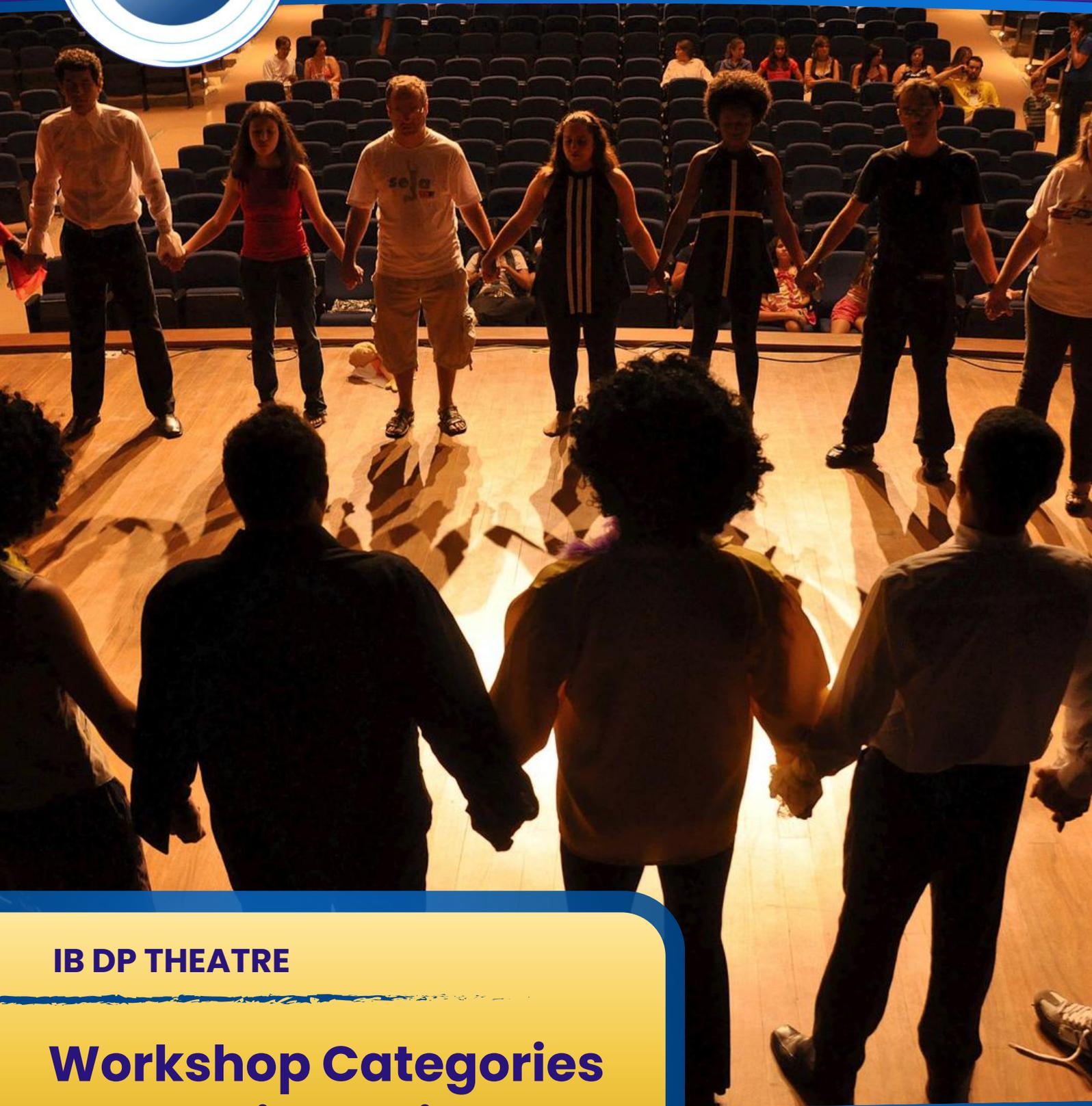




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Global Learning
Through the Arts



IB DP THEATRE

Workshop Categories & Selection Guide

 www.istaglobal.org



How does ISTA work with the IB?

