



ASSITEJ

International

Newsletter N°49

Zagreb, Croatia, November 2008.

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Ivica Šimić
Secretary General

Dear ASSITEJ members, theatre artists, admirers of theatre for children and young people and all of you interested in theatre for young audiences. We present you the first Newsletter produced in the new office of ASSITEJ International in Zagreb, Croatia. As you can see, we have changed its look to make it more attractive both for readers and for those who are interested in advertising their performances, festivals or projects in it. Our wish is to transform the Newsletter into a periodic magazine that will present the image of our association.

Just as before, the Newsletter will aim to present all the events pertinent to Theatre for children and young people that have its significance and importance in ASSITEJ International. It will also include the news from national centers, which has been and will continue to be the main content of every issue. In the wish to broaden the content of the Newsletter in the future, we would like to introduce problem discussions, travel reports, festival reports etc. I invite you to send us news about your work and about events of your centers. Send us your high-resolution photos to make the Newsletter more colorful and diverse.

In this issue we include the report about the opening of the office in Zagreb and an extract of the minutes of the EC meeting in Croatia, we present new members of ASSITEJ International, announce the Conference on Theatre for the Early Years in Bologna in March and the Director's seminar in Germany and we share the reports from the ASSITEJ International festivals. In the news from the centers you can find lots of interesting information that can help you establish some new contacts.

We wish you a pleasant reading!

Ivica Šimić ●

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News from the Secretariat

Report from the Executive Committee meeting

Čakovec/Zagreb, Croatia
October 15-18, 2008

The Executive Committee of ASSITEJ International met in Cakovec, Croatia from the 15th to the 18th of October, within the 11th Meeting and Festival of the Croatian centre of ASSITEJ and The Second Epifest, festival of theatres from Central and South-eastern Europe.

President Wolfgang Schneider, (Germany), Secretary General Ivica Šimić (Croatia), Treasurer Yvette Hardie (South Africa), Vice Presidents: Maria Ines Falconi (Argentina), Young Ai Choi (South Korea) and Kim Peter Kovac (USA), the members of EC: Noel Jordan (Australia), Stephan Rabl (Austria), Søren Ovesen (Denmark), Katariina Metsalampi (Finland), Razi Amitai (Israel), Marisa Gimenez Cacho (Mexico), Paul Harman (Great Britain), and Dora Jelačić Bužimski, Executive Assistant to the Secretary General participated in the meeting. Hope Azeda (Rwanda) was unable to attend the meeting due to her obligations regarding the tour with her company in the UK.

The meeting in Cakovec and Zagreb was the first meeting after the Congress in Adelaide. The working plan for the Secretariat and for the Executive Committee for the next three years was discussed and adopted. The working plan is the main document of the association that determines the work of the world organization in the next three years and the Executive Committee will adjust its work accordingly. In order to execute the plan, EC established the working groups that will work on implementation of the plan.

Relocation of the office

Secretary General reported on the successful relocation of the office from Sweden to Croatia. In June, Ivica Simić visited Niclas Malmcrona in Stockholm to receive all documents and files relevant for the continuation of the work of the Secretary General. Ivica Simic thanked again Niclas Malmcrona for the work and the elegant transfer of the office.

The account

Paul Harman reported on the relocation of the account from Denmark to the United Kingdom which he successfully executed. The account is now in Darlington, UK, where it will be maintained and kept. All details about the account of the Association, together with the instructions about future payments, the members will receive in a separate mail from the treasurer Yvette Hardy.

The new financial subcommittee is formed including Yvette Hardie, Ivica Simic and Paul Harman, all of whom have access to the account and Noel Jordan who does not have access to the account nor is responsible for transfers, but who is involved in decisions on making payments.

Working plan for the Secretariat

To improve the communication with the members, the Secretariat will work on the publishing program:

The ASSITEJ Book 2008/2009

is expected in March 2009, focusing on international festivals and titled:

International Festivals Celebration of Cultural Diversity.

The ASSITEJ Book will be launched on March 20, 2009, in time for the World Children's Theatre Day Celebration. Extracts of the book will be translated into Spanish.

Executive Committee is inviting all the members to cooperate and support the publishing of the Book by advertising in it and pre-ordering copies of the Book.

The new web site

will get its final shape by the end of the year. All members are invited to contribute with photos and information on the work.

Newsletter

will be distributed in electronic format from the web site, but also published as a magazine. Secretary General pointed out the need for a stronger involvement of the members.

ASSITEJ International Working plan 2008-2011

Drafted by the ad hoc working plan committee, adopted by the General Assembly in Adelaide on May 16, 2006

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have been accepted as new members.

ASSITEJ International now has 78 member countries.

The first meeting of the EC in 2009 will be held in Turin, Italy, in April.



The goal of the working plan is the expansion, improvement, and addition of systems, procedures, and action steps that will allow ASSITEJ to better fulfill its core mission of service to national centers, practitioners, children, and young people

- 1) Secure stable funding for the general secretariat
- 2) Continue to increase income by identifying and developing new income sources (working with foundations and government agencies, advertising, and public relations)
- 3) Identify appropriate volunteer professionals with specific experience and related to the needs of the organization, such as fundraising, networking, particular research areas. Create a 'knowledge bank' of these individuals, and, as needed, invite one or more of these individuals to be a 'short-term' counselors for one or two EC meetings.
- 4) Analyze and improve communication and information systems in order to make them more efficient, inclusive and have a wider outreach and dissemination to national centers, practitioners, and other interested parties. This includes the newsletter, festival guide, and website, exploring discussion groups, a blog, Facebook, a web resource area, and others. Continue to explore translation of appropriate documents.
- 5) Create a contract to be signed by ASSITEJ and countries interested in hosting future world congresses. This contract would include language on expectations regarding the balance between a very inclusive representation of the entire membership of ASSITEJ as well as the highest standards of artistic expression.
- 6) Continue to actively assist in the creation of new national centers; expand the efficiency of the regional networks; investigate dormant and gatekeeper centers and assist in making them active and inclusive; help provide tools to centers to assist in organizing and expansion as well as tools to assist with artistic professional development.



Wolfgang Schneider, President of ASSITEJ International, Nina Obuljen, Secretary of State of Republic of Croatia and Ivica Šimić, Secretary General of ASSITEJ International in the Croatian Ministry of Culture.

Opening of the office

ASSITEJ International General Secretariat office was inaugurated in Zagreb on October 16 in the presence of State secretary of the Republic of Croatia Ms. Nina Obuljen, a deputy Minister of Culture of the Republic of Croatia Mr. Srećko Šestan, Secretary of the City of Zagreb Cultural Fund Ms. Željka Udovičić, President and Secretary General of ASSITEJ International, members of the Executive Committee of ASSITEJ International, members of ASSITEJ Croatia together with the participants of the Conference on interregional cooperation and the Director's seminar that was taking place in Cakovec within the Festival. The Office was inaugurated by the president of ASSITEJ International Prof. Wolfgang Schneider, Ph.D. and by Secretary General Ivica Simic.

