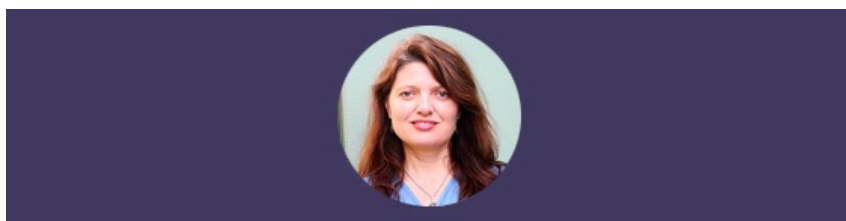




ASSITEJ

International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People

ASSITEJ Newsletter N°67, September 2015



## Introduction

### ASSITEJ South Africa is calling for your participation in inter-cultural exchanges.

ASSITEJ SA is calling for your participation in inter-cultural exchanges that might lead towards performance, showcasing and discussion at the 2017 World Congress. This is part of our three year programme of looking at how to take the work of ASSITEJ "one step beyond" where we've been in the last 50 years, in relation to three key themes: inter-generational exchange, inter-disciplinary exchange and finally, inter-cultural exchange.

Of course inter-cultural exchange speaks to a fundamental driver of ASSITEJ, which was created "to unite theatres, organisations and individuals across the world dedicated to theatre for children and young people". Why do we feel this drive to connect across space, languages and cultures? For anyone who has experience of inter-cultural collaboration and exchange, they will know that it is not always that comfortable or that easy! It can be highly challenging for all sorts of reasons. However it is often these very challenges that are triggers for us to view ourselves differently, push ourselves out of our habits, enrich our processes and create work which stretches the boundaries of expression.

This drive to exchange across cultural boundaries can be highly creative. After all, true creativity is often found in the collision and reintegration of disparate elements into new wholes - so generosity and openness to sharing, as well as openness to receive what is unfamiliar, strange or uncomfortable are an investment in a more creative future...for ourselves and our audiences.

Current news describes Europe as facing a "colossal humanitarian catastrophe", as refugees stream across the Mediterranean and through porous Middle-Eastern borders. This situation is found the world over, and is creating an environment where inter-cultural exchange is not only desirable, but also profoundly necessary. How do we cope with the changing face of the world and of cultures which cannot be static, but which are challenged to evolve and adapt under these kinds of pressures? How do we speak to children and young people who are displaced and experiencing a cultural onslaught of unimaginable proportions? How do we as artists recognise the need to collaborate with those whose understanding of what art is, whose training and experience, whose whole perception of the world, is fundamentally different to ours? And what does this encounter give us that will help us to be better artists and better, more empathetic human beings?

A key factor in the inter-cultural exchanges for the 2017 World Congress is that one of the partners should be from Africa. We hope that by pushing this exchange with Africa, we will be able to integrate more African artists into the work of the organisation as a whole, and also find ways that artists from countries outside of Africa can learn from the rich heritage, energy and talent that African artists can bring to the table. We also hope that this will give artists an opportunity to reach out to those within the refugee diaspora and to start to create new artistic communities wherever they happen to be.

We recognise that many artists within the broad fabric of ASSITEJ have not had exposure to seeing African performance for young audiences, or to working with African theatre makers. Hopefully 2017 will be the year in which African work for young audiences will be properly showcased for the first time within the ASSITEJ community, and hopefully this will lead to

more inter-cultural collaborations and exchanges into the future... thus allowing us all to take "one step beyond" where we have been before.

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## ASSITEJ NEWS



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### Orna Porat

We want to express our deepest condolences for the loss of Orna Porat this past August. She was not only important for the world of TYA in Israel, but was also a great contributor to ASSITEJ and its development. May she rest in peace.

**We remember her today with the World Day Message she made for ASSITEJ in 2010.**

#### DREAMS OF THE HUMAN FAMILY

The things that shape us, our character, are the ones that are locked in our memory - endeavors and events we have experienced and which have become memories. The things we remember sometimes originate in our fellows' desire to remember. Even events at whose center we ourselves stood reach our memory through the memory of others. We gathered them to ourselves from the memory of others, from stories they related to us.

