



Serbia`s bid for ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2023

Belgrade
May 21-26, 2023

Festival ASSITEJ Serbia invites you to “Jump In!”

ASSITEJ Serbia and Festival ASSITEJ Serbia are delighted to invite the international ASSITEJ community to consider hosting the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2023 in Belgrade, the capital city of Serbia. “Jump In!” and join us in exploring top notch performances, reflecting on the new tendencies in TYA, discussing the potentials and challenges of culture and arts in improving our societies, and discovering the variety and charm of South-eastern European cultural space.

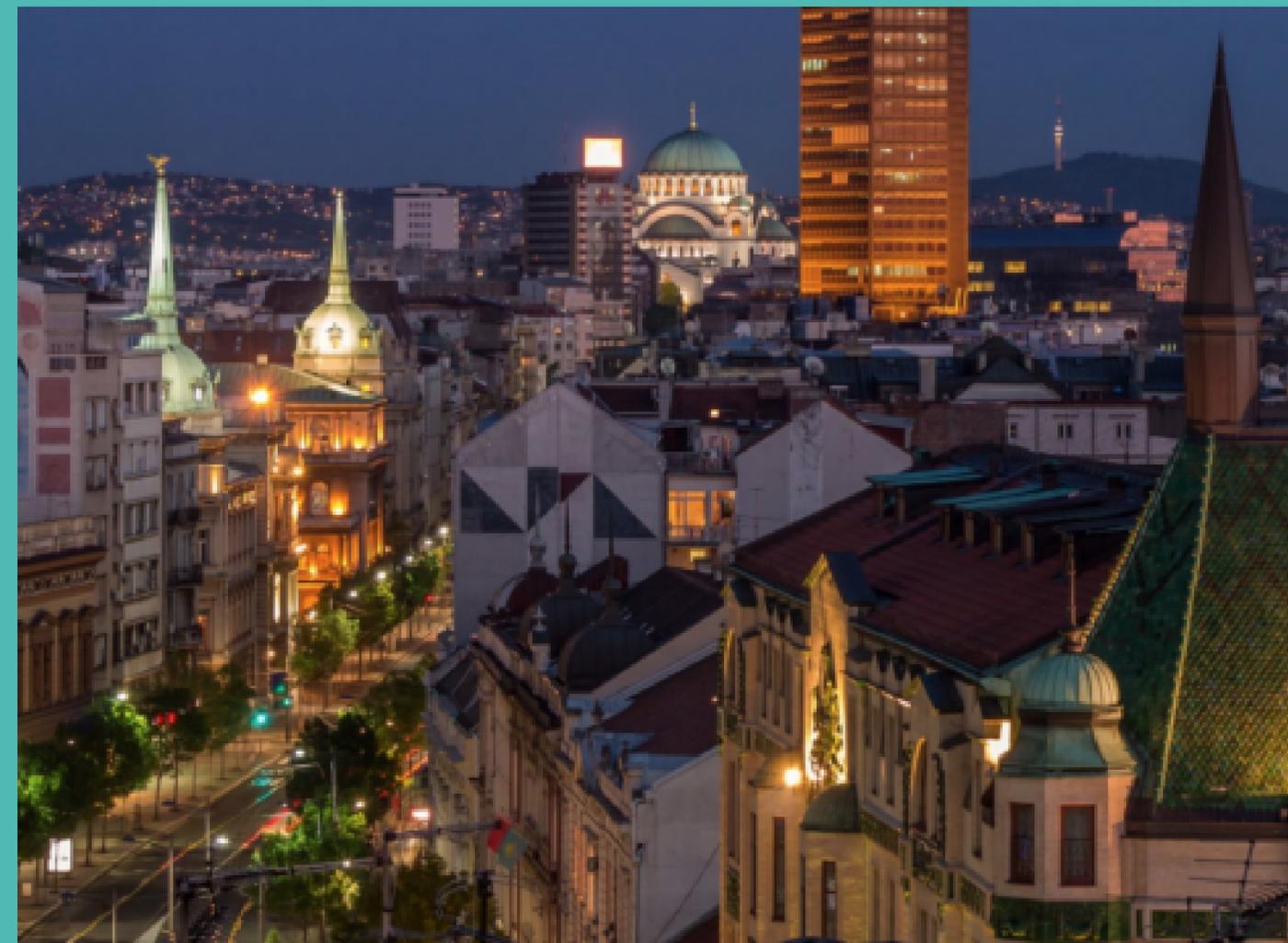




table of content



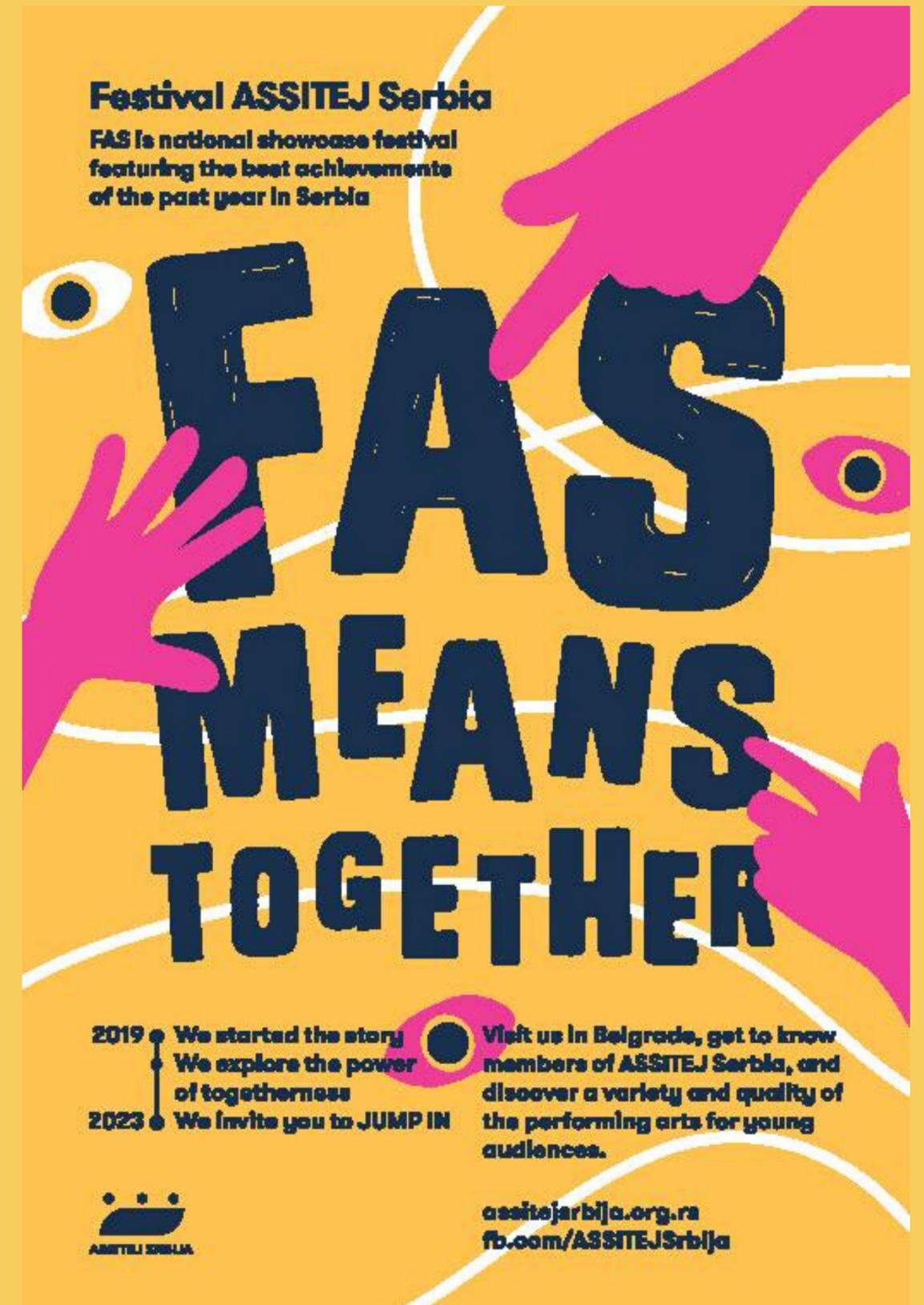
background
our motivation
artistic aims
program proposal
why are belgrade and serbia ideal hosts?
from the organizational point of view...
venues
accommodation, travel and logistics
staying longer in serbia?
organization and manpower
partnerships
funding and support

background

ASSITEJ Serbia's long-lasting wish to introduce our world-wide TYA colleagues to culture for children and youth in our country and put the south-eastern part of Europe into the spotlight, presented a challenge: creating a tailor-made festival geared up to host an immense and significant international event.

