



Dear Parents,

RE: ‘The Academy’: ISTA’s new summer theatre programme in the South of France.

Building on our 30+ years of experience in international theatre education for young people, we are delighted to introduce **The Academy** onto the ISTA calendar. This two week or month long programme builds on the strong traditions of the Encore! summer theatre programme, combined with the current outstanding concepts of good practice that lie at the heart of ISTA. The programme is open to all students age 15 – 19yrs.

The two individual two-week programmes are:

Act 1- “Without Walls”

Young people will devise an original piece of street theatre focusing on physical theatre that will culminate in a public performance at the Avignon Festival.

Act 2 – “Words Re-told”

Young people will devise an original piece of theatre focusing on storytelling, character and music culminating in a performance at our host venue as well as Le Théâtre d’Antibes.

With the option of taking the **Act 1** or **Act 2** or taking both Acts as a month long programme.

The programme offers students training of the highest international quality in a variety of theatre disciplines from mask to puppets, physical theatre to choreography, performance skills to storytelling, as well as many others. It also offers each individual rigorous training in voice, movement and writing. There will also be a sense of journey through trust, collaboration, ensemble building and mutual respect with a foundation of discipline and rigour. Students who join ‘The Academy’ will learn the craft of theatre through the role of ‘young theatre makers’. They will have the opportunity to devise and engage with a specific starting point and look at the many ways of developing this through brainstorming, rehearsing, exploring, playing, reflecting and performing.

The Academy allows our young theatre makers to engage with the place, in this case, our home for the programme, Valbonne. There will be cultural excursions to The Matisse Museum, the Maeght Foundation, village Festivals, the Avignon Theatre Festival, the beach, a Gourdon Mountain walk and a trip to St Pauls. Imagine taking part in theatre exercises on a beach, up a mountain or at an internationally recognized Theatre Festival!

One of the ways ISTA stands out from the crowd is the opportunity, afforded to all young people who join us, to work with an outstanding team of international artists. All leaders in

their field, and each bringing their own unique talents and skills from every branch of international theatre education. All committed to collaborate, lead and inspire.

Parents have been telling us for 30 years about the impact our events have on their children. Due to the outstanding artistic model, the intense nature of the experience, the collaboration with young people from around the globe, not to mention the great care and attention that goes into any event we produce.

Education in the 21st century seeks to develop young people as independent enquirers, creative thinkers, reflective learners, team workers, self-managers and effective participants. Young people who can be creative thinkers, risk takers and problem solvers; and who have a strong grounding in cultural literacy will undoubtedly do better in today's world. The Academy provides the ideal forum to develop such skills, through the medium of theatre.

As we all get older we remember vividly the educational experiences that helped shape us into who we are today. As parents what greater gift could we give to our children, than an opportunity like this.

If your son/daughter is:

- a mover and shaker in the theatre world
- keen to make new friends, laugh, have fun
- looking for a programme that will challenge them
- searching for a high quality summer theatre programme
- aspiring to grow as a young adult in the 21st century
- wanting to strengthen their experiences as a high school theatre student
- wishing to add something special to their resume
- hoping to embark on the journey of a lifetime...

Please do get in touch with us for more information or visit our website where you will find a comprehensive information booklet.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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