

APAM – WIRE #3 | Summary

ISPA Congress NY 14 –16 Jan 2020

Wednesday 11 December 2019 12:00pm

Collette Brennan (CEO, Abbotsford Convent, ISPA Congress Committee) in conversation with Viv Rosman (Executive Director, Polyglot) and Ben Graetz (Independent Artist)

ISPA and Congress

- ISPA is 75 years old as an organization with the mission to build a global network for global arts professionals to connect
- It is network development driven not market driven
- Entry points into ISPA Congress are via the Fellowship program which has been the pathway for both Viv and Ben or to simply attend
- Each year there is a regional ISPA outside of NY. In 2020 the Regional ISPA is in Taipei
- Australia Council support the ISPA Fellowship Program and fellows attend for three years running to embed international connections.
- Most people who engage with ISPA Congress are not on a Fellowship
- With ISPA you should commit for the long term
- There is representation from 185 countries
- There is a growing sense of an independent arts community within ISPA which is a shift from a more organisationally focused Congress in the past
- ISPA is not about pitching your work – more about meeting talking and sharing ideas
- Business happens on the sidelines
- Viv described her ISPA experience as an opportunity for her own professional development alongside Polyglot work
- The theme for this year's Congress is *Crossing Borders* – the literal, metaphorical, emotional and psychological
- Meeting the sector from artists, presenters and producers from across the globe is inspiring
- Also made aware of how hard it can be for artists around the globe making work. Particularly barriers of money, safety and mobility.
- It's difficult on the ground at the moment in the US. NY Producer Thomas Kreigsmann is running some programs for US sector to highlight and workshop issues
- Australian artists should be sensitive to this and the global context as there is privileged place from which we are operating in with the Australian sector

Navigating NY in Jan

- There are a number of performance events and festivals you can experience in January in New York including Under the Radar, Performance Space, Prototype, Global Fest and dance at The Joyce.
- ISPA in Midtown and most performance are down town in the East Village/Lower East Side
- IPAY also happens from 21 –25 January in Philadelphia

- The late meeting point for in and around ISPA is the Library Bar in Midtown

Who's there from Australia

- Connect with Collette if you want to stay in the loop around things on the ground, contact the APAM Office for details
- Good Australian network who are connected and there to help
- Yaron Lifschitz (Circa) and Jacob Boheme (Independent) presenting as a part of the Congress
- Circa are pitching Leviathan in the "Pitch New Works" session
- The pitch day is really valuable with the quality being very high, there are a number of great techniques on how to do it. There are day passes for ISPA including this day
- Viv pitched a few years ago so happy to share tips
- SJ Norman co-curating Knowledge of Wounds presented at Performance Space <https://performancespacenewyork.org/shows/knowledge-of-wounds/>

General tips and highlights from Ben, Viv and Collette

- Go with that in mind and open to meeting people
- Don't focus on presentation outcomes
- Don't be intimidated – absorb the things which inspire you
- The First Nations dialogue and what goes on internationally is a strong theme with empowering discussions
- Highlight from 2019 – new ideas session – design thinking – pitch global ideas that can have a global impact on and for the performing arts.
- For independent artists seeing where and how you can fit in is exciting
- The panels are well curated, very considered and the global perspective allows for great diversity.
- Long Table sessions are great as a more intimate space where you know your voice can be heard.
- Choose what you want to do and do it well

Further information

Global Fest <https://globalfest.org/>

ISPA <https://www.ispa.org/>

IPAY – International Association of Performing Arts for Youth <https://ipayweb.org/>

The Joyce <https://www.joyce.org/american-dance-platform-0>

National Sawdust <https://nationalsawdust.org/festivals-and-series/ferus/>

NY in Jan <https://www.janartsnyc.org/>

Performance Space <https://performancespacenewyork.org/shows/knowledge-of-wounds/>

Prototype Festival <http://prototypefestival.org/>

Under the Radar @ Public Theater <https://publictheater.org/programs/under-the-radar/under-the-radar/>

UTR Symposium: The **Under the Radar Professional Symposium** is an event, featuring a chance to see full productions of festival shows as well as keynote speakers and featured artist speakers. Attendance at the Symposium is strictly limited to presenting and producing professionals in the field. For more information on the UTR Symposium, please email: utrsymposium@publictheater.org