This challenge became our motivation, a driving force that led us to create a wonderful thing for our national TYA scene: to launch the first ASSITEJ National TYA Festival in Serbia "Festival Asiteža Srbije FAS" in 2019.

Building upon our experience fueled by fantastic energy, creativity and well-tuned program, we are looking forward to share the excitement of the special 5th FAS edition, marking the 20th anniversary of ASSITEJ Serbia, as a platform for a world-wide TYA Artistic Gathering in 2023.





A MEETING POINT & A CROSSROADS

With our Balkan region positioned in the very core of the Mediterranean Europe, we have been at the crossroads of empires, kingdoms, religions and migrations throughout the history. As a result, we learned to perceive the crossroads as an advantage, both a challenge and an asset.

Even today, the people fleeing from the East travel through Serbia as the only land route available towards the West. The Crossroads as a place of continuous motion at the same time represents a meeting point, a place of meeting and exchange of various goods, a link of different cultures, views and traditions.

This south-eastern part of Europe encompasses the most valuable essence of (central) European culture, the values of justice and human rights, the right to express one's own opinions and views, along with its well-known tradition of hospitality.

A melting-pot of various culture, schools of thought and perceptions of the future, it is also a natural stronghold of the struggle for tolerance and solidarity.



REGION IN THE FOCUS

We cherish the importance of connecting the countries in the region in all of its forms and through various channels of activities.

With the aim of gathering national ASSITEJ centers from the region, ASSITEJ Serbia launched the Europe 8+ platform, and continued to actively support further establishment of new national centers across the region.

Hosting the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering would offer a unique opportunity to gather world-wide support of ASSITEJ International, and TYA community, artists and practitioners, for substantial strengthening of our regional network as well as national centers from the region, through capacity building, knowledge and artistic exchange.

In addition to boosting our regional cooperation, we strive to increase the visibility of and appreciation for the richness and variety of our common cultural space, and share all its diversity and peculiarities with you in the framework of the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2023 in Belgrade.

The privilege of organizing this exceptional event in our region offers us a unique chance to invite you to discover this part of Europe and the globe, with its distinctive characteristics, contradictions and perspectives shaped by the turbulent history and variety of influences from which its vibrant multicultural present developed, filled with energy, surprise and charm.

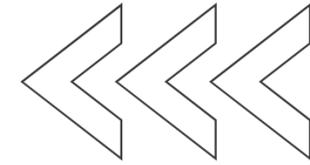
our motivation



THE RIGHT
TO ART AND
QUALITY
CHILDHOOD



our motivation



We want to be brave and call for a joint fight against the terror of fear that is taking over today's world.

We wish to generate creativity, energy and inspiration in order to bolster the strive for a good future, to create a common vision and foster the culture of unity and positivity.

We want to challenge the neglect of children's right to experience and participate in art.

We wish to provide hope for our children and young audience at a time when fear, lethargy, uncertainty and divisions prevail.

We strive to encourage them, give them the opportunity to engage and take action for a prosperous future.





ASSITEJ center Serbia is one of the most active centers in the region, devoted to supporting, gathering and cooperating with other national centers through the region.

We believe that hosting the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering in the heart of the Balkans would be highly beneficial for the ASSITEJ network in the region, as a chance to put the spotlight on the rich and diverse TYA scene developing in this part of Europe.

our motivation

TOGETHERNESS: SHOWCASE OF SOUTH- EASTERN EUROPEAN CULTURAL SPACE

We wish to present the abundance of networks carefully fostered throughout the region, illustrating the potential of culture and arts in establishing good neighborly relations, overcoming animosities and replacing prejudices with collaboration of caring and safe communities.

our motivation

ADVOCACY: TYA IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In addition to strengthening the TYA community in Serbia, through a tailor-made program, the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering in Serbia will contribute to the increase of the overall quality of culture for children and youth throughout our region. There for promoting a new dimension of cooperation, and advocating for placing the conditions and visibility of TYA higher on the decision-makers' agenda, is one of the themes of the Gathering.

