

Candidate For The Executive Committee : Entrada # 354**Name of Centre/Network:**

TYA USA

Name of Candidate:

Ernie Nolan

Presentation of candidate:

My name is Ernie Nolan. I'm a director, playwright, and educator. Now more than ever, I feel the need to answer the call for service and help represent the theatre for young audiences artists of the United States on an international level. All of us want to build educational and collaborative bridges, not walls. We want to extend a hand and help others who are looking for it, at the same time seek answers and ask questions about those things that we are curious about. All members of ASSITEJ, no matter where we come from in the world, create theatre because we wish to influence the future global citizens of the world, children. Because of my life's dedication to young people, as well as a deep gratitude to an organization which has changed my life, I wish to seek candidacy for a seat on the ASSITEJ Executive Committee.

I have had the great good fortune over the last decade to professionally "grow up" while attending ASSITEJ events. Cape Town will be the fourth Congress that I will have participated in. In addition to those events, I attended the first Global Gathering in Okinawa as well as the International Meetings in Berlin and Birmingham. In March, I will be a guest at the Young at Art Festival in Belfast. But perhaps one of the most influential events that I've ever been invited to be a part of was the Next Generation at the Tifli Festival organized by ASSITEJ India. The memories of my time there, the friendships with artists from places like India, Ireland, Iceland, Jordan, Afghanistan, Austria, Sri Lanka, and South Africa, and the knowledge I learned there I know will stick with me throughout my career and lifetime.

This year I became Executive Artistic Director of Nashville Children's Theatre, the oldest professional theatre for young audiences in the United States and "One of the Top Five Theatres for Young Audiences in the Country," according to TIME magazine. I know that my ASSITEJ experiences helped me receive this dream job.

If elected to the Executive Committee, I believe I will be able to help serve in many different capacities. For six years, I served as Vice President on the TYA USA board. Having organized two national conferences (Seattle and Chicago) as well as two events at The Kennedy Center, I have experience in event planning. Having led and written for TYA TODAY, the American TYA magazine, I have experience in writing and publishing. As an alum of the program, I could also help with Next Generation. I'm also someone who gets the job done, and has fun while doing it.

I feel that I am ready to take the next step and give back to an organization that means so much to me by serving on the Executive Committee. I hope that you will think that as well.

Thank you.