One session of the meeting of the Executive Committee was held in the new office.

- 7) Change to format of the budget in order to make it more 'actual', including the contributions of national centers in support of the secretariat, contributions toward EC members' travel, and such.
- 8) Continuation of active support of the NEXT generation of practitioners, including professional development and advocacy.
- 9) Increase the visibility of ASSITEJ both within member countries as well as internationally through new public relations activity (such as a DVD on ASSITEJ)
- 10) Continuation of the ASSITEJ Archives as well as the script database, including making it more user-friendly.
- 11) Continuation of production the ASSITEJ Book. Explore ways to distribute it more widely, (especially to universities and training academies) in paper and electronic copies, as well as translation of selected articles.
- 12) Continue promotion of World Children's Theater Day (20.03.); ASSITEJ International Projects; ASSITEJ International Festivals; Honorary Membership; ASSITEJ Award for Artistic Excellence.
- 13) Help identify and articulate new trends in the field such as theater for the very young, laboratories, multi-media, and working with artists and children with special needs such as disabilities.
- 14) Continue to seek connections and collaborations with parallel organizations such as IDEA, ITI, IATC, as well as theater education organizations.
- 15) Actively support the development of ITYARN.

Working plan for the Executive Committee

In order to make the work of the EC as efficient as possible and following the assignments coming out of the working plan, four different working groups have been created:

1. Finance, statute and congress working group.
2. Regional networking working group.
3. NEXT generation and ITYARN working group.
4. Public Relations working group

Finance, statute and congress

Financial part: Kim Peter Kovac (chair), Paul Harman and Yvette Hardie

Congress part:

Søren Ovesen and Katariina Metsalampi

The members discussed several topics:

The Friends of ASSITEJ.

EC want to figure out the best way to move this program forward, perhaps by adapting the design of the way the funds are given and solicited.

Contributions to the association

to include all the costs of the association (travel costs, hosting costs, EC meetings costs, project costs etc.) beside the budget in order to get a realistic picture of the value of the association.

The Constitution of ASSITEJ International

will be examined to see how it might be possible for the organization to move forward in different directions. EC will look at what is in the constitution, as well as what the practices of the association have been.

Children's books for Iraq

EC will look at finding ways to disburse the funds that were collected for children's books for Iraq following the start of the war in Iraq.



Regional networking

Maria Ines Falconi (chair), Katariina Metsalampi, Søren Ovesen and Hope Azeda

Recommendation from the working group is to keep the regional representatives in the EC in order to have good information about what is happening in the different centers of each region, to keep in contact with them and encourage their participation and active development.

1-Each representative will be in charge of:

- a) Informing the EC in each meeting about the situation of the different centers of the region.
- b) Helping the communication between the General Secretariat and the centers (the information sent by the General Secretariat could be forwarded to the centers also by regional representatives).
- c) Detecting dormant centers or possible new centers, contact them and encourage them to reorganize and participate in ASSITEJ International. It would be important to look for the appropriate person on the spot. We recommend organizing concrete actions with/in those countries, like workshops, conferences, various kinds of exchanges, supported by ASSITEJ International. Our goal is to include in the next three years at least five more centers.
- d) EC members will be asked about which centers they can “represent” (take care of, be in contact with, encourage, etc.).



2-After taking into account the results of the pilot interregional project developed by Nordic and Ibero American countries during the last period; we suggest other regions consider using this model.

3-To present during each EC meeting one project that the various networks could be developing in order to inform, ask questions, see problems and encourage the rest of the regions. This presentation would include: aims, contents, participants, organizing centers, structure, financing, etc. It would take around 20 or 25 minutes. The information could be published on the web site.

4-To improve the translation of the information to different languages. To improve the translation of the information to different languages

NEXT generation and ITYARN

Young Ai Choi (chair), Stephan Rabl and Noel Jordan

Recommendation is that the existing Next Generation continue through the 2011 Congress. A suggestion is made that the organizers of 2011 host the group. (To be evaluated after Linz meeting). 2011 Congress can provide some platform or space for a presentation.

At Linz (25 June - 5 July) in 2009, when the Next Generation group reconvenes, individuals will have the option to opt out or continue involvement.

Two counselor positions on EC meeting level have been opened, which means that the EC will include two "Next Generation" members in its meetings in the future.

'New Faces In Residence' is a proposal for a new name for 'Next Generation'.

If a Festival applies for ASSITEJ designation, it must have 2 places for "New Faces" participants covered in return. In the ASSITEJ International Project - 1 place, in Executive Committee - 4 positions in 2 meetings, for the Congress - 5 places.

EC members look at opening up opportunities for one week residencies in EC places of work e.g. Sydney, Seoul & Vienna

Public Relations

Wolfgang Schneider (chair), Razi Amittai and Marisa Gimenez Cacho

EC-MEETINGS

1-Artistic Exchange must be on the Agenda of every meeting: Organize discussion of performances with the artists and Festival Director!

2- Meet regional network members!

3-Meet regional, national and local political leaders and officials responsible for Arts and Culture, Education and Youth!

4 - Arrange a Press Conference!

5 - Lead a Forum about relevant artistic subjects. For this term the working group recommend:

What is the relationship between artistic work and the audience!

01 / 09 (Turin): The Role of Actors

02 / 09 (Mexico-City):

Project Schoolyard Stories

ARCHIVE

Centers should be asked to send brochures, posters, reviews and other promotional material once a year. The archives expect festival-brochures, festival-reviews and festival-posters.

The Archive host should produce another DVD about materials in the archive.

1,000 Euro should be reserved in the budget.

THE FESTIVAL GUIDE

should only include the festivals that have sent material.

SKILLS BANK

Draft approved as a fill-in form with a disclaimer added. ASSITEJ makes no recommendation but those using the service take responsibility for checking the qualifications of any person offering a skill or service.

CATALOGUE OF SCRIPTS

EC should approve UK as organizer. More discussion needed on the detail of criteria for inclusion.

General information about access to plays for young audiences should be freely available on the ASSITEJ web site, such as lists of publishers' web sites.

Organizers will explore further: List of 'most successful' plays from around the world in the last 30 years, criteria for inclusion, translation issues.

SHORT TERM COUNSELLORS

Proposals should be made from meeting to meeting.

Criteria: representing centers which are not in the EC, excellence in special fields, not older than the President!

WORLD DAY OF THEATRE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Secretary General should go on with the procedure.

Secretary General should go on with the procedure.

Centers should inform Secretary General about activities two weeks beforehand. Two weeks later Secretary General should make an evaluation of the activities.