Putting TYA in the public eye through the week-long international gathering of artists in Serbia will foster new energy and support for initiating the long-awaited institutionalization of synergy between education and culture, with the support of two natural partners in this endeavor - the ministries in charge of education and culture.

As the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering in Serbia opening will take place on May 21st - World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, it will introduce the topic of cultural diversity as focus of the Gathering. The protection of cultural diversity, which is, in the time being, an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity, human rights and freedom, is the starting point and the inspiration of AAG 2023. Official program will start with the conference on diverse artistic expressions and the potential they bring out, more specifically diversity in performing arts and art education for children and young people. The city of Belgrade, as the host, is considered to be itself, a historical loop of cultures. The conference will take place under the auspices of the Serbian National Commission for UNESCO.

our motivation



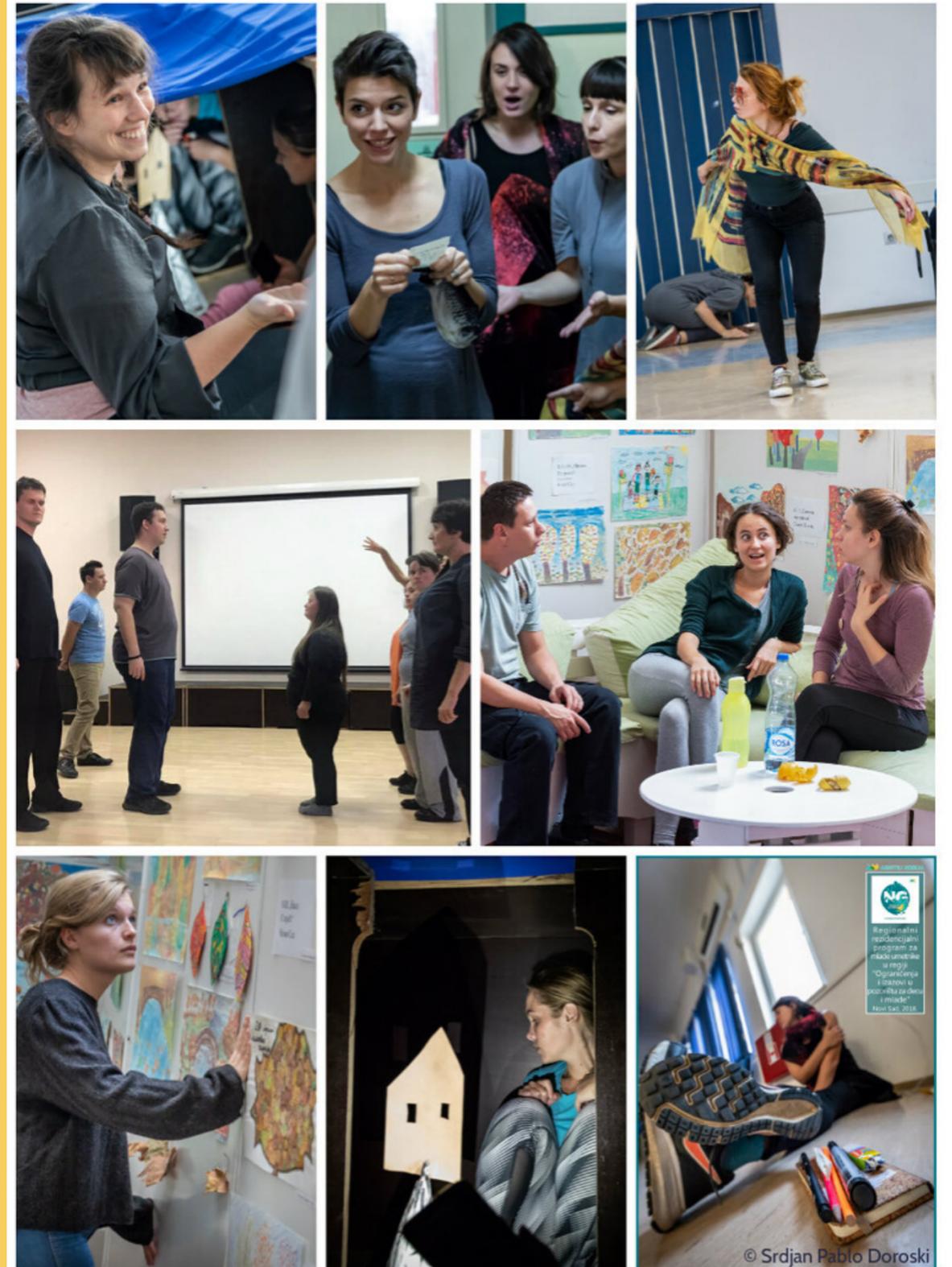
NEXT GENERATION: DRIVERS OF DEVELOPMENT

We wish to use the unique opportunity of hosting the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering to introduce and support the new generation of TYA professionals and artists from Serbia and the region gathered within the residential Next Generation program. The Next Generation brings us the new drivers of development, with fresh ideas and creative perspectives, building upon joint values promoted by the ASSITEJ community, ready to engage in improving the culture for children and youth.

our motivation

In the framework of the programmes created over the past 10 years, ASSITEJ Serbia placed a particular focus on developing capacities of young professionals, providing them with opportunities and support to engage and participate in our work.

Our efforts and trust have been rewarded with a remarkable generation of emerging young professionals, artists, producers and activists in the civil sector, who have already been recognized in the domestic and regional TYA community.



our artistic aims

- To provide a performing arts festival of high artistic quality, showcasing the cutting-edge production of South-eastern European TYA scene, as well as from around the world.
