



*ISTA*

---

Why should  
parents send their  
children to an  
ISTA festival?

Just ask the  
thousands  
who have been  
before...

*“One of the highlights of my life so far.”*



---

ISTA has been organising international, educational theatre events for over 35 years and has seen tens of thousands of young people come back time and time again. All saying they had the most memorable few days of their life. Many of them, now adults, are still in contact with us and tell us what a huge impact it had on them as children. Put quite simply – we know what we are doing and we do it very, very well.

*“It doesn’t get much better than this.”*

Every single young person that attends an ISTA festival will have grown, matured and will undoubtedly leave more confident and feeling extremely proud of a new found ability to stand up in public and face any fears they may once have had. They will also have learned a great many theatre skills and know what it is like to take risks and be rewarded for it.

*“An ISTA festival is the only place to learn about other cultures and have the best fun ever while making theatre”*

---

**ISTA is an organisation filled with top educational experts and amazing teachers.** So not only will our young people be working with globally renowned theatre practitioners, they will also be learning a great deal. Every ISTA festival follows a clearly laid down model, designed to get the most out of every participant. With Primary, Middle and High school festivals all having their own carefully thought out and heavily researched pedagogy.



**Having said that it will still be the most fun any young person attending an ISTA event has had so far in their lives.** How do we know? Because they keep on telling us and coming back for more.

*“It was wonderful, eye opening, and life changing.”*

*“Would I go to another Festival? Yes please, with sugar on top.”*

---

*As well as educational experts, ISTA has a pool of top theatre artists from all over the globe and every event will see a carefully chosen team of professional practitioners flown in to teach our young people a huge range of skills.*

**Skills honed by working at the very top of their game in professional theatres as actors, directors, designers, stage managers, choreographers, fight directors...** the list goes on and continues to expand with every passing year as more and more amazing artists hear about the work we are doing.



