

LITF 2026 Troupes and Play Descriptions

We're thrilled to welcome these theatre troupes to LITF 2026 - October 14-18, Liverpool, Nova Scotia. Every group (new and returning) is travelling an incredible distance to join us, bringing their talent, culture, and international stories to our stage and to our community.

For fun and perspective, the distances listed are straight-line calculations just as the JesterFish swims, or the crow flies.

1. Malawi – YDC Theatre (Blantyre)

Distance Travelled: 8 500 km

Play: The Journey at Lampedusa

From the southern heart of Africa, this award-winning youth company brings a powerful exploration of migration across the Mediterranean — a story of hope, risk, and courage as young people seek new beginnings.

2. Uganda – Ushindi Community Theatre of Kasangati

Distance Travelled: 11 000 km

Play: The Pursuit

From East Africa, this vibrant ensemble shares a rich blend of traditional storytelling, dance, and movement. Their tale follows a young chief's son whose journey of escape and return becomes a story of home, struggle, and belonging.

3. UAE – Dream Team (Sharja)

Distance Travelled: 11 500 km

Play: A Blind Couple and a Donkey

From the Gulf region, this English-language performance offers a warm, witty folk comedy about a blind couple working through life's small fights and big lessons with heart and humour.

4. Egypt – Academy of Arts (Alexandria)

Distance Travelled: 10 000 km

Play: Summit Match

Travelling from North Africa, this production uses the world of boxing as a metaphor for ambition and expectation, portraying a young person's drive to rise above doubt and fight for their dreams.

5. Switzerland – Theatre Beloe (Geneva)

Distance Travelled: 6 600 km

Play: White on Black

Dynamic Theatre Beloe returns to Liverpool after their appearance at LITF 2024. Their latest physical theatre work, inspired by a celebrated book, explores the tension between expectations and ambition, the risks we take, and the courage required to pursue our dreams beyond what others expect.

6. Poland – Zapadnia Theatre (Opole)

Distance Travelled: 6 100 km

Play: Whispering in the Darkness

Returning friends from LITF 2024. Zapania ensemble brings a striking physical theatre work examining repression, desire, and the weight of social norms. It uses the imagery of witch trials to explore control, courage, and resilience.

7. Poland – Transtopia (Kraków)

Distance Travelled: 6 100 km

Play: Katabaza

Our second wonderful troupe from Poland. This thoughtful multimedia piece reflects on the ties between generations. Skillfully inviting audiences into memory, story, and the elements that shape who we are.

8. Netherlands – Hoosh Theater (Amsterdam)

Distance Travelled: 4 940 km

Play: NEST

From northwest Europe, this production blends physical and traditional theatre to explore the moment of leaving home, stepping into independence, excitement, uncertainty, and growth.

9. México – En Movimiento Teatro (Mexico City)

Distance Travelled: 4 700 km

Play: Leyendas

En Movimiento Teatro has performed at LITF no less than four times. This year, they bring, from the heart of Mexico, a storytelling piece set in a timeless tavern where folklore comes alive. Jealousies, bargains, and otherworldly forces unfold against a backdrop of storm and legend.

10. México – Academia Cultural Tren Escénico (Morelos)

Distance Travelled: 4 700 km

Play: Curva Peligros

Last with us in 2018, Academia Cultura Tren Escenico, will share a story that speaks especially to young audiences, following an 18-year-old as life's pressures and possibilities take on new meaning after a life-changing moment.