Those with a rich imagination are even likely to remember things they have not experienced at all, but which through the power of that same imaginative memory became a real and well-remembered personal experience. In the theatre we find all of those memories of ours anew, the real ones and the ones that are figments of personal and collective memory.

That is the power of the theatre - the power to raise consciousness, associations, emotions, blocks of memory. The theatre is one of the most important art forms in the cultural life of human society, for it is engaged in all the spheres of human life. In children's theatre, the young audience encounters not only a familiar reality, but also a new and still unfamiliar one. They absorb refreshing impressions and discover new possibilities - the formation of a new life experience.

The theatre deepens and enriches the child's sensitivity by means of the renewed encounter with a familiar, close world that is known to him.

The theatre broadens the child's horizons by helping him to soar on the wings of imagination to unknown, distant, strange and enchanted worlds. A visit to the theatre creates in the young audience an emotional and intellectual collective memory - vestiges of linguistic, visual and ideological associations.

In the theatre, the child relives not only his memories and personal dreams, but also memories and dreams of the human family, of his ancestors, of his nation, of the entire human race! Children's theatre in our multicultural world has a special role to play in laying common cultural foundations that will bring the other closer: through its universal values it can convey a message of the beauty in human beings, and through acting express the secret of joy, childhood, longing and hope.

### Call for ASSITEJ Magazine 2016

For next year we would like a **VISUAL Magazine**, in which the visuals are supported by text. We therefore call for **high quality pictures\*** supported by articles of 500-1000 words\*\* maximum.

Both visuals and articles should address the theme of ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2016: **On the Edge: Interdisciplinary Exchange.**

We are facing "the end of the world as we know it" and are living in rapidly changing times.

- - Are there new narratives evolving on the global spectrum?
- - On the Edge of...the world, society, art... Our focus is on ideas and practice that take us one step beyond.



- - How interdisciplinary are these new narratives: how do they cross traditional boundaries, making art and thinking across art disciplines (e.g. music, art, theatre, dance, media), research disciplines (e.g. anthropology, history, folklore, journalism), and across genres and styles.
- - How experimental, unusual and on the edge can interdisciplinary performance be?

Please send your submissions by October 31st to: [assitejmagazine2016@gmail.com](mailto:assitejmagazine2016@gmail.com).

We will inform you of the selection of your submission by January 1st. We look forward to an exciting, interdisciplinary magazine.

**\*Pictures** | JPG format, 300 DPI, measure: 14 x 21 cm. (8 1/2 x 5 1/2 inches).

**\*\*Words** | All Contributions should be in English, we will rely on each author to provide the translation in original language and proofread this once the selection is complete.

## ASSITEJ Archives

Last April, we visited the ASSITEJ Archives and observed the care with which each country has their own file with corresponding material. It is amazing how much material is sheltered. We encourage you all to keep enriching the history of your center.

**We want to call upon all of the ASSITEJ members to send printed material of your festivals and other important events to the ASSITEJ Archives in Frankfurt.** The address is:

ASSITEJ Archives  
Schützenstrasse 12  
D-60311  
Frankfurt am Main Germany

With this, we can continue to build the history of our association and its centres.




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## ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2016

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Submission deadlines are approaching!

ON THE EDGE, the World Festival of Theatre for Young Audiences and ASSITEJ artistic gathering, takes place in Birmingham UK 2nd - 9th July 2016.

Things are really moving up a gear, 80% of the funding is in place, and the participating list of shows are being finalised. Last month, we issued call outs for participants for the Symposia and Next Generation strands and deadline for submissions is fast approaching, so make sure you get your applications in!

**The deadline for both strands is Wednesday 30th September 2015.**



### Symposia Call Out: Where are the Pioneers? ON THE EDGE of Practice & Research

Alongside a programme of specially chosen productions representing a diverse range of styles and forms of theatre from all continents, the ON THE EDGE Symposia Strand offers a variety of allied events for delegates to actively engage in and explore exciting developments and innovative practice.