Since 2006 ISTA has been the global provider for DP Theatre workshops in all regions – delivering Category 1, 2 and 3 DP Theatre workshops.

Our IB DP Theatre workshops constitute formal IB training. All teachers who have successfully completed the workshop are provided with an IB/ISTA certificate to endorse the appropriate level of training.

Our workshops are open to ALL teachers of IB DP Theatre and are NOT exclusive to ISTA members.



Who are ISTA's workshop leaders?

ISTA works with approved and IB trained workshop leaders and in accordance with IB guidelines. All our workshop leaders are either:

- experienced and highly skilled IB DP Theatre educators;
- or IB DP Theatre examiners;
- or have been involved in IB DP Theatre curriculum development.

They are experienced in teaching methodologies, IB pedagogy and in the field of teacher training.

Category 1

The Cat 1 DP Theatre workshop is designed to prepare participants to teach DP theatre in a manner that supports the IB mission statement and philosophy.

This workshop is recommended for teachers of IB DP Theatre from schools that are applying to offer the Diploma programme, or new/ recently appointed Theatre teachers from IB World Schools. They also provide professional development and assistance for educators in schools that have decided to or are considering, applying for IB authorisation. Educators who are new to a school with an existing IB programme or are interested in joining an IB school are also eligible. No previous knowledge is required.

Participants will practically examine IB Diploma Theatre and will focus on:

- developing an understanding of the IB mission and philosophy through the DP programme model as a context for a holistic learning experience
- exploring the theatre guide, the syllabus and associated internal and external assessment requirements with practice marking of relevant samples of student work
- helping teachers to develop a theatre course that integrates authentic assessment and prepares students for the assessment tasks

Recommended for:

DP theatre teachers new to the DP at established IB World Schools, teachers new to DP theatre and theatre teachers from interested or candidate schools preparing for authorization.

Choose Category 1 if you are new to the IB, are in a school applying to be an IB World School or if your situation is similar to any of the following...

I am new to the faculty of a longstanding IB World School and have not taught the IB DP theatre programme previously.

I am aware of the IB philosophy and programme structure but am not experienced in teaching or administering the IB.

I am familiar with the IB subject guide (including assessment procedures, moderation) and would like some guidelines on teaching and learning to build greater confidence before teaching a course.

I have inherited a course and would like to review the subject content before teaching it to suit my own style and expertise.

Category 2

This workshop is designed to provide a forum for experienced DP theatre teachers to focus on ways to develop programme delivery, assessment, teaching and learning.

This workshop is for experienced Theatre teachers from IB World Schools. Teachers must have either attended a previous Category 1 workshop in Theatre OR have been teaching DP Theatre for a number of years. The overall purpose of workshops in this category is to provide a forum for experienced IB educators to focus on assessment and programme delivery.

The workshop will address key areas regarding teaching and learning with a focus on assessment tasks, corresponding criteria and how to best prepare students for these tasks. Authentic student samples will be used to help teachers understand how the criteria is applied.

Participants will practically examine the assessment tasks and collaboratively generate useful resources and develop appropriate activities to help students with assessment in a manner that supports the IB mission statement, the learner profile and other core areas of the Diploma programme.

Recommended for:

Diploma Programme (DP) Theatre teachers who have prepared students for at least one DP exam session in Theatre.

Who can take a Category 2 workshop?



You have attended a
Category 1 Theatre
workshop previously.

OR



You have been teaching the
DP Theatre course for more
than one year.

Choose Category 2 workshops to develop your expertise in delivering an IB programme. You will have an opportunity to:

*enhance your
understanding of
assessment in IB
programmes.*

*make connections between
programme frameworks,
classroom practice and
assessment.*

*share good practice
and approaches to
assessment.*

Category 1 & 2 combined

Occasionally, we offer a combined Category 1 & 2 IB DP Theatre workshop, creating a dynamic learning environment where teachers at different stages of experience can learn alongside one another while maintaining high-quality, meaningful IB professional development.