- To offer an inspiring platform for artists across generations to meet, exchange latest world-wide common experiences, reflect on the latest knowledge and achievements in the theory and practice of modern trends in TYA, and raise issues relevant to further artistic development.
- To put the focus on visual arts and new technologies in TYA by presenting and discussing a variety of opportunities for the professional development of all actors in the field of the performing arts.
- To bring together leading thinkers, practitioners, artists, as well as teachers and educators, and encourage them to create cross-cutting programs connecting education and culture, as well as to use the ASSITEJ Serbia Festival as the platform for gaining new knowledge, contacts and inspiration.
- To speak up about the role and importance of culture in today's society, marked by crises of values, commercialization and terror of fear.



our proposal: fas 2023 "jump in" program

The main segments of the 2023 AAG Program include:

- ASSITEJ International EC members' meetings (2 and a half days of 8 hrs slots)
- ASSITEJ Artistic Encounters (3 days in the 09 to 12 hrs slots)
- Festival ASSITEJ Serbia program
- 2 conferences dedicated to the topics of children's right to culture and arts, and new technologies and visual art at TYA
- 4 Focus Days
- Next Generation residential program and presentation (5 days)



our proposal: fas 2023 "jump in" program

Festival ASSITEJ Serbia (FAS) is the national festival of all ASSITEJ Serbia members, designed to foster various theatre practices and artistic expressions, poetics and opinions, with the aim to show-case the best productions of the year. Every year, the festival has a different Host – an institution or an organization that is a member of ASSITEJ which provide the venue, technical means and everything required for hosting the participating shows.

The institution of a Selector does not exist; instead, ASSITEJ recommends each member to take part in the Festival with one production of their choice.

The jury of professionals encompasses a representative of each organization whose production is taking part in the Festival, with the number of members that equals the number of productions show-cased.

The fifth edition of FAS will be tailor-made to fit the requirements of the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2023, with three program lines presenting a selection of the finest national productions, the best choice of productions from Southeastern Europe, and cutting-edge production from the international scene.



why are Belgrade
and Serbia the
ideal hosts for
AAG 2023?

