council and the MCCY's Cultural Matching Fund (CMF) secretariat present at the event officiated at 'The Big Picture' (HD Screen) at Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

**Dedicated to Performing Arts Training**

The Möbius Fund is a dedicated, financial assistance fund made available to ITI's actor students. It attracts zero interest until a year after graduation and repayments by graduates will be channelled back to it, to enable the fund pool to continue benefitting subsequent cohorts.

It was created in response to the challenges in supporting performing arts training.

General Manager of ITI, Ms Goh Su Lin, shares of the reasons for the fund, “Today is a very thrilling day for us, to officially launch the Möbius Fund, which is a [financial] resource for students to afford to complete their training, and the high living expenses here in Singapore, so that they can go on to make theatre that is relevant to their communities.”

Mr Leonardo Drago, one of the lead donors and also a consulting party to the set-up of the fund said at the launch, “In creating this fund, my assumption was not just that you [students] are all going to give it back for future students, but that when you are really successful, you are going to donate a lot more to it, for all the future students to come, after you.”

The other lead donors to the Möbius Fund are Mr Pierre Lorinet, Mr Benson Puah and BinjaiTree. Alumni and other donors have also contributed to the fund.

### **Next Stage Growth**

The fund has an initial capitalisation of \$500,000 with these lead donors’ kickstart and matching by the CMF programme. The next phase of the fund seeks to raise a further \$300,000. ITI intends to enlist and inspire the public, companies and other artists to support artists and talent in Singapore through campaigns and approaches that will be implemented in the coming months.

Mr Drago added, “You don’t need to be extremely wealthy to contribute to things like this [the Fund] and especially for a cause like ITI which promotes interculturalism. We should all be more understanding of the diverse cultures we have, especially in a place a like Singapore ... I am very honoured to be part of this.”

ITI Year 1 student and a beneficiary of the fund, Wendy Zhuo, said of her plans, “I do consider the pressure to pay back upon graduation, but it is something that I personally would want to ensure, because I want others to be able to experience the training I have gone through.”

Public donations to the Möbius Fund can be made securely online through these sites:

- Giving.Sg: [www.giving.sg/intercultural-theatre-institute-ltd/mobius\\_fund](http://www.giving.sg/intercultural-theatre-institute-ltd/mobius_fund)
- Give.Asia: [give.asia/story/mobius\\_fund](http://give.asia/story/mobius_fund)
- Ammodo: [www.ammodo.com/community/mobiusfund](http://www.ammodo.com/community/mobiusfund)

Companies subscribed to Benevity (a workplace giving platform used by major MNCs such as Apple, Google and Microsoft) can donate via:

- Benevity: [causes.benevity.org/causes/702-200818680E/project/3CB2CYJZ5H](http://causes.benevity.org/causes/702-200818680E/project/3CB2CYJZ5H)

As an approved Institution of Public Character (IPC), donations to ITI are also eligible for 250% tax exemption; and dollar-for-dollar matching by the Singapore government’s Cultural Matching Fund.

Photos of the official launch can be viewed or downloaded at this link: <http://bit.ly/2vdJLDZ>.

Video highlights of the event can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/Dg5a3cwukVI>

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**For media queries and interview opportunities, contact:**

Lisa Marie Tan

T: +(65) 6338 5133

M: +(65) 9790 8400

E: [lisa@iti.edu.sg](mailto:lisa@iti.edu.sg)

Chionh Weiyi

T: +(65) 6338 5133

M: +(65) 9816 5291

E: [weiyi@iti.edu.sg](mailto:weiyi@iti.edu.sg)

**About Intercultural Theatre Institute**

ITI offers a peak-level theatre training programme that has attracted international recognition of the highest order – from well-known artists, respected educators to master teachers in the performing arts.

ITI's three-year (full-time) Professional Diploma in Intercultural Theatre (Acting) programme is based on Kuo Pao Kun's vision of intercultural actor training using 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.

The industry's most illustrious names such as Prof Richard Shechner (Tisch School of the Arts, New York University), Prof Anuradha Kapur (former Director, National School of Drama, India), John Clark (former Director, National Institute of Dramatic Art, Australia), Kutiyattam master Gopalan Nair Venu and Noh master performer Yoshimasa Kanze have taught at and endorsed ITI.

On ITI's academic and examination boards are renowned names such as Prof Phillip Zarrilli (Artistic Director, The Llanarth Group; Research Fellow, IRC, Freie Universitat, Berlin; Professor Emeritus, Drama Department, University of Exeter, UK) and Mr Aarne Neeme AM (Director; Teacher; Awardee of Order of Australia).