We are looking for submissions which address cutting-edge practice, research and/or theory in the areas of:



- - Inter-disciplinary Practice - The Practitioner as Researcher
- - Innovative practice
- - Innovative research

Click here for full details [http://www.ontheedge2016.com/?page\\_id=57](http://www.ontheedge2016.com/?page_id=57)

## Next Generation Call Out

The Next Generation Programme is open to young and emerging artists (under the age of 36) from any country interested in the practice of theatre for young audiences and international collaboration. A special programme will be created across the 9-day international festival for participants which will include:



- - Festival performances
- - Master classes and workshop sessions
- - An examination of the the idea of 'cultural leadership'
- - Discussions around pioneering practice and research

Click here for full details [http://www.ontheedge2016.com/?page\\_id=71](http://www.ontheedge2016.com/?page_id=71)

**ON THE EDGE 2016 is presented by TYA-UK and TYA-Ireland. To keep informed about developments, visit the website and follow us on Twitter and Facebook**

T: [@OnTheEdge2016](https://twitter.com/OnTheEdge2016)

F: [Facebook.com/OnTheEdge2016](https://www.facebook.com/OnTheEdge2016)

W: [www.ontheedge2016.com](http://www.ontheedge2016.com)

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## National Centers

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### ASSITEJ Australia The AWESOME International Arts

Perth's premiere family arts event, The AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things, takes over the Perth Cultural

Centre in the October School Holidays. The 2015 program offers an assortment of theatre, dance, music, visual arts, and free interactive arts activities through which Bright Young Things and their grown ups can indulge their imaginations.

Open to the general public from 3 - 12 October, and offering tailored school tours from 13 - 16 October, the 2015 AWESOME Festival has something to please everyone! No matter your taste or budget, there's something for everyone at the 2015 AWESOME Festival. For the full program listing and to make your school holidays AWESOME head to [awesomearts.com](http://awesomearts.com)!



#### Last year the Executive Committee met during this festival and they said:

For me the most impressive aspect of the Awesome Festival was the inclusion of people with autism as artists and audience.....Highlighting the struggles and triumphs of people who have autism is a significant step toward understanding autistic human beings.

Manon van de Water

AWESOME Festival in Perth created an attractive space for children, taking advantage of the cultural zone where a museum, a library, and theatres were all placed in, with performances collected and a tent in the square. Even we, adults, were fascinated by space... I have thought the festival did play the part very well, looking at the children so pleased.

Asaya Fujita

In the plays and different shows that I had the opportunity to see during the AWESOME Festival there were three matters that particularly called my attention: humor, the handling of the words and technology.....

The technology applied in various shows and workshops was also revealing to me. We always highlight human quality in theatre and leave aside the world of technology in which we are immersed. Here, we had the opportunity to presence a dialogue between art and technology.

Marisa Giménez Cacho.

[Read More](#)



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## ASSITEJ Brazil A Window to Utopia



Paidéia would like to invite you to get to know more about the **IX Paidéia International Theater Festival for Children and Young People: A Window to Utopia**. This year the Festival is experiencing financial difficulties.

Brazil is passing through a crisis that also affects the cultural budget. During the entire last year, we have tried to obtain funding for our festival writing projects for state grants, having however obtained no support from the government. This year is being very difficult to Paidéia - we did not receive any grant for projects applied.

We would like to ask you to spread the news and ask people to contribute.

If you want to contribute, you can click here: <http://www.kickante.com.br/campanhas/uma-janela-para-utopia>

If you want to know more on how to contribute from abroad, click here:

<http://www.kickante.com.br/bau-de-ideias/como-funciona-crowdfunding/how-to-contribute-from-abroad>

[Read more.](#)

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## ASSITEJ Canada Good, and Less Good News From Quebec



### Government Investments

The Government of Quebec recently announced it will invest in two projects that will largely contribute to the development of theatre for younger audiences in Canada. The government guaranteed financial support for the construction of a multifunctional venue in Montreal, that will be shared by Maison Théâtre and the college cégep du Vieux Montreal. With 26 professional youth theatre companies in their membership, Maison Théâtre is essential to the engagement of young audiences across Canada. The new venue will present pieces that ask for more intimacy like those that are addressed at very young audiences, as well as experimental productions. The funds will also be invested in the renovation of the magnificent theatre hall that Maison Théâtre occupies since over 30 years.