**Meet Belgrade
in less than
a minute
(video)!**



MEET BELGRADE, THE CITY HOSTING THE AAG 2023

One of the oldest cities in Europe and the only one built on the confluence of two rivers - Belgrade, is a modern European city with a population of about 1.7 million people. It is an administrative, political and cultural center of the Republic of Serbia in the South-eastern Europe. The place where Belgrade is today has been inhabited from ancient times and all the layers of the history and cultural shifts (Celts, Romans, Turkish Empire, Austrians, and in the 20th century Kingdom of Yugoslavia but also Socialist Republic...) can be seen today. The city is full of diversity and oppositions that invite to be discovered and understood.

Visit to Belgrade will be an ideal opportunity for our guest from all over the world to get to know part of Europe in which different influences and cultures traditionally meet, and in today's moment what can also be noticed is the coexisting of socialist traces with the brutal intrusion of the neo-liberal capitalism. This unusual encounter of the old and new is visible in the architecture, everyday living, but also in the functioning of theatre scene in our region. A strong tension can be felt between the institutional and non-institutional cultural scene, and the healthy experimental tendencies that are the key generator of the new artistic trends are almost exclusively to be found outside of the public sector. The city have significant and large festivals some of which are among the top class and recognized international events with long background (Belgrade International Theatre Festival BITEF, International Film Festival FEST, Belgrade Music Celebrations BEMUS), relevant and long standing cultural institutions as well as brave, authentic and original independent scenes. Belgrade is a touristic attraction and very vibrant, live and economically accessible city to different social groups.



ENGAGEMENT AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE WHOLE BALKANS REGION

Former Yugoslavia was one of the countries co-founding the ASSITEJ International more than five decades ago. Despite the fact that individuals, institutions, organizations, and policies in the field of theatre for children and youth have been working hard in this region since the sixties, an event of this size and significance was never held here. We are now ready and more than happy to welcome it. Today, Belgrade is undoubtedly a cultural and social center of the region of South Eastern Europe - Balkans - former Yugoslavia, or however we choose to call it. Our strategy in organizing AAG 2023 is exactly to make space for the whole region to take part and have AAG contribute to the development of not only Serbian, but the regional scene as well..

CULTURAL, ARTISTIC AND EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Autumns in Belgrade particularly are marked by the Belgrade International Theatre Festival (BITEF), one of the oldest, most relevant, most prestigious events and a rarity in the family of major world festivals. Founded in 1967. BITEF has continually, every September, followed and supported the latest theatre trends, becoming thus one of the biggest and the most important European festivals. Additionally, an important part of the BITEF program is the BITEF Polyphony, investigating participation, marginalized and socially engaged theatre forms and interactions between performers and audience for more than 20 years of tradition. Even besides that, the whole country of Serbia, as well as the region of the Balkans is really featured by the developed independent scene encompassing relevant socially critical and political engaged collectives and works, relevant for our colleagues from ASSITEJ worldwide, while there is currently an increase in general interest of cultural stakeholders for TYA and the perfect moment to give them a further encouragement. The city is university center with more than relevant and long standing theatre schools and artistic academies in which youth are big population and potential, both in terms of creators as well as audience that could be attracted by the new and most progressive TYA practices.





FROM THE ORGANIZATIONAL POINT OF VIEW

The majority of citizenships do not require any visa to enter our country. Serbia is financially accessible and costs of visiting, short or long stays are significantly lower in comparison to the majority of the European states. We are located centrally for the many ASSITEJ global members as well as well-connected in terms of comfortable flights with all continents. Finally, most of the countries are present in Belgrade through their embassies or cultural centers which enables diplomatic, as well as artistic cooperation. Working language of the event will be English and some elements of the program will have interpretation to sign language. We will also invest additional effort to make those of venues who are not already physically accessible, to become such to the extent that is possible. We believe that the combination of these factors will contribute to attracting the large number of members and delegates from different countries of the world.

venues



ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering in 2023 in Serbia would be held in several different, relevant and most exciting venues in Belgrade. Children's Cultural Center of Belgrade has gladly accepted to be the main host of the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering in 2023, if our bid gets chosen. Theatre venues that could also be considered as additional hosts are: Little theatre "Duško Radović" (2 minutes walking distance), National Theater in Belgrade (15 minutes) and Ustanova kulture "Vuk Karadžić" (20 minutes). Planned conference venue is the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade. For ASSITEJ Encounters, and other side programs we also have at the disposal youth and students centers in Belgrade: Youth Center of Belgrade and Students Cultural Center. We are happy that all the festival's and artistic programs` venues in Belgrade are on walking distance between each other.