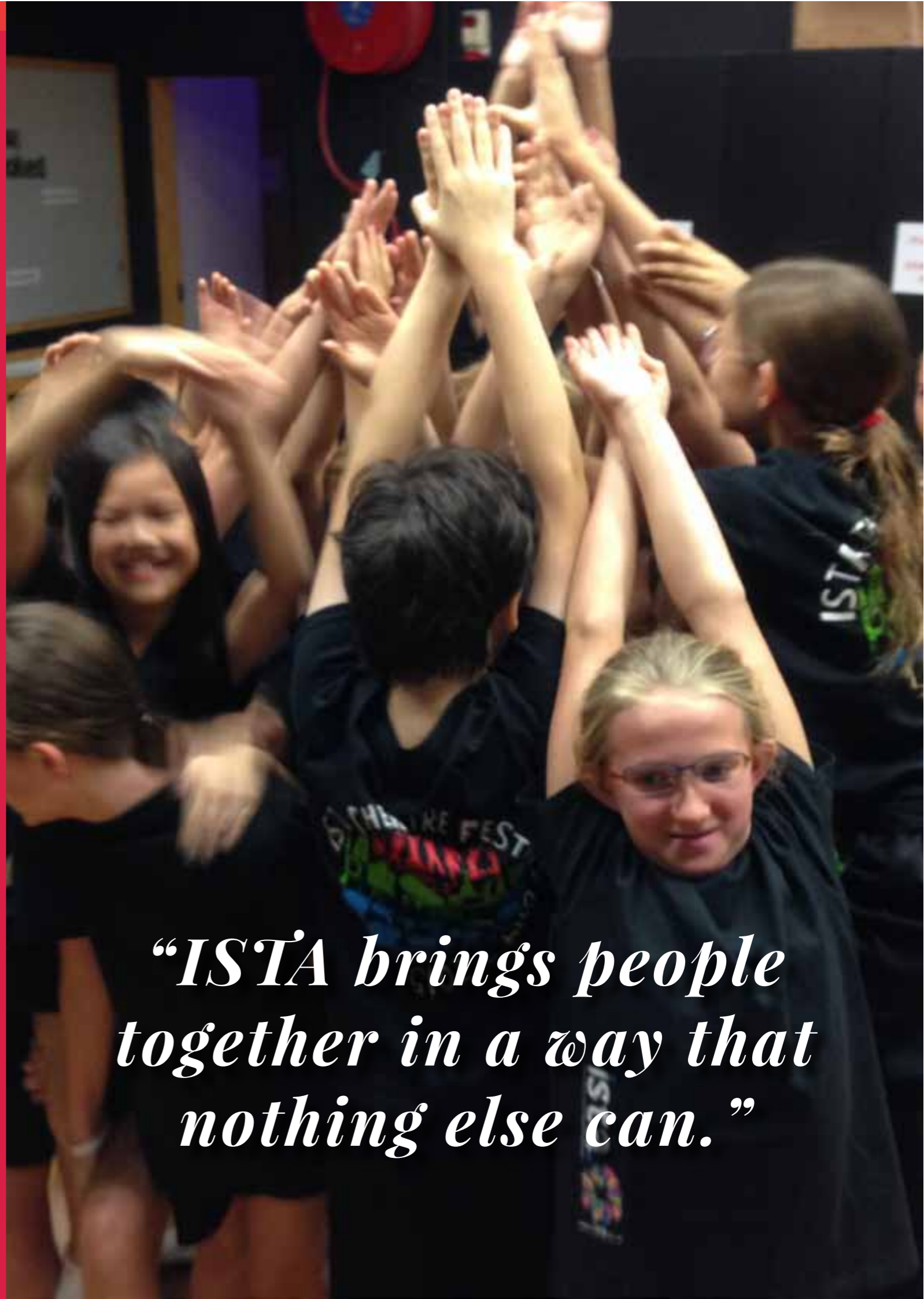
---

*Since day one ISTA has operated on a very clear policy. That there should be no lead role at an ISTA event.*



That every young person should have equal weight in both performance and the devising process and that they should work together in ensembles. The term having been wisely chosen at the first festival and the same one we still use after 35 years. These ensembles to be made up of a group of young people who have never met before and have to learn to work together quickly. Understanding that while there may be natural leaders and followers, everyone has something of value to contribute. Learning to nurture and encourage those who may not want to be at the forefront. Understanding how to have ideas and then how to articulate them. Knowing how to listen to others. And finally performing together, aware that their strength lies in working as an ensemble and not simply as a group of individuals.

*“ISTA brings people together in a way that nothing else can.”*



---

ISTA is a not for profit organisation and registered charity. Every penny made goes back into our work. It is an organisation born out of a love of theatre, education and young people. Many of our artists have been with us for a long, long time and they keep coming back because they love it so much. Many of our member schools have been with us since the beginning and teachers re-join as members time and time again with every school they work in. We are internationally recognised and respected. We are the global provider for International Baccalaureate DP Theatre. That means that every IB theatre teacher in the world will have been trained by ISTA.

*“ISTA was the trip of a lifetime.”*

ISTA is second to none, there is no one out there like us and we are so proud of what we do. Our goal is that every ISTA festival be better than the last. That every ISTA festival should be one of the highlights of every single one of our young people’s formative years. And that they remember it forever. Luckily we know they do because they keep telling us so.

*“Putting students and teachers and professionals together who are all passionate about theatre – it’s no wonder the magic happens.”*



A group of young people, likely students, are gathered on a stage. They are all raising their hands in a celebratory gesture, with some having their arms fully extended. The scene is lit with warm stage lights, and the background is dark. The overall atmosphere is one of joy and achievement.

# *This is our mission statement:*

---

**ISTA believes that the future of our world depends on confident, internationally minded, collaborative and culturally literate young people who are empowered to engage with and change the world responsibly.** We believe that this is achieved through the ISTA experience.

**Educators play a key role in the fulfillment of our mission.** We therefore offer educators worldwide the opportunity to come together to develop themselves, their pedagogy and their skills, equipping and empowering them to bring about this change through theatre.

**ISTA brings together young people, artists and teachers from different countries in different settings to experience, create and learn about theatre.** We passionately value diversity and collaboration, celebration and play, friendship and collegiality.

*“ISTA, quite simply put, is amazing, in its scope, in its aims and in its content.*

*It deserves to be the world’s worst kept secret!”*





For more information please visit  
[www.ista.co.uk](http://www.ista.co.uk)

or contact Ian Pike  
[ian@ista.co.uk](mailto:ian@ista.co.uk)

*“Putting students and teachers  
and professionals together who  
are all passionate about theatre  
– it’s no wonder the magic  
happens.”*