

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS APRIL FESTIVAL 2023



ALEX BYRNE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - NIE - NEW INTERNATIONAL ENCOUNTER

Uk

I make lots of shows for children and families in lots of places.

alex.byrne@nie-theatre.com



ALMA KUŠĶE

MANAGER - ASSITEJ LATVIA

Latvia

I am representing ASSITEJ Latvia. A member of the board, Jānis Znotiņš has asked me to create an offer of strategy to establish and develop ASSITEJ Latvia at the national and international levels. Also, I represent Istabas teātris - a non-governmental, independent company that works only for young audiences in an unusual environment for theatre. And site-specific, residency-based Valmiera Summer Theatre Festival - a platform for art workers to create together.

kuske.alma@gmail.com



ALTHEA YOUNG

PRODUCER & PERFORMANCE MAKER - IMAGINATE

Scotland

Althea is a self-producer and performance maker creating radically engaged dance-theatre with and for children and teenagers.



AMÉLIA BOYET

DIRECTOR AND ARTISTIC PROGRAMMER - LE CIEL - EUROPEAN THEATER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

France

I discovered the professional cultural sector through the amateur practice of contemporary dance.

amelia.boyet@theatreleciel.eu



ANNA ATHANASIADA

LIGHTING TECHNICIAN - CATHERINE WHEELS THEATRE COMPANY

Scotland

Traveling with a group of Scottish Practitioners to see work made with a view to a greater understanding of the possibilities of touring into a schools environment.

aathanasiadi@outlook.com

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BELINDA McELHINNEY

CHIEF EXECUTIVE - IMAGINATE

Scotland

Belinda has been Chief Executive of Imagine since February 2021, with overall responsibility for the strategic development, financial management and leadership of the organisation.

belinda@imagine.org.uk



BRIDIE GANE

CHOREOGRAPHER - CATHERINE WHEELS THEATRE COMPANY

Scotland

Travelling with practitioners from Scotland to see work made specifically for touring into schools.

bridiegane@yahoo.com



EIBHLÍN DE BARRA

DIRECTOR - YOUNG AT ART/BELFAST CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Northern Ireland

Eibhlín is director of Young at Art, Northern Ireland's leading arts provider for children, young people and their families, and programmer of the annual international Belfast Children's Festival that runs for 10 days each March (2023: 8-16 March). The festival is multi-artform and includes theatre and dance performances, music, comedy, visual art exhibitions, literary events, a large-scale outdoor family day, and the homegrown Showcase dedicated to performance work for young audiences from Northern Ireland.

director@youngatart.co.uk



ELLIE GRIFFITHS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - OILY CART

UK

Oily Cart imagines the impossible and rips up the rule book of theatre to make it more accessible. We create highly crafted, interactive, sensory shows that tour across the UK and internationally. We believe that children who have the most barriers to access have the right to experience world class theatre. Our sensory shows are close up, responsive and led by each young audience member.



ESTHER VAN DE PAS

COSTUME DESIGNER - JUNGE BÜHNE BOCHUM

Netherlands

Esther van de Pas is a set and costume designer. She earned her Bachelor of Teaching Arts at Academy of Fine Arts, Arnhem, in 2005, and her Bachelor set and costume design at the Maastricht Academy of Fine Arts and Design in 2008. In 2017 she finished her Master in Theatre: 'scenographer' at the Institute of performative arts, Maastricht. She realized community art-based theatre and art pieces. She is currently also working as a Teacher at the Maastricht Institute of Arts and is

esthervdpas@hotmail.com

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FELICIA CUCUTA

PLAYWRIGHT

Romania

Currently a PhD student focusing on care ethics in contemporary theatre, Felicia has constantly kept in touch with the world of creative writing. She writes poems and plays in English, French or Romanian and her work has been published or produced mostly in the US and Canada. In the past couple of years, she had the chance to study playwriting in the US, under the guidance of wonderful mentors she will be forever grateful to.

felicia.cucuta@gmail.com



GILLIAN GOURLAY (DONOHUE)

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES MANAGER - NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND

Scotland

Gillian has worked for National Theatre of Scotland for the past 17 years. A creative thinker, facilitator, project manager and people motivator with extensive practical experience of establishing new and developing existing creative learning and outreach functions within schools, further education institutes, communities & arts organisations to ensure that the best arts experiences and projects are brought to fruition to help bring about social change.

gillian.gourlay@nationaltheatrescotland.com

GINO COOMANS

PROGRAMMATION AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS - BRONKS

Belgium

Gino started out at hetpaleis (Antwerp), where he moved from front of house to cultural development and communication. His first assignment for BRONKS was to coordinate the International Visitors Programme of the 2013 EXPORT/IMPORT FESTIVAL. After working for contemporary dance company Ultima Vez and site-specific theatre troupe Comp. Marius, he returned to BRONKS in 2015. Since then, he has been in charge of international relations, bookings and – as of fall 2021 – artistic programming.

gino@bronks.be



HANNA BYLKA-KANECKA

CHOREOGRAPHER, RESEARCHER, MOTHER - HOLOBIONT COLLECTIVE

Poland

Co-founder of the Holobiont collective within which she creates, interactive dance performances for families. A head of the Roztańczone Rodziny (Dancing Families) programme (www.roztanczonerodziny.pl). In her artistic practice and research, she focuses on the relationship between the adults and children, finding there a powerful source of social and political change. Her favorite tools are those of somatic practices, psychoanalysis, posthumanism, critical dance studies and everyday care practice

hankakanecka@gmail.com

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HAYLEY EARLAM

DANCE ARTIST - IMAGINATE

Scotland

Hayley is a Dance Artist based in Glasgow with a practice spanning across performance, creation and facilitation

HISASHI SHIMOYAMA

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, PRODUCER - RICCA RICCA FESTA

Japan

I am the artistic director and producer of ricca ricca festa.

sora@acookimawa.com



HUINING MU

HEADMASTER - NORD ACADEMY

China

Educator who work on international exchanges.

sukimoon1972@hotmail.com



JEREMY TURNER

DIRECTOR - AGOR DRYSAU-OPENING DOORS - WALES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

Wales

I'm a theatre director with 40 years experience of creating work for young audiences. I also programme a festival AGOR DRYSAU-OPENING DOORS which happens in Aberystwyth, Wales

jeremy@aradgoch.org



JIAWEN LI

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - NANJING NIDUO CULTURE

China

Nido is a creative family community that primarily serves children aged 0-6 and their families. The main products are immersive children's drama, sensory playgroup and outdoor creative activities.

493637753@qq.com

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JULIAN ALMEIDA

NATIONAL SCHOOLS PROJECT MANAGER -IMAGINATE

Scotland

Julian works across Theatre in School Scotland (supported by Imagine and National Theatre of Scotland), Imagine's Explore programme, and school bookings for the Edinburgh International Children's Festival



KÄRT TÕNISSON

DANCER, TEACHER, CHOREOGRAPHER, DIRECTOR - ZUGA UNITED DANCERS

Estonia

I am a freelance dancer, choreographer and dance teacher. I belong to the contemporary dance group Zuga United Dancers. Our performances are about personal and touching themes for Zuga's five members: Movement as the language of performances. Collaboration as a way of creating. Creating together with children and young people. Playing - interaction through games Workshops as creative laboratories. Performances for children, youngsters and adults.

kart.tonisson@pjk.ee



LEA KALLMEIER

PERFORMER - JUNGE BÜHNE BOCHUM

Germany

Lea Kallmeier *1990. Studied physical Theatre at Folkwang UoA in Essen till 2015. Since then she works as a freelancer in Performing in Germany. Her main focus is on dance and play. 2018 She started working with JuBB and performed and created multiple pieces for young audiences.

lea.kallmeier@googlemail.com



LOUISE GILMOUR-WILLS

PRODUCER - CATHERINE WHEELS THEATRE COMPANY

Scotland

I'm a producer travelling with a group of Scottish practitioners to see work made for touring into schools.

louise@catherinewheels.co.uk



MANUEL LOOS

MUSICIAN - JUNGE BÜHNE BOCHUM

Germany

I am a musician who likes to play with found sounds.

