



The International Black Theatre Summit 2025: Building Creative & Cultural Connections *(over the first decade of the next 100 years)*

[The CRAFT Institute](#) in collaboration with [The National Theatre of Ghana](#) presents the 4th Biennial convening of The International Black Theatre Summit in Ghana

Date: Sun, April 27 - Fri, May 2nd, 2025

Location: Accra, Ghana

Journey with us as we draw upon the original AI, Ancestral Intelligence, to strategize the future of Black storytelling across platforms through Africa and the diaspora.

Register [here](#) by January 31, 2025

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About The IBTS

In June 1996, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright [August Wilson](#) delivered his now-famous keynote, [The Ground on Which I Stand](#), at the Theatre Communications Group's annual conference. This powerful address, hailed as "a critical Black theatre manifesto" (Harry Elam Jr., [American Theatre, June 2016](#)), sparked a groundbreaking conversation about racial inequities in the theater world, addressing issues like casting, funding, and audience representation. The speech's impact led to public events include the debate between Wilson and American Repertory Theater Artistic Director Robert Brustein, moderated by Anna Deavere Smith at New York's Town Hall. Listen to excerpts of the conversation between Wilson and Brustein [here](#).

Inspired by the momentum of this discourse, Dartmouth Theater Professors Victor Leo Walker II and William Cook, encouraged by Paul Carter Harrison, invited Wilson to collaborate on a major conference for Black theater professionals. Held at Dartmouth in March 1998, this historic gathering brought together luminaries like [Ntozake Shange](#), [Clinton Turner Davis](#), [Robbie McCauley](#), [Ricardo Khan](#), [Thulani Davis](#), [Ed Bullins](#) and [Woodie King Jr.](#), and more, laying the foundation for the ongoing work of the Black Theatre Summit.

Rooted in the legacy of August Wilson's landmark 1998 *On Golden Pond* Black Theatre Summit, IBTS was reimaged in 2018 by Dr. Monica White Ndounou as a celebration and expansion of Wilson's vision. The 2018 gathering brought together industry leaders, scholar-artists, and practitioners to address the intersections of creativity and commerce in Black storytelling across theatre, film, and media.

IBTS Mission: The International Black Theatre Summit is a Think Tank, global network, and biennial convening that gathers scholars and practitioners working in theatre, film, television, and related media and tech to strategize the future of Black storytelling across platforms throughout the continent of Africa and the Diaspora.

About The IBTS 2025

Presented by [The CRAFT Institute](#) in collaboration with [The National Theatre of Ghana](#), the 4th Biennial convening of The International Black Theatre Summit will take place in Ghana 2025. Journey with us as we draw upon the original AI, Ancestral Intelligence, to strategize the future of Black storytelling across platforms throughout Africa and the diaspora.

Event: IBTS 2025: Building Creative and Cultural Connections (*Over the First Decade of the Next 100 Years*)

Date: Sun, April 27 - Fri, May 2nd, 2025

Location: Accra, Ghana

The Goal of IBTS 2025: Imagine we succeed in achieving a brilliant future for Black storytelling (What does it look like and how does it work?) The IBTS 2025 convening should help establish the necessary foundations for the first decade of the next 100 years of Black storytelling.

Programming and Agenda

The **PILLARS** that are shaping the IBTS 2025:

Pillar 1: Practice and Performance

Pillar 2: Education in and through the Arts

Pillar 3: Finance

Pillar 4: Marketing and Public Relations

Pillar 5: Cross-Cultural Collaboration

In addition, themes of Technology and Health & Safety will be present.

Types of Programming* Include:

“Church” – An interactive session rooted in storytelling, performance, and shared cultural practices, "CHURCH" at IBTS will be a space for reflection, teaching, and testimony. Not your traditional church, this daily morning gathering will be a thrilling, inclusive exploration, guided by the interests and needs of the collective.

Concurrent Sessions – The breakout groups of the “Think Tank.” Topics of discussion will include The Art and Business of Storytelling: Get Money for Cross-Cultural Collaboration, Producing with Power, Arts Education Policies and more.

Performances & Arts Events – Performances and cultural arts events will be made available to IBTS Participants. Included in Registration Fee.

Special Excursions – Part of the journey to the continent must include exploring the land and culture beyond IBTS. All participants will have a choice of one exciting to take on Wednesday. Choices include an Accra City Tour, Eastern Region Tour and Central Region Tour. Participants can also extend their trip with Pre-Summit and Post-Summit Excursions. More information [here](#).

Workshops – Opportunities for skills-building and networking sessions. Workshops will be available across topics such as Music & Drumming and Healing through Art.

Community and Celebration – Mixers, parties and opportunities to network will be woven in throughout the week. In order to achieve a brilliant future for Black storytelling, we believe we must build collective relationships in our own time.

Schedule at a Glance*

THURS, APRIL 24 - SUN, APRIL 27

Pre-Summit Excursions (Additional Expense) facilitated by [Timpo Travel](#). More information about potential Pre-Post Summit excursions offered [here](#). To request bookings or connect for additional information, reach Emelia Timpo at timpotravel@gmail.com or 609.647.6350.