The Government of Quebec also announced to financially support the theatre company Le Carousel in its efforts to create, in collaboration with Théâtre Le Clou, an international research and creation center for youth theatre under the name Cube. This centre will be a place of experimentation, exchange and advanced training. Through residences, Cube will host artists and companies creating theatre for young audiences. Cube wants to support the evolution and the development of creative youth theatre practices on a local, national and international level. Both companies responsible for the creation of this promising project, Le Carousel and Théâtre Le Clou, are nationally and internationally renowned for the excellence and relevancy of their practice.



## Converging Views

Throughout the last few years and almost simultaneously, the spokespersons of theatre for young audiences for Wallonie-Bruxelles, France and Quebec worked on their policies concerning the development and the support of the theatre for children and young people. They each have analyzed their respective regions and produced documents containing proposals and recommendations. In December 2013, the Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles in Paris gathered organizations of three French-speaking countries for a meeting under the title *Regards croisés sur les états des lieux et revendications en Europe et en Amérique francophone*, a conference on the contemporary situation of youth theatre in Europe and in French-speaking America. Organized in association with TUEJ (Montreal), SCÈNES D'ENFANCE ET D'AILLEURS (France), CTEJ

[Read more.](#)



## ASSITEJ Colombia

The Sixth IberoAmerican Children's Theatre Festival ACTI 2015

IberoAmerica.

Is a meeting place for children's theatre groups of

It seeks to create ways to facilitate the circulation of Colombian TYA plays internationally and to develop components such as: training and research, promoting workshops, forums, seminars and creation processes among the groups that are part of this project. It also seeks to promote an international network of theatre for children (Intercontinental Cultural Platform) and support the theatre industry of Bogotá, calling upon and choosing 9 groups that represent the city, 2 from outside Bogotá (Florencia and Medellín) and 4 foreign groups (Argentina, Chile, Spain and Israel) chosen by a public call.



## ASSITEJ France

Meet the Frenchies

**ASSITEJ France** is happy to announce the launch of a new website: <http://repertory.assitejfrance.fr>. It is a very simple space dedicated to French-speaking playwrights and companies, which were offered to introduce one play in French, English and/or one other language of their choice. Enjoy!

Avignon : here come the kids!

Despite the diversity of the hundreds of productions it offers, the Festival d'Avignon has never been seen as a must for children, but its 2015 edition could help change the story thanks to Olivier Py, who since he took up the direction, decided to dedicate one of the official festival venues to TYA. Thanks also to the professionals of the association « Scènes d'enfance et d'ailleurs », ASSITEJ France's sister association for inside territories, who organised « 2015 enfants à l'honneur », in the frame of the Belle saison, the national TYA year, with the support of French Ministry of Culture.

[Read more.](#)



## ASSITEJ Germany

Frankfurt Playwrights' Forum for TYA 2015

Exchange with ASSITEJ France

The next, the 27th edition of Frankfurt Playwrights' Forum for TYA takes place from 5th to 7th November 2015. This year the program of the Forum focuses on the role of dance and performances for TYA. National and international artists and companies like "SKART", "Ligna" or Erik Kaiel will present and discuss their work. Up to 120 visitors will get involved in the discussions. As part

of the program, new plays from France and a guest performance of the well-known show "La Mélancholie des Dragons" by Phillippe Quesne will also be presented. This part of the program was organized in cooperation with ASSITEJ France.

The Forum will be realized by Children's and Young People Theatre Centre in the Federal Republic of Germany in cooperation with Künstlerhaus Mousonturm. Program and registration is online at [www.kjtz.de](http://www.kjtz.de) Deadline for registration is October 30th.