manu@manu-drums.de

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MAREK DEMJANOV
PRODUCER - ASSITEJ ESTONIAN CENTER

Estonia

Producer and director, Member of the Board of ASSITEJ Estonia, NAKS festival Estonia organizer and artistic director.

marek@piipjatuut.ee



MARIA TRAUTMANN
ACTOR, MUSICIAN - JUNGE BÜHNE BOCHUM

Germany

I am a freelance actor, musician and director, based in Bochum. In my work I focus a lot on Improvisation and the relationship between freedom and structure. Working in a collective is essential to me.

mail@maria-trautmann.de



MARTA GALLI
GENERAL MANAGER- ARTEVOX TEATRO

Italy

Graduated in Modern Literature with a specialization in Theater History at the University of Milan, I studied acting in Milan. In 2005 I founded ArteVOX Teatro, a production company based in Vimercate, near Milan. ArteVOX now is part of Assitej Italy and of a national community of cultural enterprises supported by Fondazione Cariplo called fUnder35. Now I am the general manager of the children theater festival VIMERCATE DEI RAGAZZI and I just started a collaboration with Hangar Piemonte, the agency for cultural transformation and innovation of the Piedmont region, in the north of Italy, in the role of project manager.

marta@artevoxteatro.it



MINOOVASH RAHIMIAN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - ASSITEJ INTERNATIONAL

Iran

Assitej International EC and Artist from Iran. currently based in Denmark

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NEHLE MIRJA MALLASCH
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - KINDERKINDER E.V.

Germany

Studied international arts management in Freiburg im Breisgau. During and after her studies, freelance work as a TV editor for television stations in Germany and abroad. Following her studies, freelance author in the cultural and media sector. Since 2007 projectmanager in the education department at Thalia Theater Hamburg.

Works as production manager and dramaturg since 2010. Since 2021 artistic director at KinderKinder e.V.

mallasch@kinderkinder.de

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NICOLA LAWTON

PRODUCER - IMAGINATE

Scotland

Nicola is a freelance producer in contemporary circus, theatre, dance and movement contexts.



NOEL JORDAN

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR - IMAGINATE

Scotland

Noel is the Festival Director of the Edinburgh International Children's Festival hosted and run by Imagine

noel@imagine.org.uk



ODSUREN PUREVDORJ

ACTOR - CREATIVE BAMBOO CHILDREN THEATRE

Mongolia

tujuu.b@gmail.com



OLENA ROSSTALNA

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND DRAMA FACILITATOR - YOUTH DRAMA THEATRE "AMATEA" AND ASSITEJ UKRAINE

Ukraine

Educated in Ukraine and Ireland, Olena Rosstalna works as both artistic director at a theatre and an academic scholar (PhD, assistant professor of Literature) in Ukraine. She has produced more than 30 performances aimed at addressing the problems of social inclusion and gender justice as well as managed several international cross-cultural projects in Ireland, UK, Finland, Sweden, Bulgaria, and Germany.

rosstalna@gmail.com



ROSS COLLINS MACKAY

FREELANCE WRITER

Scotland

Ross is a playwright, director and screenwriter. His plays have been performed across Scotland and his adaptation of Treasure Island premiered at Cumbernauld theatre this Winter. Ross previously worked in theatre as the artistic director of Tortoise in a Nutshell. His productions toured across the world. His shows have received numerous prestigious awards including a Scotsman Fringe First for New Writing and a Critic's Pick from The New York Times.

rosscollinsmackay@gmail.com

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SCHOEME STEENKAMP THEATRE MAKER - PUPPETRIX

South Africa, currently in the Netherlands.