ASSITEJ International announces **The ASSITEJ Book 2008/2009**



Theatre Festivals

Celebration of Cultural Diversity

Next Generation

**In Theatre for Children
and Young People**

**The ASSITEJ Book
2006/2007**



After the big success of the last two editions of the ASSITEJ Book, ASSITEJ International is proud to announce The ASSITEJ Book 2008/2009 with the theme and focus on international theatre festivals for children and young people. Theatre festivals from all around the world will be included and different aspects of festival organization will be highlighted in the book. This is a great opportunity for all of you, both as organizers of festivals or theatre producers, to promote your theatre and your festival in this unique international theatre publication.

The ASSITEJ Book 2008/2009 will be promoted worldwide on the occasion and as part of the celebration of the Theatre for Children World Day, 20th of March 2009. ASSITEJ International is offering you the opportunity to advertise your festival or your company in The ASSITEJ Book 2008/2009. Use this opportunity to gain bigger visibility within the international community of artists for children and young people.

Presale

We strongly encourage you to order copies of the book in presale and thus help production and distribution of the book. Please send the estimated number of the copies that you or your center want to receive.

The price of the Book

10 USD for 1-49 copies,
8 USD for 50-99 copies,
6 USD for 100 copies and more.

Two free copies will be delivered to each national centre.

Contact

To express your interest for advertising and to order your copies of the Book or in case you need additional explanations, do not hesitate to contact:

Ivica Simic
ASSITEJ International
Secretary General

Nova ves 69/I
10000 Zagreb
Croatia

sec.gen@assitej.org
isimic@inet.hr

www.assitej.org

**The ASSITEJ Book
2004/2005**



Sizes and Costs

We offer you three different ad sizes based on the A5 format of the book.

Whole A5 page
148 mm x 210 mm 600 US\$

Half page
148 mm x 105 mm 400 US\$

Quarter page
74 mm x 105 mm 250 US\$

Formats

PDF, bleed 3mm, photos 300 dpi,
CMYK

**Deadline:
1st of February 2009.**



ASSITEJ International

initiates a new program of cooperation and exchange based on the foundations of solidarity among artists and theaters for young audiences:

SKILLS EXCHANGE

ASSITEJ is a forum for exchange of ideas, experience and skills. Everybody has skills to offer and skills they need. Help us identify volunteer professionals with specific experience, who are willing to offer their skills, their time and work for the benefit of other theaters, artists or organizations, as well as those theaters and/or organizations that are in need for such volunteer work.

Please use this form to say briefly what you need or what you can offer.

WE NEED

(for example: advice on writing contracts for international touring, a stage designer to work with us on a production ...)

NAME OF THEATRE COMPANY / ORGANISATION:

COUNTRY:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

I CAN OFFER THESE SKILLS

(for example; workshops in devising plays, financial skills , technical, business administration, dramaturgy etc.)

WHEN I AM AVAILABLE

(for example; 2 weeks with you in April 2009 / 1 day per month by internet ...)

MY NAME:

MY EMAIL ADDRESS:

MY REFERENCES:

Please give the names with email addresses of two people or organisations who can tell us about you.

Your submission will be moderated by a committee of ASSITEJ International before being placed in the ASSITEJ website and notified to member Centres by email newsletter

THANK YOU !

APPLICATION FORM: PAGE TWO

I CAN OFFER

SKILL:

ie; workshop leader, financial, technical, business administration, dramaturgy etc.

TIME:

ie; 2 weeks in April 2009 / 1 day per month consultancy by internet

I NEED IN RETURN

FEE:

Nil / Pocket money in local currency / 25% normal rate ...

TRAVEL:

Airfare / Contribution to costs of travel

BENEFITS TO ME

ie; To learn your language, see how you train actors, meet your designers

WE NEED

SKILL:

ie; contracts for actors, setting up a theatre company, equipping a theatre space with no money, setting up a bookkeeping system,

TIME / PERIOD:

ie during a rehearsal period

WE CAN OFFER IN RETURN

FREE:

Accommodation in a private house /

MONEY:

Pocket money / A fee at local rates /

TRAVEL:

Our national airline will sponsor your visit.

BENEFITS TO YOUR ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT:

Work with our young people / special project/ ...

From the Centers

USA

The US center has been somewhat busy these past few months. Many attended the wonderful Congress in Adelaide as well as the pre-conference ITYARN conference. All returned home recharged, excited and ready to share their experiences. A few were honored by our sister organization AATE (American Association of Theatre Educators) with honors recognizing their efforts related to theatre for young audiences. Carol T. Jones received the Barbara Salisbury Wills Award for her sustained efforts, Kim Peter Kovac (ASSITEJ/ International VP) received a rarely bestowed honor the Monte Meacham award, playwright José Cruz Gonzalez received the Ann Flagg Multicultural Award, playwright Laurie Brooks received a Distinguished Play award for *Brave No World: Community, Identity, Stand-Up Comedy*, and during Lydia Diamond's acceptance speech for a Distinguished play award for her adaptation of *The Bluest Eye*, Diamond recognized TYA/USA President Lenora Inez Brown's dramaturgy for this play. Two member theatres were also honored: Growing Stage Theatre received the Sara Spencer award and Children's Theatre of Charlotte received the 2008 Medallion Award from the Children's Theatre Foundation of America.

Many have been publishing their work as well:

Laurie Brooks has her first novel for teens *Selkie Girl*.

Coleman A. Jennings edited an anthology titled *Nine plays by José Cruz Gonzalez*

ITYARN co-founder and organizer **Manon van de Water** wrote *Dutch Theatre for Children*

Next Generation US Rep **Roxanne Schroeder-Arce's** play *Legend of the Poinsettia*

and of course

Nat Eek's exhaustive history of ASSITEJ, *Discovering a New Audience for Theatre*, Vol. 1.

We have also set our next **One Theatre World Conference** for May of 2010. Stay tuned for more details, we would love to see you here in the US for this momentous conference and festival of plays from the United States.

Switzerland

We would like to inform you that ASTEJ Switzerland has a new General Secretary. Please take note of the following changes:

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Gessnerallee 13
Switzerland

Tel: +41 44 210 19 19
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E-mail: info@astej.ch
Web-site: <http://www.astej.ch>

See:
<http://www.assitej.org/centre/main.asp?format=card&view=S>

United Kingdom

News from the UK: Autumn 2008

TYA - UK Centre of ASSITEJ is considering a restructure to reflect the individual character of TYA in the four parts of the UK - England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

56 professional theatre companies, organisations and artists are now members. www.tya-uk.org

Many new approaches to creating and delivering theatre experiences for young audiences are being developed in the UK.