SUN, APRIL 27

9am - 4pm	Registration
4:30pm - 7pm	IBTS 2025 Grand Opening Event: Dinner and Reception

MON, APRIL 28

9:30am - 1pm	Programming
1pm - 2:30pm	Lunch
2:30pm - 5:30pm	Programming
5:30pm - 7pm	Dinner
7pm - 9pm	Arts Event

TUES, APRIL 29

9:30am - 1pm	Programming
1pm - 2:30pm	Lunch
2:30pm - 5:30pm	OPEN: Curated Outdoor Activities
5:30pm - 7pm	Dinner

WED, APRIL 30

Choice of 1 Full Day Excursion. Included in IBTS Registration Fee. IBTS representatives will be in touch with you in 2025 to select your excursion.

THURS, MAY 1

9:30am - 11:30am	Programming
11:30am - 1:00pm	OPEN
1pm - 2pm	Lunch
2pm - 5:30pm	OPEN
5:30pm - 7pm	Dinner
7pm - 9pm	Arts Event

FRI, MAY 2

9:30am - 11am	Programming
11am - 12:30pm	Collective Sharing and Wrap Up
12:30pm - 2pm	Lunch
2:00pm - 7:30pm	OPEN
8:00pm - 11:00pm	IBTS 2025 Closing Party

SAT, MAY 3 - WED, MAY 7

Post-Summit Excursions (Additional Expense) facilitated by [Timpo Travel](#). More information about potential Pre-Post Summit excursions offered [here](#). To request bookings or connect for additional information, reach Emelia Timpo at timpotravel@gmail.com or 609.647.6350.

*Subject to change

Excursions

A Mid-Week (Wed, April 20) Excursion will be offered and *included* in your IBTS 2025 Registration. Mid-Week, One-Day excursion options below. IBTS representatives will be in touch with you in 2025 to select your excursion.

EASTERN REGION TOUR

Set off to Shai Hills for a close-to-Accra safari adventure, where you'll hike through caves and hills amidst breathtaking views. Then, continue to Aburi Botanical Gardens, a colonial oasis, established by the British for the relaxation of its officers, known for its serene landscapes and refreshing wind due to its hilly terrain. Finally, experience the hidden treasure of Asenema Waterfall, nestled in the lush Akuapem Hills which provides an exclusive and stunning waterfall experience.

CENTRAL REGION TOUR

Depart for Ghana's Central Region to visit the infamous castles, Cape Coast Castle and Elmina Castle, offering an emotional journey through the dungeons and history of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Next, venture into Kakum National Park for a guided walk through one of Ghana's last rainforests, including an exhilarating canopy walkway, the first of its kind in Africa, where you'll enjoy stunning views of diverse flora and fauna.

Please note that facilitated opportunities to explore Accra City with IBTS, including the Do Bois Centre for Pan Africanism and Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park will be included during the week as well.

Pre-Summit and Post Summit Excursions:

You will be traveling very far and may want to extend your trip with Pre-Summit and Post-Summit Excursions to different regions of Ghana. These excursions are facilitated by [Timpo Travel](#) and will be an additional expense. Options are available but not limited to:

DAY TRIP HISTORICAL TOUR THROUGH ACCRA - Pre-Summit
DAY TRIP HISTORICAL TOUR THROUGH CAPE COAST - Pre-Summit
DAY TRIP HISTORICAL TOUR THROUGH ABURI - Pre-Summit
DAY TRIP HISTORICAL TOUR THROUGH ABURI SHAI HILLS - Pre-Summit
2 NIGHT TRIP KUMASI and CAPE COAST TOUR - Post-Summit
2 NIGHT TRIP AQUA EXPERIENCE - Post-Summit
1 NIGHT TRIP HISTORICAL TOUR THROUGH ELMINA - Post-Summit
3 NIGHT TRIP HISTORICAL TOUR THROUGH KUMASI, CAPE COAST and ELMINA - Post-Summit

Information [here](#).

To request bookings or connect for additional information, reach Emelia Timpo at timpotravel@gmail.com or 609.647.6350.

Registration

Registration: [here](#)

Registration Live: October 26, 2024 - January 31, 2025

Registration Options:

Full IBTS Registration

- Rate: \$400 USD + \$10 processing fee
- Includes:
 - Full event access and access to local performances
 - One-day excursion
 - Meals: Dinner (Sun), Lunch & Dinner (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri)
 - Exclusive hotel rate Best Western Plus Accra Beach Hotel
 - Access to Travel Support and Information for streamlined entry to Ghana
 - 1-year membership on Create Ensemble
- Estimated Total Cost (including airfare and lodging): approx. \$3,500 USD

Basic Travel Package

- Rate: \$100 USD + \$10 processing fee
- Includes:
 - Access to Travel Support and Information for streamlined entry to Ghana
 - Exclusive hotel rate Best Western Plus Accra Beach Hotel
 - Access to Pre and Post Summit Excursions
 - Connection to the IBTS Network
- Why Choose This Package: Perfect for those interested in traveling to Ghana without attending summit programming. By choosing this package, you align your personal journey with a collective mission of The International Black Theatre Summit. While receiving the benefits and convenience of traveling with IBTS, your investment helps subsidize travel for Ghanaian artists, supports the infrastructure of future IBTS convenings and strengthens a network dedicated to strategizing the future of Black storytelling.