accommodation, travel and logistics

Belgrade is financially accessible and costs of shorter or longer stays are not as high in comparison to the majority of European locations. Since Belgrade is a big tourist center, in terms of accommodation there is an offer for everyone's budget:

- wide range of prices from convenient hostels for 10eur per night;
- AirBnb`s with prices about 30-50eur per night;
- nice hotels in walking distance to the AAG venues, such as Kopernikus, Hotel Prag, Life Design Hotel, Mark Hotel Belgrade, Constantine the Great or Moscow Hotel, charging between 60 and 90eur per night;
- luxury hotels such as Hyatt Regency, Courtyard by Marriott, Mama Shelter, Mona Plaza, Metropol or Hilton, charging between 120 and 150eur per night.

Additionally, ASSITEJ Serbia has been establishing partnership with hotels to reduce their regular price significantly for our delegates in return for having the hotel recommended for accommodation during the AAG.

Delegates can get to Belgrade by airplane, train, bus, car and ship.

The national airline Air Serbia, as well as many international airlines have regular flights from many world destinations, to the “Nikola Tesla” airport in Belgrade. There are also low cost companies flying to Belgrade: WizzAir, easyJET and Transavia. Airports nearby are: Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport in Hungary (3 hours 45 minutes by car to Belgrade city center), Timișoara Traian Vuia International Airport in Romania (2 hours 45 minutes) and Niš Constantine the Great Airport in Southern Serbia (2 hours 30 minutes).

The regular bus routes connect Belgrade with all the regions of Serbia. There are also many international buses which go to the neighboring countries and most European countries. The wide network of railroads connects Belgrade with all parts of Europe, and many parts of Serbia with day and night trains. Many European companies organize cruises on the Danube to Belgrade.

Taxi services are organized well in Belgrade and a drive can be ordered via phone, social media or mobile applications. Since recently there is also a local transport company such as Uber: CarGo. Belgrade has developed and low cost public transportation, but the majority of AAG venues are in walking distance one to each other, as well as to recommended hotels.

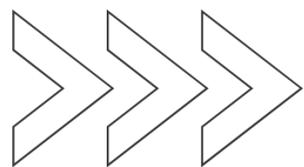


**Official web page of the Tourist
Organization of Belgrade**

staying longer in Serbia?

There is so much to see and do in Belgrade and Serbia! Kalemegdan Park, Belgrade Fortress, Skadarlija, The Museum of Yugoslavia, The Nikola Tesla Museum, Princess Ljubica's Residence, Savamala District, Museum of Contemporary Arts, Ada Ciganlija Lake, Košutnjak, St. Sava Temple, Vinča Archaeological Site, Jevremovac Botanical Garden, The Monument to the Unknown Hero at the Avala Mountain, etc! Delegates would be informed about these and many others possibilities for sightseeing Belgrade with the help of Tourism Organization of Belgrade.

For those interested in getting to know the nature, culture and the beauties of our country out of urban centers, they could be easily visiting National park Đerdap, Resavska Cave, Palić Lake or Zaovine Lake, or Lepenski vir, Gamzigrad or Studenica Monastery – two later are even accepted for the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites! More suggestions about what to visit throughout Serbia delegates would get from the Tourism Organization of Serbia, that is already among our official supporters.



[We invite you to see Serbia \(video\)!](#)



ORGANIZATION AND MANPOWER

Programming Board
Advisory Board
Organizing Board
Partners and potential partners
Funding and support



programming board

Program of the AAG will be rooted in, designed, selected and curated by the Programming Board, gathering most competent and engaged members of the Executive Committee of the ASSITEJ Serbia, as well as of ASSITEJ International. Director of the Program Board of the AAG 2023 would be Ms. Diana Kržanić Tepavac, long standing President of the EC of ASSITEJ Serbia and former member of the EC of ASSITEJ International in two mandates, Policy and Procedures group first and Programs and Projects working group later.