Imagine organised an Autumn Exchange showcase of Scottish plays in development as part of its year round programme of support for new artists. www.imagine.org.uk

WebPlay offers imaginative projects designed to link primary school children in different UK localities, and also between UK, India and USA. Features project-based learning using drama and technology and programmes to introduce theatre through the internet. www.webplay.org/programme_theatre_companies.php

David Farmer is a freelance writer, director and drama consultant. His plays have been performed to thousands of young people across the UK and internationally. He offers drama training sessions for teachers and drama groups as well as running one-day drama workshops. David is the former Artistic Director of Tie Break. www.dramaresource.com

C&T is a United Kingdom-based theatre company working in educational and community settings, combining new technology and participation. www.candt.org

National Association of Youth Theatres is a free development agency for the more than 900 adult-led non professional theatre companies in the UK. The latest edition of the regular online magazine is at www.nayt.org.uk/onstage/2008/OnstageJulAug08.pdf

UK Government has declared that every child should have five hours of cultural experience every week. £25million will be spent on ten pilot projects under the title Find Your Talent. £2.5million will be spent on one million free tickets for young people at theatres in England. A big programme of arts activity for young people is part of the Cultural Olympiad leading up to 2012

Current International Activity

Theatre-Rites presented Salt a site-specific production for ages 8 plus at the Ruhr Triennale, Germany in September 2008. Theatre-Rites is the first company commissioned by the festival to create work aimed specifically at children and family audiences. www.theatre-rites.co.uk

Lenny is the English title of Leon le Nul by Quebec-based Francis Monty. This play has two current productions in the UK. Travelling Light's version is at Unicorn Theatre 1-8 October. www.travlight.co.uk/shows.html

Unicorn Theatre is also hosting Pero by Speeltheater, Holland in October. An exhibition of Speeltheater's puppets decorates the foyer this Autumn. www.unicorntheatre.com

Theatre Café Festival 2008 includes 2 new productions, 5 new European plays presented in staged rehearsed readings in the unique Theatre Café setting featuring Swedish hit play Invasion! International Symposium 13 - 15 November. www.companyofangels.co.uk

Takeoff 2008 links a celebration of plays for the very young in partnership with Small Size and the TYA - UK Centre of ASSITEJ conference: What Next? Members of the ASSITEJ Next Generation group will lead a workshop on new directions in theatre for young audiences. www.ctctheatre.org.uk/takeoff-festival.asp

CTC Theatre's production of Leonardo is at the Bucharest Festival in mid-October.

Finegan Kruckemeyer from Tasmania is to create plays with Travelling Light (Bristol) and Tutti Frutti (Leeds). His play Cheeseboy was much admired by UK artists at the Congress in Adelaide

Paul Harman (ASSITEJ EC Member) has a three year bursary from Arts Council England to develop international contacts for UK companies and artists. For advice, contacts and help please email: paul.harman63@ntlworld.com

Germany

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International Directors' Seminar for Children's and Young People's Theatre

Hamburg, 15-20 June, 2009

Dear colleagues,

The next "International Directors' Seminar" will take place in Hamburg in co-operation with the Young Theatre at the Deutsches Schauspielhaus in Hamburg (Junges Schauspielhaus Hamburg, www.schauspielhaus.de). The "Junges Schauspielhaus Hamburg" is one of the leading theatres for young audiences in Germany.

Each of the "International Directors' Seminars" that has taken place to date has focused on a special topic:

1993 "The Rights of Children", 1995 "Death and Farewell", 1997 "Theatrical Signs in Theatre for Small Children", 1999 "Fairy Tales", 2001 "Fear and Hope - Staging the Reality of Today's Children", 2003 "The Antagonist on Stage in Contemporary Children's Theatre", 2005 "Family on Stage", 2007 "Heroes and Idols"

In 2009, the "International Directors' Seminar" will once again work on a specific topic of interest to theatre directors from all over the world. Designed for 25 participants, this seminar will investigate the theme

„Stories of Migration“

The world is full of stories. All you have to do is find them. In our globalised world, economic and social contradictions and their injustice come to the fore in even the most unlikely places; they become visible on television and on the internet. Masses of migration stories are produced on a daily basis. All over the world - not only at the borders of the "European Fortress" - dramas, be they bitter, grotesque, absurd or fantastic, take place. More often than not, these stories deal with families that are torn apart or have children and young people at their centre. These protagonists of the journeys of migration experience pain and loss as well as hope, longing and joy.

In 2009 the International Director's Seminar will try to approach this complex topic and investigate its relevance for children's and young people's theatre. We hope and we believe that the diversity of the group of participants will allow for varied perspectives.

Dramatic texts written especially for the Seminar by three well-known dramatists, namely Ulrich Hub, Kristo Šagor and Nino Haratischwili, will be our basis for the collective work process.

Since a major objective of the Directors' Seminar is to encourage cultural exchange between German artists and artists from abroad, twenty directors from countries all over the world will be invited to participate, as well as a number of German directors.

From Monday, June 15th to Saturday, June 20th 2009 the participants will work practically and in small groups, based on the seminar's theme. Theatre performances by the host theatre and other local companies as well as leisure activities will accompany and complete the daily work of the Seminar.

The German ASSITEJ and the hosting theatre as the organizers of the “International Directors’ Seminar” will bear the costs for hotel, catering, theatre tickets and leisure activities for all participants. In general, we will assume that travel costs will be paid either by the participants themselves or by their respective national centre of ASSITEJ. Nonetheless we are willing to help in particular cases (as far as we are able to) - so do not hesitate to ask for financial support in your letter of application.

The seminar wishes to address directors of children’s and young people’s theatre who have recently given new impulses and set new standards. The seminar’s language is English, so all participants must be able to understand and speak English.

ASSITEJ-Centers who are interested to nominate a director to take part in this seminar, are asked to send his/her application for the “International Directors’ Seminar” (including a current curriculum vitae and a letter of motivation) by letter, fax or email not later than

December 31, 2008

For more details do not hesitate to contact Ms Meike Fechner (m.fechner@kjtz.de) who is in charge of the International Director’s Seminar for ASSITEJ Germany.

With best regards,

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Schneider
Chairman of ASSITEJ Germany



Good News from

Finland

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

A long term ASSITEJ member, special awardee from this years ASSITEJ Award for Artistic excellence, the Dance Theatre Hurjaruuth received the “State Prize for Merits in Children’s Culture” which is the highest yearly applause for Artistic work in Finland.

Iran

Festivals

The 2nd National competition on playwriting for Children and Young Adults

Date : October , 2008
Place / City : Tehran
Organizer : Municipality of Tehran
Address : Cultural Center "Arasbaran"
Jolfa st. Shariati street Ave.,
Tehran
Tel : +982122872818-20

The 6th National Theater Festival "Razavi"

This Festival gives priority in being present to those works which describe the impact of Imam Reza's (p.o.h) thoughts on the lives of contemporary human.