Contact: Henning Fangauf [h.fangauf@kjtz.de](mailto:h.fangauf@kjtz.de)



## International Directors' Seminar for Children and Young Peoples' Theatre 2015

From July 6 - 11th 2015, ASSITEJ Germany and the "Schnawwl" Theatre at the National Theatre in Mannheim had the pleasure to welcome 27 directors from all over the world to Mannheim. The week was spent working on the seminar's theme of "Progress".

ASSITEJ Germany wishes to thank the "Schnawwl" and its team, especially Andrea Gronemeyer, Anne Richter and Susanne Brauer, for their great hospitality and all participants for their contributions to the seminar. We hope the exchange that we started in Mannheim will progress into the future!

A list of all participants of the seminars since 1976 can be found here:

[http://www.assitej.de/fileadmin/assitej/pdf/Regieseminar/Directors\\_Seminar\\_1976-2015.pdf](http://www.assitej.de/fileadmin/assitej/pdf/Regieseminar/Directors_Seminar_1976-2015.pdf)

Many photos and impressions have already been shared via Facebook and many participants have sent notes and short reports to ASSITEJ Germany and, hopefully, their national centers.



You can read more reflections by Alex Desebrock (Australia)

here: <https://misstipsyteacup.wordpress.com/2015/08/19/notes-on-assitej-directors-seminar-sharing-reflection/> And Nadeeka from Sri Lanka has made a compliment to ASSITEJ Germany and ASSITEJ as an association that we want to share:

"Art is creation of heaven in the world itself. The dramatists are the creators. If all the dramatists of the world get together it is not difficult to create heaven in this world. In Mannheim I saw it happening. ASSITEJ has initiated it."

The next seminar will take place in 2017 and the call for applications will be published in October 2016.

[www.assitej.de](http://www.assitej.de)

Contact: Meike Fechner [m.fechner@kjtz.de](mailto:m.fechner@kjtz.de)



## ASSITEJ Ireland In memory of Teenagh Cunningham

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of our dear friend and colleague Teenagh Cunningham who passed away on Friday August 21st after a short illness. Teenagh's enthusiasm knew no bounds and she will be dearly missed by all who were fortunate to know her.



Teenagh Cunningham

Teenagh joined Baboró in 2006 when she moved to Galway after several years in Kilkenny. She embraced the city with open arms and we counted ourselves lucky to have found someone with such dedication, skill and tenacity to champion Baboró's cause. Teenagh's legacy will live on - she worked tirelessly and passionately for the rights of children in our community to have access to the arts through the annual Baboró Festival and outreach school projects such as BEAST!

Teenagh will be dearly missed by all of us here at Baboró, and by her many friends and colleagues in the arts community both here in Galway, around the country and internationally. Thank you Teenagh for your inspirational commitment, your wonderful laughter and most of all for your friendship.

Our thoughts and deepest condolences.



ASSITEJ Israel  
In memory of Orna Porat

The members of ASSITEJ ISRAEL all bow down and deeply mourn the passing of Mrs. Orna Porat, distinguished actress, both honored and respected by the World ASSITEJ Organization.

With her great vision, in 1970 Mrs. Porat founded the first professional repertory theatre for children in Israel, (which today has become named after her). After she convinced the cultural establishment in Israel to recognize the rights for children and youth to have a theatre "just like adults".



ORNA PORAT  
1924 - 2015

Through her vision many other theatres were founded and developed original Israeli drama as well as a new generation of artists dedicated to theatre for children and youth grew and flourished.

Throughout these same years the Israel branch of ASSITEJ was established becoming a leading centre, guiding the Art of Theatre for Children in Israel, Orna was the living spirit, whose vision and inspiration led the way throughout all these years, for the creation of theatre for young audiences.

She has filled us all with her huge love for childrens' theatre and its great importance for mankind and the culture which shapes us. Orna Porat's legacy will continue to provide an inspiration to the creation of our theatre in the future.

May Her Memory Be Blessed

## ASSITEJ Korea

Korean theatre companies  
tour internationally this  
summer



아시테지 한국본부

Four Korean theatre companies, members of ASSITEJ Korea had several opportunities to meet with international audiences this summer. Each company was invited to prestigious festivals and theatres in the UK, India and Argentina.

