

The Sustaining Theatre and Dance (STAND) Foundation

NOTING

1. The devastating impact of COVID-19 on the theatre and dance sector and on the physical, psychological and emotional wellness of those who make their livelihoods within this sector
2. The closure of theatres, cancellation of festivals and restrictions on international travel that have curtailed opportunities
3. The financial tolls that the COVID-19 lockdowns have taken in the loss of income
4. The findings of our research into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the behaviour and attitudes of audiences, many of whom fall within the most vulnerable categories, so that they are understandably fearful about returning to theatre
5. The loss of numerous practitioners and fellow crew to other industries and to death
6. That some workers within theatre and dance, the arts and culture sector and society generally are un-vaccinated and are reluctant to be vaccinated because of a lack of information, or the ready availability of information that contradicts the prevailing science or for some principled, cultural or religious reason

FURTHER NOTING

1. That the overwhelming majority of scientists and credible scientific institutions such as the World Health Organisation, the African Centre for Disease Control and South Africa's National Institute for Communicable Diseases have all strongly urged that people be vaccinated against the coronavirus and all of these have approved the vaccinations currently being administered by South African health authorities

BELIEVING

1. That the theatre and dance sector needs to be re-opened safely and sustainably (i.e. with adequate audience numbers) to recover and restore the livelihoods of its workers
2. That in doing so, there is little alternative but to be guided by science and the guidance of experts with regard to the efficacy of vaccinations
3. That audiences should feel safe in order for them to return to theatres and festivals to support our work
4. That those who work in the dance and theatre and are vaccinated have a right to know whether their fellow workers are vaccinated or not
5. That it is the responsibility of those who provide work within the sector to ensure safe working conditions for those they contract

FURTHER BELIEVING

1. That everyone has the right to make decisions for her/himself about whether to be vaccinated or not but
2. That the collective good of the broader dance and theatre sector and of society as a whole supercedes the choices made by individuals in terms of their rights

THEREFORE RESOLVE

1. To position the Sustaining Theatre and Dance (STAND) Foundation as a pro-vaccination organisation
2. Actively to advocate for pro-vaccination efforts, campaigns, mandates, policies and guidelines within the theatre and dance sector.
3. Actively to advocate for theatres to be open to ensure sustainable theatre productions and that all additional COVID-19 protocols e.g. masks, social distancing and sanitising are in place.
4. That participants (both workers and audiences) in events (particularly indoor events) hosted by STAND Foundation will be required to provide proof of full vaccination
5. That those in our sector who choose not to be vaccinated continue to be supported in ways that respect their decisions but do not compromise the safety and health of the broader sector and its audiences e.g. by making available opportunities through technology, proof of negative COVID-19 tests within 48 hours of the event, etc.
6. To undertake and/or support information campaigns about COVID-19 within the sector.
7. To advocate for the use of creative skills – theatre and dance in particular - to inform society more broadly about COVID-19 and about vaccinations.