Schoémé is a creative entrepreneur from South Africa and owner of PuppeTrix, a theatre company specializing in Theatre for Very Young Audiences. She is one of few artists to explore and develop Theatre for Babies in South Africa. Apart from developing theatre and performing, she is also an arts facilitator and lecturer. She enjoys the enormous privilege to be part of shaping young minds, whether through performance or teaching. Her work has travelled to Italy, Singapore and Wales. puppetrixemail@gmail.com



SUSAN MCWHIRTER

STAGE MANAGER - CATHERINE WHEELS THEATRE COMPANY

Scotland

Travelling with a group of Scottish practitioners to see work with a particular view on creating touring work for a schools environment.

rosscollinsmackay@gmail.com



THORSTEN BIHEGUE

WRITER, DIRECTOR - JUNGE BÜHNE BOCHUM

Germany

Thorsten Bihegue studied Cultural Science & Aesthetical Practice at University of Hildesheim and Performance Writing at Dartington College of Arts in Great Britain. From 2002 to 2013 he produced several plays in New York, Berlin and San Francisco with kInDeRdEuTsCh PRoJEkTs. Since 2005 he works as a director and author at many theatre in Germany. 2018 he collaborated with Junge Bühne Bochum. In 2022 he won the 24th dutch-german prize Kaas & Kappes for best playwriting for young audience. bertbihegue@gmail.com



TOMOMI YAMAUCHI

PERFORMER, TRANSLATOR FOR MR SHIMOYAMA

Japan/Denmark

tomomidk@gmail.com



TONY REEKIE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - CATHERINE WHEELS THEATRE COMPANY

Scotland

I'm a long time visitor to this unique festival looking forward to seeing great work and meeting great people from Denmark and beyond.

tony@catherinewheels.co.uk

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TURMUNKH BATCHULUUN
ACTOR- CREATIVE BAMBOO

UK

Creative Bamboo's team is invited to attend the "Aprilfestival", an international children's festival, visit children's theatres, and exchange experiences between April 21 - 23, 2023 in Jutland.

tjuu.b@gmail.com

TUULI POTIK

EDUCATION MANAGER - ESTONIAN NATIONAL OPERA

Estonia



UYANGA AYURZANA

FOUNDER AND PRODUCER - CREATIVE BAMBOO

Mongolia

Uyanga founded Creative Bamboo, a theater for families with young children that offers various drama-related programs for children and youth. She wants to integrate theater and arts into the national education systems in Mongolia. She is also initiated and co-founded the National center of ASSITEJ Mongolia

amelia.boyet@theatreleciel.eu



WILLIAM YIP

FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - WILLIAM THEATRE & EDUCATION

China

Deputy Secretary General & Senior Education Expert, Arts Promotion & Education Committee, China; Performing Arts Association. Principal Committee Member, Drama Education Professional Committee, China Theatre Literature Association; Artistic Director, Bo' Ao Aesthetic Education Action New Youth Art Education Festival Drama Festival; Academic Committee Member & Expert Consultant, Beijing Zheng Charity Foundation; Academic Advisor, Trinity College London

williamtheatre@vip.163.com

XIAN ZHANG

DIRECTOR - NIDO COMMUNITY

China

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YAMINA PEERZADA

ACTOR/PUPETEER/ACTING TEACHER - RAFI PEER THEATRE WORKSHOP

Pakistan

Yamina Peerzada is an Actress, Puppeteer and Puppet Designer from Pakistan. She has graduated with a Master's degree in Acting for Screen from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London. She has performed in France, Italy, Denmark, India, Turkey, Norway, United Kingdom and Pakistan. She also manipulated and voiced Rani, in 'Sim Sim Hamara', a Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop and Sesame Workshop collaboration. She also won Actress (Lux Style) for her drama in 2014.
peerzada.yamina@gmail.com

YASUE OOSHIRO

ASSISTANT PRODUCER - RICCA RICCA FESTA

Japan

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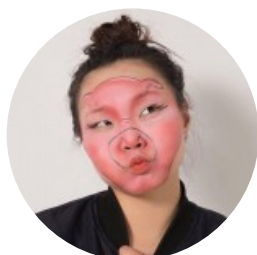


YORIKO TAKARA

COORDINATOR - RICCA RICCA FESTA

Japan

We produce "ricca ricca festa" in Okimawa Japan.



ZOLJARGAL BATBOLD

ACTRESS, THEATER DIRECTOR - CREATIVE BAMBOO

Mongolia

Zoljargal is a professional actress and working as an actress since 2017 and a theater director at Creative Bamboo since 2021

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