"Brush" by Haddangse, the 22nd Seoul Children Theatre Awards piece for Best Director and Best Actor was presented in the Korean Season program at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Since the company won Asian Arts Awards at this festival last year, it has got a chance to tour in the UK this year, including the Kingston Welcomes Korea Festival.

Manetsangsahwa performed "Puppet Fantasy, Hooray!" at the Little Festival and the Aha! Festival in India with the support and arrangement of InKo Centre, a cultural institution funded by TVS Motor Company, India and Hyundai Motor India Limited.

Theater Ro.Gi.Narae played "The Woodcutter and Heavenly Maiden" at the International Theatre Festival of Integration and Recognition in Formosa, Argentina and received fervent responses. "Paper Window" by Ccotbbat was invited to the same festival with Theater Ro.Gi.Narae and two other venues, El Centro Cultural Presidente Néstor Kirchner and Teatro Real. It was standing room only and five Argentine media covered this tour.

Collaboration work  
between Korean and  
Danish theatre companies

Play BST from Korea and  
Teatergruppen Batida from  
Denmark will start a long-term





This project aims not only to exchange their repertoires but also to strengthen a network between Korean and Danish TYA.

exchange program this autumn.

Play BST will visit Copenhagen in September to perform "A Bird Story (Bongjangchui)" at various venues in Denmark such as Teatre North West. "A Bird Story" is a collaborative creation by actors of Play BST, which reinterprets the traditional Korean music, Bongjangchui with puppets and instruments.

## The 12th ASSITEJ Korea Winter Festival will be held from January 7 to 16, 2016

The latest outstanding Korean pieces, mostly nominated for the 24th Seoul Children's Theatre Awards will be on stage and international festival organizers, presenters and other professionals are to be welcomed. Further information will be updated on ASSITEJ Korea's website. [www.assitejkorea.org/english/intro.php](http://www.assitejkorea.org/english/intro.php)



ASSITEJ MEXICO

YOUTH'S LITERATURE

## ASSITEJ Mexico

### Ibero-American SM Prize for Children and Youth's Literature

Antonio Malpica Maury, author of children's literature, became the first Mexican author to obtain the Ibero-American SM Prize for Children and Youth's Literature, which is given by the SM Foundation along with different continental organizations of literature promotion and the International Book Fair (FIL) of Guadalajara; thus, in the 11 years of the award's history, which is given to creators in Spanish and Portuguese, it is finally in the hands of a prominent storyteller from our country.

The jury awarded the prize to Malpica for the "broad spectrum of themes, genres, moods and styles handled in his extensive work, as well as the variety of recipients to whom it is addressed," and for his "sensitivity to address social, complex issues, shedding light on the dark areas of our world."



The Ibero-American SM Prize was founded in 2005 to recognize those writers who have developed a literary career that focuses on young readers. It is convened annually by the SM Foundation and receives support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) office in Mexico, the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI), and the Regional Center for Book Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLALC), in collaboration with the FIL of Guadalajara.

## The 11th edition of the International Titerías Festival

The 11th edition of the International Titerías Festival will be held from September 5-18, 2016 in Mexico City. There will be 3 main venues and La

Titería, house of the puppet company Marionetas de la Esquina, will not only hold performances, but will also re-launch the Puppet Laboratory, a project that seeks to push young people towards creating shows parting from the exploration of puppet, object and theatre for children. It is a time of crisis, to reinvent oneself, to create, always maintaining quality. Under this premise, our program focuses on three issues of children's and puppet theatre: one-man shows, theatre for babies and magic boxes, formats that the development of small shows that will premier at La Titería in the summer of 2016.



From July 27 - August 10, La Titería had Natacha Belova as a resident artist. Her character development workshop triggered investigation,

exploration of material and actor-object relationships parting from half body parts and puppets.

