

Candidate For The Executive Committee : Entrada # 360**Name of Centre/Network:**

ASSITEJ Nigeria

Name of Candidate:

PAMELA UDOKA

Presentation of candidate:**MOTIVATION FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP OF ASSITEJ INTERNATIONAL****WHO IS PAMELA UDOKA?**

Pamela Udoka is versatile with multi-disciplinary competencies. She is the President/Artistic Director of Children's Arts Development Initiative (CHAIN), a Not-for-Profit children's theatre organization; President and Country Rep of the Nigeria Centre of the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ); World Congress of ASSITEJ-appointed African Counselor and the Deputy Director (Drama) of the National Troupe of Nigeria. The Pioneer Coordinator of the National Troupe of Nigeria Children's Theatre Workshop from 1992 – 1997, she has been at the forefront of children's theatre practice in Nigeria since 1991, has written and produced plays for children and youth including Clash of the Ants, I Dream a Christmas and The Rejected Blessing (which made the NLNG Prize for Children's Literature for long list in 2007). Pamela Udoka directed The Last Safari for 50 Years of Corona Schools produced by late music maestro, Steve Rhodes; coordinated the children's carnival to celebrate 50 Years of Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart in world literature and was Artistic Director, 2008 Lagos Children's Carnival. She also produces Children and Youth Theatre festivals to mark special children and youth dates in the Nigerian and ASSITEJ International calendar.

Within the global space, Pamela Udoka has presented papers and led plenary sessions at the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture, Melbourne, Australia in October 2011; International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network (ITYARN) in Sweden, where she delivered a plenary paper in May 2011 during the ASSITEJ World Congress; was invited to Warsaw, Poland in May 2014 to attend the World Congress of ASSITEJ as the Nigerian delegate, and was in Subotica, Serbia in September 2014 to present a paper at the 21st Festival of Children's Theatres..

A prodigious scholar, she holds the Certificate in Entrepreneurship, FATE Foundation; PGD Marketing, Nigerian Institute of Journalism; B.A.(Hons.) Theatre Arts, University of Ibadan; M.Sc. Psychology, University of Lagos and at the present pursuing an M. Phil/Ph.D degree in Clinical Psychology at the University of Ibadan. Pamela is a member of the National Association of Nigerian Theatre Arts Practitioners (NANTAP), a certified Clinical Psychologist and member of both the Nigerian Psychological Association (NPA) and the Nigerian Association of Clinical Psychologists (NACP)

She is married to Nigeria's national Choreographer, the prolific, world-renowned Choreographer, Arnold Udoka and both are blessed with absolutely adorable children.

MOTIVATION:

I seek to stand for election into the Executive Committee of ASSITEJ International. In line with the mission of ASSITEJ International to unite theatres, organizations and individuals throughout the world who make theatre for children and young people, permit me to state that I have commenced this by igniting the ASSITEJ fire in my own country Nigeria. Within the past 3 years, since I single handedly registered ASSITEJ Nigeria, the Center has been active, bringing together children and youth theatre practitioners from our little communities in Ilaje and Bariga to the big cities of Abuja and Port Harcourt as well as Theatre teachers in tertiary institutions with more members still coming in. Bringing theatre troupes to Lagos for World Day celebrations/Take a Child to the Theatre with troupes within Lagos, and from as far as Uyo and and from nearby Ibadan. The awareness of ASSITEJ is growing in Nigeria. With the entry of ASSITEJ International into the Nigerian children and youth theatre landscape, the mantra is changing. Nigerian Artistes have started to embrace and benefit from collaborations and networking within Nigeria, and with other countries outside Africa.

If I am elected as a member of the ASSITEJ International Executive Committee, I can bring our Nigerian story to bear on more African countries and pull them into ASSITEJ International.

Nigeria is the world's most populous black nation with an estimated population of 200 million people. Africa as the second

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largest continent in the world with a population of over 1 billion citizens deserves another seat in the EC and I present myself to occupy that seat.

As an ASSITEJ African Counselor, I was privileged to attend an EC meeting held in Berlin, Germany. The energy I felt in that room was electrifying. Please support me as I aspire to contribute my quota to the growth of ASSITEJ International by joining the engine room of the ASSITEJ International family.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,

Pamela Udoka
President, ASSITEJ Nigeria