Date : Summer , 2008
Place / City : Bojnourd (in Khorasan Province)
Organizer : Dramatic Art Center of Ministry of Culture and Islamic guidance in cooperation with the head quarter of this Ministry in northern Khorasan .

The 2nd Theater Festival on "Child and Theatre"

Date : Spring 2009
Place / City : Tehran
Organizer : Municipality of Tehran
Address : Cultural Center ,Arasbaran "
, Jolfa St ., Shariati Ave.,
Tel : +9821228728120

The 4th National Theater Festival "Mehr"

This festival is giving the priority to the plays furnished with brevity in Transferring the meanings and theatrical motions and using the tools, world , visions and body skills in performance .
Date : 5-11 Oct.,2008

Place / City : Kashan
Address : Cultural Center " Mehr " ,
Shahidan Khandaei Blv., Moddaress Ave., Kashan
Tell : 0361 5424200

The 12th International Puppet Show Festival "Mobarak"

Date : 10-17 of August , 2008
Place / City : Tehran
Address : Dramatic Arts Center ,Ostad Shahriar st., Hafez Ave., Tehran .
Tel : 009821-66705101-5/66710702

In this festival 55 plays were performed in the 3 sections " Scene " , "International " and " Street Plays "

In lateral section of the festival, Jack Trodo the secretary general of UNIMA had a speech on "The Puppet show in Canada " .

A training workshop was held by Neil Von der Lenidon from The Netherlands on The puppet show in China, Indonesia, The Netherlands and Middle East.

Neil von der Lenidon spoke about some Iranian puppet shows such as puppet opera Rostam and Sohrab by Behrooz Gharibpour
"The magic of theatre has done its job in this puppet opera" , Neilvon der Lenidon said and added: "The puppet opera Rostam & Sohrab has been perfected in dramatic aspect."

In this festival there were three foreign judges in the international section : Jack Trodo, The Secretary General of UNIMA from Canada, Astephano Kuinchi, The Manager of International Puppet Show Cheroya from Italy and Yourl Alexiovit Samaylov, one of the famous theater directors of Russia .

The 12th National Festival of Puppet Show of Kanoon Centers

Date : November , 2008
Place / City : Tabriz
Organizer : Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children & Young Adults (KANOON)

This festival is held in the presence of 20 chosen theatrical groups of Kanoon centers from all over the country. Some of the lateral programs of this festival are inviting the protagonists and brilliant artists of the country in the field of theatre and puppet show, arranging meetings with specialists alongside with play readings, making exhibition of puppets in the festival, printing specific issues for the festival and performing an internet competition.



Other News of Interest

The 1st Biennial Festival of Pantomime

Date : September , 2008

Place / City : Tabriz

Organizer : The Technical Schools of fine arts of the country

The Puppet Show Festival with rubbishes

In this festival creative puppet shows using puppets made of rubbishes will be performed by children .

Date: September , 2008

Place/ City : Tehran

Organizer : Municipality of Tehran



Miroslav Benka, the Serbian director was attended in Iran by performing his play Painting with dew.

“My acquaintance with the Iranian cultural goes back to somehow the history of rich ancient Iran”. He said about the background of his acquaintance with Iranian culture . He added :

“Recently I was more aware of Iranian Culture through study an amazing book about Takhte Jamshid which was given to me by the manager of cultural center of Iran in Belgrade . Also I got more information about the Iranian Culture by Alexander Dergovitch the editorial in chief of “ Noor “ magazine . The most important discovery I had gained is about the great philosopher and writer “Molana Jallaleddin Balkhi “who is known by the UNESCO as one of the greatest philosopher of the world . I like to make a play about his splendid work “ masnavi “ and perform it in all over the world . Because , his works are introducers of the values that the world must be aware of .

Benka will perform his play “ painting with dew “ in Iran , after 6 months of reheatsal and 3 months of public performance in his own country. T he subject of his play is rejection the contemporary world’s militant and suggesting peace and friendship for human .

Yearly report of Iran theatre Activities in UNESCO

Simultaneous with theater world day , the yearly report of theatre activities of Iran was presented in UNESCO in Paris by the representative of international institute of theatre of UNESCO “ ITI “ in Iran . In this ceremony, theatre of Iran was valued as a dynamic & stable one.

An Iranian theatre person was elected to be the chief of judges council in Puppet Show Festival in Prague.

Behrooz Gharibpour , The Iranian children’s theatre writer and director became the chief of judges council of the 11th Puppet Show Festival in Praque. This international festival will be held in the presence of 40 groups of different countries during 10 days from 26th of May.

At the closing ceremony of this festival , the puppet opera “ Rostam and Sohrab “ designed and directed by Gharibpooor will be performed . Performing and Taking part of some Iranian play artists in specialized workshop in Paris.

Some Iranian students who has been sent to France in order to perform Oedipus play, took part in educational workshop of “National Academic of Theatre in Paris“ . This Iranian group performed Oedipus play directed by Fabris Nikoo during two nights in the Municipality hall of Paris. There, they took part in 3 theatre specialized workshops.

The presence of Iran theater in the Edinburgh Festival.

Following the cooperation between the central office of “Dramatic Arts Center“ and “The Visiting Art Institute of England” which was started during the 19th Fajr theater festival , seven artists from theatre of Iran took part in this year Edinburgh Festival which was held in July, 2008.

Serbia

Festival:

BITEF side program BITEF POLYPHONY is one of the most important events in the calendar of ASSITEJ Serbia activities. BITEF POLYPHONY is two weeks program that takes place in second half of September, and has its belonging place continually on this Festival for 9 years.

BITEF - Belgrade International Theatre Festival, with its 42 years experience is internationally recognized and respected for bringing up and promoting new trends in World Theatre. It is not accustomed that significant festival such as BITEF has program dedicated to Theatre for young audience. But BITEF recognize importance and space of theatre for young, and gives best support for its development and growing impact on different cultural/social areas not only in

Serbia.

With its strong concept and interesting projects 9. BITEF POLYPHONY has once again succeeded to promote engaged Theatre for Young that opens new spaces, change usual practice, expand circles and borders of influence and use of theatre in work with and for young.

Great interest that filled the auditorium with number of visitors, educators, creators and artists, speaks for itself about quality and importance of this years program. It started with round table "The new roles of the theatre for new generations", which caused long discussion with many participants. The first week of program was focused on different forms of theatre practice and creative work in education, prison, inclusive processes /projects. In second week professional theatre productions encourage audience to participate in interaction, discussions and work demonstrations before and after each performance. Most of themes this year were devoted to the sexual health problems trough several stage of childhood/youth. This vivid interaction among audience and artists bring



Babydrama Unga Klara, Sweden

inspiring, encouraging atmosphere for everyone.