If you are an academic institution or organization planning to bring students, please contact The CRAFT Institute at info@thecraftinstitute.org

How to Register:

Registration is open now on CreateEnsemble.com. You must make an account to access Create Ensemble. There is no cost for making an account.

300 spots available. Early registration (through Jan 31, 2025) includes airfare reservation support and discounted lodging rates.

If you are an academic institution or organization planning to bring students, please contact [The CRAFT Institute](#) at info@thecraftinstitute.org.

Booking Your Flight

If you need support booking your individual flight or traveling in a group, [Timpo Travel](#) is happy to help. Contact Emelia Timpo at timpotravel@gmail.com or 609.647.6350. You must be registered to IBTS (either Full Summit or Basic Package) to receive this service.

For Groups of 10 or more traveling from the same airport:

1. A deposit of \$100 per person is due within 8 days of requesting the space and having the contract. You request by emailing timpotravel@gmail.com. Final payment is due within 45 days of travel.
2. Final names and passport details are due within 45 days of travel
3. We need to make payment with one card for each group. If payment is with a credit card there will be a 3.5% credit card charge. There is no fee for cash or check.
4. No space is currently being held so when you are ready we will need to requote.
5. The airlines will allow a certain number of seats to be released with no penalty by a deadline. I will provide the dates for that shortly but wanted to get this to you so you have the figures to work with.

For first-time single travelers who need support, we recommend utilizing Timpo Travel services.

There is not a discounted flight cost being associated with The International Black Theatre Summit.

Booking Your Hotel

The IBTS 2025 will be hosted at [Best Western Plus Accra Beach Hotel](#). Upon registering for IBTS 2025, you will receive Booking Details and Rates. You must be registered to IBTS (either Full Summit or Basic Package) to receive this service.

Payment Process:

25% deposit of the total accommodation amount is required to confirm the booking.

Second 25% is due by February 2th 2025

Final 50% by March 2th 2025

Cancellation Charges:

After deposit is received cancellation charges apply:

At least 120 days before arrival: \$ 300 per person

119 to 91 days before arrival: \$ 375 per person

90 to 46 days before arrival: \$ 450 per person

45 days or less before arrival: cancellation charge is 100%, no refund.

For questions or additional information, contact Emelia Timpo at timpotravel@gmail.com or 609.647.6350.

Travel Requirements and Tips

Full video of [Ghana 2025: Travel Info Session](#).

Passport:

- Apply early! Processing takes around 4-6 weeks.
- If you already have a passport, confirm your passport details are accurate to avoid travel delays. If it's expired or damaged, renew it ASAP.
- Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return date.
- Make two copies of your passport photo page: leave one at home and carry the other separate from your passport.
- Consider bringing extra passport photos for emergencies.

Visa

Visas can be obtained from the Ghana Consulate in New York or Washington DC. Web links are as follows:

<https://ghanaembassydc.org/visa/>

<https://newyork.mfa.gov.gh/>

Cost: \$60 for Single Entry Standard Service Visa. Make sure your passport has at least two blank pages for visa stamps.

Apply 10-12 weeks before travel, as entry must occur within 90 days of your visa issue date. For IBTS 2025, the earliest you can apply is January 15th, 2025.

Visa Letters will be provided by Timpo Travel and IBTS. After registration, IBTS will request your name, Date of Travel and Passport Copy to process the Visa Letter necessary for Travel. This will be communicated via email. You must be registered to IBTS (either Full Summit or Basic Package) to receive this service.

Health

Requirements: Yellow Fever Vaccination

Strong Recommendations:

- Malaria prophylactics prescription
- Use of insect repellent is recommended
- Drinking of bottled water only is recommended.

[The Centers for Disease Control](#) or your personal health care provider may recommend other preventative actions that are not requirements for entry but only recommendation.

The final decision regarding health requirements must be made by your physician/ health care provider.

Money and Currency

Forex (Foreign Exchange) bureaus are readily available throughout the country. The exchange rate is always changing.

- Carry clean \$50 and \$100 bills only. Lower denominations give you less for your money.
- Do not change more than you will need in local currency or you might have to change your Ghanaian cedi back to US\$ and this will cost you twice.

Electricity

Ghana uses Power Sockets D and G. You may need an adapter plug. Depending on whether your appliance is a two-prong or three-prong item, you will need an adapter plug that works with your appliance. You may need two plugs—one with two prongs and one with three.

Travel Insurance

Timpo Travel highly recommends you purchase Travel Insurance. Link [here](#). You must be registered to IBTS (either Full Summit or Basic Package) to receive this service.

Details of the different plan options can be accessed [here](#).

The insurance should cover the cost of both the land and flight costs and it is based on age, state of residence and cost of trip.