The 15 professionals who took part in the workshop, ended with endearing characters and the possibility of taking them onstage soon. La Titería offers artistic residencies to those interested in working with Mexican artists in artistic and theatrical investigation in puppet theatre for children.



assitejnorge



## SAND International Performing Arts Festival for a Young Audience, Kristiansand, Norway October 6th-10th

ASSITEJ Norway proudly welcomes you to the 11th edition of SAND which will take place in Kristiansand on October 6th to 10th 2015.

The festival aims to present Norwegian and international performances of extraordinary quality.

The SAND festival seeks to

- be artistically challenging, presenting cutting-edge innovative and contemporary theatre and dance;
- explore different ways of facing young audiences;
- facilitate international encounters and exchange;
- bring together practitioners and researchers with a common interest in the young audiences.

### International meeting point

In addition to children and young people locally, the festival attracts a large professional audience form both Norway and abroad. It is thus an important arena not only to reach a broad audience, but to engage in professional dialogue, make connections and be exposed to potential buyers and collaborators. We are particularly pleased to announce that the ASSITEJ Executive Committee will hold its semi-annual meeting at the festival!

[Read more.](#)

## ASSITEJ Rwanda

New festival launched early this year:

Ubumuntu (Humanity) Arts Festival

Our 2nd edition is set for next year from the 14th to the 17th of July, 2016.

The first day of the festival is dedicated to works by/for children, and it would be great to have ASSITEJ play a role.



## ASSITEJ South Africa

## How to Best Employ a Child Actor

ASSITEJ South Africa is interested to learn about best practice internationally in employing child actors. We request information on contractual conditions, as well as any issues that ASSITEJ members have found either difficult, interesting or otherwise worthy of attention. South Africa is currently drafting a new standard contract in this area, and it would be good to have informed opinion about what was worked (and also what hasn't) from other countries. If you would like to share this information with us, we request that you send it to [info@assitej.org.za](mailto:info@assitej.org.za).



### 50th Anniversary Section

As part of the continuing celebrations of the ASSITEJ Jubilee, we will be including special contributions that speak about the history of our association and centers around the world.

On this occasion, we are sharing contributions on the history of ASSITEJ Poland and ASSITEJ Zimbabwe.

### My favourite project ASSITEJ Poland

By Maciej Wojtyszko

There's a long tradition of ASSITEJ theatre camps in Poland. An astonishing number of small projects are realised at each camp (at least two each day) and they provide an opportunity for young people aged 16 -22, who during the school year attend drama clubs, theatre schools or are award winners of drama competitions, to come together.

As a member of the jury, a director and children's playwright it was with great pleasure that I participated in these camps, for even though I had to dedicate two weeks of my holiday they also delivered so much positive energy and material for consideration, that looking back now I can't be sure whether I taught others more or whether I actually learnt more. (Particularly during the camps to which I took my own children when they were growing up.)

An especially valuable aspect of the camps was that apart from being given a lot of theoretical advice, teenage playwrights were able to see how their texts sounded in public.



And so it was, until one year Poland became part of the European Union.

[Read more.](#)

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## Assitej IATA Zimbabwe

Compiled by: Washington  
Masenda.

Following my appointment as new National Administrator cum Director for Assitej/ IATA Zimbabwe, I had a vision to work towards the improvement of many issues. The biggest among them was the growth of membership and a more reliable structure which was decentralised. My dream to make Assitej Zimbabwe grow as one of the biggest Centres within the continent has come to be exciting. Previously the national Association used to recruit school and community based organisations as members. They joined through their own interest and choice and this resulted in our membership being too scattered for smooth operations. This experience was not very user friendly and sometimes one could drive for more than 250KM to visit one or two members' schools.



A concept of a national festival was accepted by the honourable Minister of Primary and Secondary Education in Zimbabwe and he went on to support our initiative to organize all the schools in their respective structures. By so doing, authority was hereby granted for Assitej Zimbabwe to establish branches and chapters within Zimbabwe's ten provinces and more than sixty six districts. The idea of a national festival is a most welcome development that the Ministry supports fully. The Ministry also felt the the national festival will undoubtedly help learners to develop their skills in the areas of theatre and hopefully will help them to take up as careers in this genre in the future.

[Read more.](#)

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