9. BITEF POLYPHONY was opportunity to recognize new direction in repertory of institutional theaters for children and new theatre trends appearing and developing in other institutions, organizations, areas and sectors or wherever play, drama and theatre are a method, a tool, a technique of work... especially in education, social care and humanitarian work.

www.bitefpolifonija.org
www.bitef.rs

Poland

Awards and certificates

The Polish Centre of the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People ASSITEJ wishes to inform that annual awards and honourable mentions for professionals of the theatre for children and young people for the year 2007, awarded by the Executive Committee and Certificate Committee of PC ASSITEJ go to the following theatres and theatre professionals:

Jan Dorman award 2007 for a Polish artist goes to Mr Jerzy Moszkowicz – a theatre director, author of numerous excellent performances aimed at the young, eager to raise difficult topics and use ambitious texts; Director of the Children's Art Centre in Poznan.

Jan Dorman honourable mention 2007 for a foreign artist goes to Ms Eva Farkašová from Slovakia, an outstanding stage designer who has cooperated with Polish theatres for years, and who has designed many unforgettable stage sceneries in the theatre for children and young people.

The children's and young people's theatre critic award 2007 goes to Mr Henryk Izidor Rogacki, a distinguished theatre historian, critic, teacher, Vice-Rector of the Aleksander Zelwerowicz State Theatre Academy, who has always shown keen interest in the theatre for young audiences and authored numerous texts about puppet performances, children's and young people's culture and eminent theatre artists.

Certificates of Good Quality and Artistic Value for the year 2007 go to the following performances:

1. *W beczce chowany* / Hidden in the Barrel, Teatr Białaluka, Bielsko-Biala
2. *Ostatni tatuś* / The Last Daddy, Teatr Lalka, Warsaw
3. *W beczce chowany* / Hidden in the Barrel, Teatr Animacji, Poznan
4. *Opowiadania dla dzieci* / Stories for Children, Teatr Narodowy, Warsaw
5. *Spowiedź w drewnie. Żyoty świętych* / The Wooden Confession. The Lives of the Saints Opolski Teatr Lalki i Aktora Opole
6. *Pippi Pończoszarka* / Pippi Longstocking, Teatr Dramatyczny, Warsaw
7. *Królowa Śniegu* / The Snow Queen, Teatr Białaluka, Bielsko-Biala
8. *Fasada* / Façade, Białostocki Teatr Lalek, Białystok
9. *Co to?* / What's That?, Studio Teatralne Blum, Poznan

The awards were presented on the 4th of October 2008 at the closing ceremony of the 12th International Festival of Theatres for Children and Youth "Korczak 2008" in Teatr Rampa in Warsaw.

South Africa

Cameroon: FATEJ festival, Snake Magic and ACYTA meeting

Assitej South Africa was represented at the FATEJ festival in Younde, Cameroon from 7-14 November by Heather Mac's More Children's Theatre, which presented 'Snake Magic'.

'Snake Magic' is a musical play based on an ancient African folk tale that explores themes of jealousy, betrayal, forgiveness and animal rights. Heather Mac (singer, songwriter, playwright) wrote and directed, while David Muller (playwright, storyteller, actor; Whale Nation, Wit, Cry the Beloved Country) narrated the tale, Lindelwa Kisana took the leading role of Nikiwe, while Deon Nebulane performed the roles of the bad brother, the brave prince and the magical snake. The show mixes live action with puppets, and narration with lively, original songs. It returned to South Africa to run at the Baxter theatre in Cape Town in December.

2. Drama for Life Conference and Workshop Festival, Johannesburg

3 - 6 November 2008

Theme: Building care for the caregiver

This was the Initial Drama for Life (DfL) Festival organised by the Wits School of Arts (WSOA). It encompassed an intensive four day festival for theatre practitioners and organisations involved in HIV/Aids education, prevention and rehabilitation. Through this festival, DfL provided a venue for practitioners to come together and showcase their progress, network, share best practices, create synergies and learn from each other's experiences. Among the prominent guests who ran skills development training sessions were: Professor John O'Toole (internationally renowned drama educator), Ross Kidd (one of Africa's leading drama practitioners), Dr Phil Jones (highly acclaimed drama therapist) and Mandla Mbothwe (a lecturer from the UCT drama department). The groups showcasing their work and methodologies (many of whom are members of ASSITEJ SA) were: AREPP Theatre for Life, Themba HIV/Aids Organisation, Sibikwa Community Arts, Market Theatre Laboratory, FireMaker Project, Bon-Fire Theatre Company and the DFL scholars from 8 SADC countries.



Heather Mac's More Children's Theatre
Snake Magic

The Crossing:

This one-man show, directed by Bo Petersen, and supported by the Africa Centre, is currently in development and will be travelling to schools in 2009. 6 years ago a 21 year old Zimbabwean Jonathan Khumbulani Nkala and his friend Jacob Banda, crossed the Limpopo River, illegally. They wanted to come to South Africa because they were searching for "life in abundance". This powerful and poignant one man production showcasing Jonathan Nkala's superb telling of his own experiences will serve as a catalyst for workshops and discussions with learners in which they can engage in exploration of important themes and values, such as empathy, maintaining personal dignity and the survival of the human spirit.

ACYTA NEWS:

Swaziland and Namibia Assitej centres participate in Out the Box Festival, Cape Town

SWATCYP (Assitej Swaziland) and Assitej Namibia brought their "visual plays with a message" to UNIMA's Out the Box festival in Cape Town, from 31 August to 6 September.

Swacyp's Silent Screams is an intriguing story with a lot of Christian and Traditional influence. It exposes the challenges of church policies with regards to the use of condoms as a preventive measure against HIV and AIDS, the African culture of inheriting widows, while addressing the issue of Stigma and Discrimination.

Can's The Trumpet Player encourages abstinence and discourages pre-marital sex among the youth by way of three life phases of a woman; as a stylish, hip lady about town, as a pregnant woman and an AIDS infected mother of an infected son. The illness, trauma and pain is delineated through the use of puppets as well as humans and through a juxtaposition of the tragic and comic elements in the play.

ASSITEJ
International
Festivals

ASSITEJ

International Festivals



FATEJ

(Festival Africain De theatre pour L'enfance et le Jeunesse)

was held for the 7th time in Younde, Cameroon between 7 and 14 November. A designated Assitej International festival, Fatej is a project of Theatre du Chocolat and Assitej Cameroon. This year saw participation from a number of international companies, including Theatre Pero (Sweden), Theatre (France), theater (Switzerland), Theatre (South Korea) and More Childrens' Theatre (South Africa). A number of performances from other African countries were expected at the festival, but were cancelled at the last minute due to lack of funding for performers' travel. There were however several Cameroonian performances, one of them a collaboration between Cameroon and France (Monstre). International visitors to the festival included Secretary-General of Assitej International, Ivica Simic (Croatia), Treasurer of the Association, Yvette Hardie (South Africa) and representatives from companies in the USA, Canada, UK and Europe.