She was in charge of the Next Generation Placements program for emerging young artists and highly involved in creation of the IIAN network. She is an passionate advocate of realization of children's right to culture and participation.

advisory board

ASSITEJ Serbia will establish a Advisory Board composed of up to eight prominent experts and experienced practitioners in TYA, in order to gather diverse insights, ideas and inputs that will contribute to the development of comprehensive event program in line with the aim of this event.

The members of the Advisory Board will include experts from the areas of education, performing arts, management of cultural events, academia, as well as representatives of key theaters for youth and relevant state institutions, such as dr Milena Dragičević Šešić, full professor of the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade, teaching cultural management and cultural policy; Ljubica Beljanski Ristić, one of the pioneers in drama pedagogy and artistic education in former Yugoslavia; Aleksandar Nikolic, General Manager of the Little Theater „Duško Radović“ in Belgrade, etc.

organizing board

Production of the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2023 in Belgrade would be managed by Ms. Tatjana Nikolić, cultural manager and producer of the younger generation, associate of ASSITEJ Serbia for the past 10 years and officially an individual member since 2017.

Tatjana is researcher and teaching associate at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade, engaged on the subjects of cultural management and policy.

...will consist of:

- Program Production Team (coordinators of the festival programs, the conference programs, the thematic days coordinators, the residency coordinator and the ASSITEJ Encounters coordinator),
- Communications Team (Communications Manager coordinating photographers, video editor, designer, PR and media spokesperson, and social media and web administrator),
- Administrative and Financial Coordinator,
- Hosting and Logistics Coordinator (supported by team of 20 volunteers),
- outsourced External Evaluator.

partnerships

ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2023 in Belgrade will be hosted by the ASSITEJ Festival, curated by the Programming Board as described earlier. Important partners of the AAG initiative relevant for designing as well as implementing that and other elements of the program as: Children's Cultural Center of Belgrade, Little Theater "Duško Radović", Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade (Department for Theater Production, as well as Institute for Theater, Film, Radio and Television of the Faculty), Faculty of Technical Sciences in Novi Sad (Department for Scene Design), School for Children with Disabilities "Milan Petrović" in Novi Sad, an extraordinary artistic organization based in Novi Sad focused on inclusive performance "Per Art" and Belgrade International Theater Festival BITEF.

Relevant associates that we are planning to establish collaboration with, having in mind their important work in this fields are, additionally: Union Internationale de la Marionnette (UNIMA) branch of Serbia, regional theater festival based in Novi Sad "Sterijino pozorje" (host of the Serbian branch of the International Theater Institute ITI), Museum of Theater in Serbia and Museum of Theater in the Province of Vojvodina. Some of the planned media partners are theater and performing arts journals: "Niti", "Scena" and "Teatron".



funding and support

ASSITEJ Serbia is proud to announce that our nomination got supported by the most relevant governing structures in the field of culture:

- Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia
- Serbian National Commission for UNESCO - department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia
- Secretariat for Culture of Belgrade
- Tourism Organization of Serbia



Additional local, regional and national institutions we have considered to include in the preparations and realization of the AAG 2023 in Belgrade are: Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Labor, Employment, Social and Veteran Issues, Secretariat for Education and Children Protection of the City of Belgrade, Secretariat for Youth and Sports of the Province of Vojvodina, Secretariat for Social Policy, Demography and Gender Equality of the Province of Vojvodina, Tourism Organization of Belgrade, National Platform of Creative Industries "Serbia Creates" etc.

In case the nomination gets successful, we have considered to establish connections with different foreign and international funders such as foreign Embassies, supporting performances, lecturers and participants from different countries; Save the Children; UNICEF; UNDP; Open Society Foundation; Organization for European Security and Cooperation etc.

Significant amount of funding to cover the costs of the AAG would be collected from the participation fees, and a certain expenses will be covered by corporate sponsors, enabling financial support, subventions and discounts, as well as support in goods and services.

We welcome AAG 2023 in Serbia:

"jump in!"



Diana Kržanić Tepavac, Director of the Program Board
diana.dkt@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana Kržanić Tepavac".

Tatjana Nikolić, Producer
tatjana.nikolic.fdu@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tatjana Nikolić".





5 program tracks
6 days
10 + venues
25 + performances
300-500 delegates

thank you for your support!

Belgrade, May 2020