This workshop is designed for teachers who are new to the course, as well as those who would benefit from revisiting core foundations while strengthening confidence in assessment and delivery. The content is carefully structured to address both Category 1 and Category 2 learning outcomes, ensuring participants' individual training needs are met.

The programme focuses on key aspects of theatre teaching and learning, with particular emphasis on assessment tasks, criteria, and effective student preparation. Authentic student work is used to support a clear understanding of how the criteria are applied in practice.

When registering, participants select either Category 1 or Category 2. This allows the workshop leader to differentiate appropriately, ensuring suitable depth, challenge, and balance for both newer and more experienced teachers throughout.

Recommended for:

DP Theatre teachers new to IB DP Theatre, and experienced teachers seeking to consolidate and extend their practice.

Who can take a combined Cat 1 and 2 workshop?



*You have attended a
Category 1 Theatre
workshop previously.*

OR



*You are new to IB Theatre
or are looking to teach the
IB Theatre course for the
first time.*

You will register for either Category 1 or 2 when you book and receive certification in that category

*enhance your
understanding of
assessment in IB
programmes.*

*make connections between
programme frameworks,
classroom practice and
assessment.*

*share good practice
and approaches to
assessment.*

Category 3

The Cat 3 workshop is designed to provide a forum for experienced educators to build on and enhance their professional development portfolios.

Participants will engage in an in-depth investigation into particular syllabus areas. Choose Cat 3 to dive more deeply into areas you enjoy and to deepen your understanding and mastery of an area or subject.

Please note

- Category 3 workshops are open to all teachers.
- You **do not** need to have attended Category 1 or Category 2 to attend a Category 3.
- You **do not** need to be an IB teacher to attend a Category 3 workshop.
- ISTA rotates the different Category 3 offerings each year, in each region.

ISTA currently offers three types of Category 3 workshops:

Staging play texts: Exploring the balance between theory and practice in staging play texts, participants in this workshop deepen their skills in the areas of directing and design. The workshop provides tools to help guide students in bringing scripts to life and with crafting imaginative and effective production proposals for assessment.

Collaboratively creating original theatre: Participants engage in activities to deepen their understanding of the collaborative devising process. Through hands-on activities, they explore innovative approaches to creation, from initial concept to performance. Participants leave equipped with strategies to lead assessment-ready collaborative work.

Performing theatre theory: Participants explore the role of theory in theatre and explore practical approaches to engaging with the work of key theatre theorists through the use of performance and production elements. Participants gain tools to help make theory accessible and engaging, enriching student understanding and creative expression.

Category 3 workshops are for you if your situation is similar to any of the following...

I have been teaching the DP Theatre course for years and am very comfortable delivering the core components, designing the course, and working with the assessment criteria.

I do not currently need any PD on delivering the course itself.

I would love an "injection" of new ideas to make me a stronger Theatre educator and better practitioner.



Global Learning
Through the Arts



We are ISTA

We connect, create, and inspire through the transformative power of the arts.

Founded in 1978, we are a UK-based charity dedicated to empowering young people and those who guide them through exceptional learning experiences in the arts. Working with educators and artists around the world, we challenge students to embrace diverse perspectives, ignite their creativity, and reimagine their place in the world.

At the heart of our work is the ISTA Ensemble Method — a collaborative approach to learning and community building that places young people at the centre. Through story-based inquiry, we seek to deepen understanding, spark dialogue, and inspire change.

We build vibrant communities of learning, partnering with over 240 member schools across the globe. Our bold, non-competitive approach fosters creativity, collaboration, and global connection — preparing young people to thrive in an ever-changing world.

We are the heartbeat of a global movement. At ISTA, the arts are more than expression — they are a catalyst for curiosity, growth, and transformation.

Through dynamic events, specialised training, and innovative resources, we cultivate spaces where imagination flourishes, collaboration is celebrated, and young voices are empowered to lead.



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