Alongside the daily performances were also workshops in scriptwriting by acclaimed French Canadian playwright, Suzanne Lebeaux and in movement by Baobab Theatre. There was lively interaction between participants in the festival whose rich and varied experiences of theatre for children and young people provided ample food for conversation and debate.

Hundreds of schoolchildren were bussed in daily from a range of kindergarten and primary schools in Younde to enjoy the work, and the local public also had opportunities to support showcases of the plays throughout the festival. The South Korean performance Gamounjang was particularly well supported with the Korean embassy inviting guests to see the performance.



Production highlights included:

Abok

by Theatre du Chocolat (Cameroun) – this amusing and energetic piece relies on a commedia dell-arte style of clowning between its three characters, as they trick and outwit one another in attempting to claim a feast for themselves.

My Guavas

by Shama Theatre Troupe (Cameroon) – a playful and fun piece of theatre which encourages children not to eat things which they have not shown to their parents first.

Super Khoumba

by Le Karr Theatre (Cameroon) – three strong performers take the audience through a series of short skits, sometimes making use of animal masks and always encouraging audience participation.

Snake Magic

by MORE Children's Theatre (South Africa) is the touching story of a young girl's suffering at the hands of her wicked brother and shows how with her fundamental good nature, the protection of her father's blessing and a little bit of snake magic, she is able to triumph finally over adversity. Using catchy songs and traditional storytelling techniques, along with several puppets, the production was South Africa's 2nd entry into the FATEJ festival.

Bim

by Treteaux de Haute Alsace de Mulhouse (France) is an exquisitely written piece with evocative music and a stylish set. The production charts the story of two boys searching for their lost father, and uses a range of objects, puppets and musical motifs to amplify its story.

Orjan

the eagle afraid of heights – by Pero Theatre (Sweden) is a charming tale of Orjan, the golden eagle, and his friend Edward, the golden crested wren. We see Orjan conquer his fear of heights and of flying high above



Etoundi Zeyang



While there were many problems that beset the organisers, including logistical problems around availability of venues, accessibility and condition of technical equipment, transport issues, and scheduling problems, the festival can still be said to be successful in promoting the exchange of ideas between Cameroonian and outside artists, in making a wide range of work available to the children of Cameroon, and in hopefully seeding ideas for future collaborations and projects between participants at the festival. The hard work and dedication of the organisers was everywhere in evidence. It would be good to see greater support of the festival from funders and from government ministries in Cameroon in future.

the trees, through a series of delightful vignettes. The solo actor, Magnus Lundblad, uses his physicality, vocal dexterity and a ladder to bring the story to engaging life.

L'Oiseau Enchante

by Baobab Theatre (Switzerland) uses an evocative set made of branches and shaped twigs, dextrous shadow puppetry and atmospheric music to constantly bewitch and surprise its audience. A teapot is transformed into a magical sorceress, a queen's crown becomes a village, and there are many other visual and imaginative delights in this story of overcoming challenges as the child hero seeks to free the enchanted bird.

Gamounjang

by BST Company (South Korea) was one of the highlights of the festival as four young performers tell a story of a brave young woman who goes on a difficult journey to find a home, a husband and finally a rich harvest of rice. The energetic movement and innovative use of masks and props is beautifully disciplined and constantly surprising. The actors engaged the audience very directly in the action of the play, and were able to transcend language and accent barriers to tell their story with energy and commitment.

There were also a co-production

Le Secret du Monstre

by Theatre du Chocolat (Cameroun) and Treteaux de Haute Alsace (France), which gave the artists opportunities to extend their work stylistically. It would be interesting to see more such collaborations in the future.

Yvette Hardie
Assitej South Africa

Caravanen



ASSITEJ International Festival
28th of August - 10th of September 2008

The Lebanese Puppet Theatre KHAYAL *1001 Roses*

The International children's theatre festival CARAVANEN took place in Denmark from 28th of August through 5th of September, 2008.

Just like the two previous versions of the festival - 2003 and 2005 - as the main focus in the programming was quality and diversity.

The festival presented 6 international performances, from England, Canada, Kenya, Lebanon, Germany and Sweden. Furthermore, in the first week of the festival, while the CARAVAN was in Sealand, there were 4 performances specially selected from Denmark and 1 performance from each of the professional theatres in the west Zealand cultural region.

CARAVANEN '08 toured Holbaek, Kalundborg, Lejre, Odsherred, Ringsted, Roskilde, Slagelse and Sorø from 28th of August - 5th of September, Randers from 5th - 9th of September, and Viborg from 9th - 10th of September.



Teatret Moellen: *Oskar*

100, 1000, 1 000 000 Stories

ASSITEJ International Festival

Bucharest, Romania

4th – 11th of October 2008



The project focuses on promoting the Romanian artist's value dedicated to very young audience and underlying the tremendous role of children's theatre, not only as a superior form of entertainment and relaxation, but also educationally and socially. The 4th edition of the festival was held in Bucharest October 4 - 11 and was designated an ASSITEJ International Festival.



Teatrul Ion Creanga
The Magic Seed

Early Age section, in the framework of Small size project:

AQUARIUM
Fondazione Teatro Ragazzi e Giovani Onlus w, (Turin-Italy)

PAPER WINDOW
Visual Theater Company CCOT (Seoul-Korea)

O SKY BLUE
Helios Theater (Hamm – Germany)

IN BOCCA AL LUPO
La Piccionaia – I Carrara (Vicenza – Italy)

HANSEL AND GRETEL,
Teatrul Figura Studio, Gheorgheni

PROSTIA OMENEASCA,
Teatrul National Marin Sorescu, Craiova

AVENTURILE LUI NICA
Compania Pelerin, Bucuresti

AVENTURILE CELOR DOI CLOVNI
Teatrul Tineretului Piatra Neamt

The programme of international section:

LEONARDO
CTC Theatre (Darlington – UK)

GRANDE FINALE
Teatergruppen Batida (Copenhagen – Denmark)

MUTABOR
Mr. PEZO's Wandering Dolls (Saint-Petersburg – Rusia)

THE BEGINNING
Saint-Petersburg State Bryantsev Theatre for Young Audience (Saint-Petersburg - Russia)

THE WIZARD OF OZ
Luceafărul Republican Theatre (Chişinău – Republic of Moldova)



In the Romanian section:
6 productions from theatres of Romania

DANILA PREPELEAC,
Teatrul Maria Filotti, Braila

PINOCCHIO,
Teatrul Toma Caragiu, Ploiesti

And 4 productions of Teatrul Ion Creanga, Bucuresti:

Samanta Vrajita
The Magic Seed

Alba Ca Zapada Si Cei Sapte Pitici
Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs

Early Age section, in the framework of Small size project:

LALALADODO

THE RING

Rehearsed reading section

3 Norwegian plays
by Jesper Halle,
Peter Rosenlund
and Lars Vik

The 2nd Epifest

International Festival of Theaters From Central and Southeastern Europe

International festival Epifest is getting more recognizable in the world as the leading regional festival. This year's performances from Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania and Bulgaria were presented in the program.

