

The National Theater & Concert Hall, Taipei

Pandemic Control Measures

[abide by the guidance of Taiwan CDC - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention]

I. Immediate Measures

Visitors

1. Temperature check is required before entering the venue. If an audience's forehead temperature is measured above 37.5°C, admittance would be declined.
2. Hands must be disinfected before entering the venue. Hand sanitizer spray is available.
3. Wearing face mask is required when entering the venue and throughout performances. Visitors must bring their own masks as Taiwan government has provided sufficient surgical masks to the public through rationing system.
4. Ticket holders are required to complete mandatory information (name, telephone number, address, ID number, travel history of past 14 days) before entering the auditorium, and to follow the assigned seating. Space is allocated between the audiences, e.g. [seat allocation of National Theater](#).
5. Rental programs can still proceed when complying with regulations: indoor event cannot exceed 100 people; audience must keep 1.5 meter distance from others. Outdoor event cannot exceed 500 people; audience must keep 1 meter distance from others.

While NTCH, including other national theaters governed by Ministry of Culture, follows stricter regulations and stop presenting programs.

Staff and Environment

1. Temperature check and hand disinfection are required before entering the venue. 2. Wearing face mask is required at all times. Each staff was given a cloth mask cover to prolong the effectiveness of surgical mask.
3. All staff are divided in two groups. Split operation (half of the staff work from home in a weekly basis) can take place right away when necessary.
4. NTCH has increased the disinfection frequency of highly used areas, including elevators, stair handrails, restrooms, ticketing counters, and auditoriums.
5. A sterilizing chamber for face masks was set up.
6. External meetings are conducted online whenever possible.
7. People enter NTCH for meeting must wear masks and provide their travel history.

Cancelled Performance: Relief Measures

1. NTCH programs: reschedule to 2nd half of 2020 or 2021. Companies can still rehearse in studio or try out on stage free of charge on the original dates.
2. Rental programs: rental fee is fully refunded. Companies can still rehearse in studio or try out on

stage free of charge on the original dates. 50% rental discount when performances go on as planned or broadcasting live online.

Theater Practitioner: Relief Measures

1. Temporary staff: arranging new task for tech crew - [making cloth mask cover](#).
2. Front-of-house part-time staff/tech crew: checking temperature for public.
3. Providing project-based staff and contractors with document for applying relief fund from Ministry of Culture.
4. Work with ticketing system and encourage ticket-holders to donate ticket refund to performing companies.

Relief Program of Ministry of Culture (MOC), Taiwan

MOC has rolled out a US\$25 million aid package so far for creative and cultural sectors. Small businesses and self-employed people are eligible to apply for subsidy for operation cost and salary, extension of loan payment, increase line of credit, as well as subsidy for R&D project, personnel training and digital marketing.

II. Programming for Upcoming Summer and Autumn

Update of pandemic control in Taiwan as of April 28: of 429 confirmed cases , there have been 6 deaths, and 307 patients have been released from isolation while the remainder remains hospitalized in isolation. There have been no new local transmitted cases for 16 days. Life in Taiwan has largely continued as normal.

While no performances will take place in NTCH up till June, all staff continue to work on future projects. We plan with caution that all programs will be back on track in August. In the meantime, we are working on Plan B especially for international programs which might not be taking place in the end due to broader control.

III. Self-reflection and Strategic Planning under the Impact of the Pandemic

As a venue, NTCH has been as been asking itself the following questions while coping with the cancellation of programs:

1. How do we sustain the creativity and activity of artists, and reflect on the challenges facing humanity through new productions?
2. As one of the very few venues still in operation around the world, what can NTCH do? What experiences can we share?
3. The immediacy of live theater has been replaced by online streaming in a time of pandemic. On the other hand, some technological development, such as 5G, has contributed to the diverse expression of performing arts. Is there different narrative or way of expression that theater practitioners can develop in a digital age and compete with the online entertainment already

flooded our screens today?

4. Would viewers following movies and series through OTT platform return to cinemas or theaters when the pandemic dies down? Apart from developing new narratives of online theater, the ways in which viewers approach, experience and pay for online programs need to be reinvented as well.

We do not have perfect answers for the above questions, yet they prompt us to work with artists and launch the following projects:

1. Research & development fee: provide companies with R&D fee for new production in 2021-22 to keep artists active.
2. Next Theater: involve different industries and commission artists to create online theater which deploys 5G, AR or VR technology. 3-4 works in progress will be released in the 2nd half of 2020.
3. Open all: call for creators of all background to reflect on the life during pandemic, its far-reaching impact and imagine the post-pandemic future.
4. Autumn Festival (Oct-Nov): festival theme, "violence in the name of ___: the road to hell is paved with good intentions," will explore the challenges facing civilization in the 21st century, including how the pandemic change the way we live.