

PRESS RELEASE

WED 20 NOV 2019

CONVERSATION: THE LONG TABLE

PART OF THE WORKSHOP SERIES *DRAMATIC EPISODES*



**GOETHE
INSTITUT**

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.

***The Long Table* is a dinner party where conversation is the only course: Cultural practitioners will gather with some of the world's leading theatre directors to discuss the future role of theatre. Theatres and festivals have traditionally aimed to bridge gaps in society and facilitate conversation. But in the current political climate, the sector is facing a completely new set of challenges – worldwide.**

Participants include internationally leading artistic directors and programmers such as Kris Nelson (LIFT, London), Delia Barker (Roundhouse, London), Annemie Vanackere (HAU, Berlin), Antonio Araujo (MITsp, Sao Paulo), Tang Fu Kuen (Taipei Arts Festival, Taipei), Satu Herrala (Baltic Circle, Helsinki) amongst others.

Using the open source format of *The Long Table* created by Lois Weaver, this frank discussion gives everyone a platform to raise their voice. Topics will range from climate change to representation, aesthetic trends to political upheaval. This public event is presented by the Goethe-Institut London, LIFT and Cambridge Junction as part of *Dramatic Episodes*, a leadership programme for senior arts leaders from around the world.

Dramatic Episodes is a three-year long workshop series focussing on the future role of theatre in civil society. Against the backdrop of current global politics, how can theatres and festivals continue to engage with the public? How can the sector protect the arts as a safe place for exploration and understanding? Together with LIFT, the Goethe-Institut London has invited twelve international theatre and festival directors to share expertise and establish practices that will enable change. The first workshop will take place in London and Cambridge, 19-22 November 2019, with subsequent sessions taking place in 2020 and 2021.

The **Goethe-Institut** is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach. We promote knowledge of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange. Our cultural programme brings a worldwide perspective to contemporary discourse in arts and society. We work in close collaboration with institutions, initiatives and cultural practitioners on interdisciplinary projects and throughout all art forms.

LIFT travels the world to bring global stories to London presenting spectacular work in hidden spaces and with major venues across the city. At the forefront of ground-breaking international theatre since 1981, LIFT supports exhilarating and politically urgent performances that disrupt convention, unite strangers and celebrates humanity.

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→ **5:30 PM**

Cambridge Junction Clifton Way, CB1 7GX Cambridge

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