The Second Epifest was the biggest meeting in theatre for children and young people in Croatia. It gathered artists from 25 countries, offered a very rich program of performances and workshops and defined a big step in the development of theatre for children in Croatia. Some of the merit goes to ASSITEJ International General Secretariat / Theatre Epicentre, initiator and co-organizer of all the events.



National Theatre Varaždin, Croatia, *White Clown*

Conference on interregional cooperation

Alongside with the Executive Committee meeting in Cakovec, Theatre Epicentre organized a director's seminar and conference on interregional cooperation in Central and South-eastern Europe.

The conference was attended by theatre representatives from: Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Albania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Turkey. In the four-day-period participants passed the declaration of collaboration and agreed to establish a regional theatre network in order to stimulate the mobility of theatres and artists, the exchange of performances and interregional cooperation.

Č a k o v e c , C r o a t i a

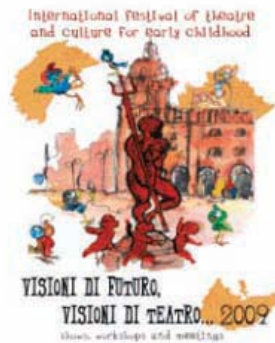


Director's seminar

Alongside the Conference, there was also a regional Director's seminar. Thirteen directors from various countries gathered together and discussed their work during five working days. This important manifestation, the first of its kind in this part of Europe, generated an intensive exchange of directors' experiences from the region. This was an opportunity to compare their knowledge with various aesthetics. The result of the seminar will be presented in the future work of young directors.

ASSITEL 
International
Announces

Visions of future, visions of theatre... 2009.



International festival of theatre and culture for the early years

5^a edition: 28th February - 8th March 2009

Born in 2004, “Visions of future, visions of theatre... international festival of theatre and culture for the early years” is having its fifth birthday. Five years is a very important age: it is an age of revolution and consolidation, discoveries and opening to the world.

Theatre for the early years, and especially theatre for the youngest of children, requires that we learn, in time, how to “let children take part in the game”, in order to share with them theatrical space and time. To this aim, Small size - the European Network for the Diffusion of Performative Arts for the Early Years - has created the Small size seeding fund. The fund supports the development of new theatrical productions for children from 0 to 4 years of age. Four productions developed thanks to this project will be presented in the context of the Zero-six Showcase. The festival will feature 52 shows by 10 Italian companies and 9 European companies. 10 will be shows for children from 0 to 3 years, whereas 14 will be for children from 3 to 6. 32 shows will be presented to nursery and kindergarten children coming with their teachers, and 20 will be for children coming with their families and for theatre professionals.

At “Visions” we like to present foreign theatrical realities, to create possibilities of exchange and sharing of experiences. This year, the section Postcards is dedicated to Denmark: a window on Danish theatre for children and its artistic, cultural and educational experiences. The showcase will feature 3 shows by 3 different companies.

The cycle of conferences International Experiences on the theme “Art and culture in the education for the early years” will focus on these aspects, providing useful and interesting information on Denmark, Cameroun, Austria and Israel (from Monday, March 2nd to Friday, March 6th).

Two other occasions of reflection will be the conferences “Round-Trip Journeys” - journeys through music, art and philosophy... to rediscover childhood and approach it as if it was the first time, held on Saturday, February 28th, and “Poetry and Early Years” - A poetic research on - with - of words, held on March 7th.

Conference on Theatre for the Very Young Bologna, Italy, 4th & 5th of March, 2009.

During the past few years, theatre for the early years has been developing in many countries. ASSITEJ International identified this process and promoted its development. An ASSITEJ Forum on that subject was held in Adelaide during the Congress, which made it apparent that there is a lot of interest in the subject. A very lively discussion ensued. Wishing to continue the discussion about theatre for very young audiences, ASSITEJ International, in cooperation with Testoni Ragazzi/La Baracca Theater and with ITYARN (International Theater for Young Audiences Research Network), organizes

Conference on Theatre for the Very Young Bologna, March 4th and 5th 2009.

The Forum - which will involve artists and researchers from all over the world - is an important opportunity to take stock of a rapidly-growing phenomenon and its future challenges, and to give a more pragmatic slant to "Visions" within the future ASSITEJ International Festival Visioni di Futuro, Visioni di Teatro.



ASSITEJ International Festival

Call for papers

ASSITEJ International, ITYARN, the International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network, and theatre La Baracca is calling for proposals for the Conference on Theatre for the Very Young that is going to take place in Bologna, Italy in the framework of the festival Visioni di Futuro, Visioni di Teatro from 28th of February through the 8th of March 2009.

The conference aims to bring researchers and practitioners together in a series of forums to foster communication and discuss the role of theory in practice and practice in theory.

The conference will include plenary sessions, seminars, and discussion, as well as play attendance. The conference part of the festival will take place on March 4 and 5, 2009.

Invitations to participate include accommodation and meals for the days of the conference, March 4 through 6.

Proposals should focus on the theme of the conference, offering critical perspectives on theatre for very young children age 0-6 years old. Proposals should focus on one of two age groups: A. children 0-3 years old or B. children age 3-6. Within this frame work a wide variety of subjects can be addressed, including, but not limited to, the following questions: What are the aesthetic limits and possibilities on making theatre for these age groups? What is the role of the child culture and cultural environment? How does this work alter under shifting material circumstances in generation and perception? How

does reception theory inform the perception of theatre for the very young? How does the interaction between the adults and the children in the audience and on stage influence the work? What is the historiographical narrative that encapsulates this development? What is the role of the institution and educational and psychological development theory? What is the responsibility of the theatre artist for the very young? What is the role of research in theatre for the very young?

500 word proposals should be sent electronically in Microsoft Word or RTF by Dec. 31, 2008 to

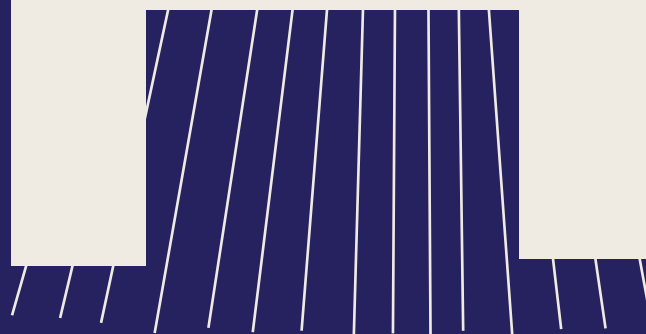
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