



ASSITEJ

International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People

ASSITEJ Newsletter N°71, January 2016



## Introduction

### "SMALL" IS NOT LESS IMPORTANT THAN "BIG"

by Roberto Frabetti

From earliest infancy the mind is trained to regard size as value.  
Respect and admiration goes to what is big, what takes up more room.  
Small stands for common and uninteresting.  
Little people — little wants, little joys, little sorrows.  
Impressive — a big city, high mountains, a tall tree.  
We say: 'A great deed, a great man'.  
A small child is light, there is less of him.  
We must bend down, reach down to him.  
Even worse — he is weak. (Janusz Korczak)

In ASSITEJ there are a set of thoughts, artistic insights and pedagogical visions that are especially dedicated to children and young people. I think that these extraordinary words written by Janusz Korczak are shared by all of those people who bring ASSITEJ to life all over the world. And that all of them share as well the basic idea that "small" is not less important than "big".

Children, since the very beginning, are sensitive and competent human beings. When we choose to introduce them to theatre, we do it because we think of them as spectators now, today.

Children are an audience today and, since their early years, they deserve high quality products created for them by professional artists, who are sensitive and capable to create a relationship with children of different ages.

All children, from their early years, should be acknowledged a full cultural citizenship. As Martin Drury from the Arts Council of Ireland says, "A child is not the fraction of an adult". When talking about rights, a child is not 1/20, 1/10, 1/5, 1/3 of an adult, depending on the age. A child is always one, one human being; maybe with abilities and sensitivities that are different from those of an adult, but neither smaller nor lower.

A "high" idea of the child - subject to rights, competent, sensitive. A complete human being with characteristics and capabilities that, through the years, change, evolve, disappear...

This "simple" idea is an inspiration for Small size, because "The arts are not a matter of age but of curiosity". And it is with these words that we would like to announce this year Small Size Days, back again on the last weekend of January 2016.

The second edition will take place from Friday January 29th to Sunday 31st: three days dedicated to shows, workshops and other activities for children from 1 to 6 years aimed at promoting performing arts for early years.

Participation in the first edition was strong: 52 activities were presented by 27 members of Small Size Network over 19 countries, from Helsinki to Mexico City, from London to Salzburg, from Bucharest to Bologna.

For Small Size Days 2016, the network will aim at enriching the quality of the offer and to

open the event to external organisations, with activities in cooperation with the members of the Network. This year there will be 67 activities presented by 31 members of 23 countries, taking place in new cities such as La Paz (Mexico), Böblingen (Germany), Vicenza (Italy) and Elche (Spain), although we are still expecting more submissions.

The second edition of Small Size Days will be enriched by the energy and the participation of the new members, now 54 from 28 countries and 4 continents. Step by step, Small Size keeps growing.

[Read more.](#)

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## ASSITEJ NEWS



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Don't forget that March 20th is World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People. Join the campaign TAKE A CHILD TO THE THEATRE, and share with us how you will be celebrating this day.



Our colleagues from ASSITEJ Switzerland share what they already have planned; for details go to their section below.

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This year we introduce a new section called **Knowledge - Experiences - Reflections**. This section will be devoted to articles that explore and develop specific topics.

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### Call for Advertisements ASSITEJ Magazine 2016

ASSITEJ has begun work on the 2016 ASSITEJ Magazine that will be launched in our next Artistic Gathering in Birmingham, UK: On the Edge: Interdisciplinary Exchange. We are glad to offer you an opportunity in our magazine that will help in making your work more visible to the global community!

Possibilities for: Full page, half a page, a quarter of a page and inside ...

[Read more.](#)



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# ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2016

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## On the Edge ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2016

**Birmingham, UK from 2nd - 9th July 2016**  
**co-produced by TYA-UK and TYA-Ireland**

At the end of last year, we started to release information about companies performing at ON THE EDGE. But in addition to the performance programme, our Symposia is at the core of the ON THE EDGE experience.

Philip Hardy (Symposium Director), said: "It is always inspirational to see great productions at festivals and the Symposium also presents us with a much rarer opportunity for practitioners to explore our thinking and ambition when it comes to our own practice. We were delighted with the range of submissions we received, and have tried to create a broad-reaching programme that will run parallel with the performance programme."

Examples of what will be on offer include panel debates on Edgy Topics, Digital Technologies, Immersive Practices; and seminars on The Legacy of Theatre-in-Education, Training the TYA Artist, and Inter-disciplinary Practice. There will also be workshops from both visiting artists/specialists and a number of practical demonstrations from presenting companies at ON THE EDGE.

We will also include an inter-linking and full programme from the five ASSITEJ Networks exploring Inclusivity, Early Years Practices, New Writing, Researching the Practice and Next Generation.

And after our recent announcement of the first shows in ON THE EDGE, we are delighted to release information about four more productions that will join us in Birmingham in July!

- Out of the Blue / Sarah Argent and Theatr lolo (6 - 18months)
- Brush / Brush Theatre (4+)
- The Curious Scrapbook of Josephine Bean / Shona Reppe (7+)
- Katie's Birthday Party / Mary-Frances Doherty in association with Young at Art (11+)

You can find out further details by visiting the website, and make sure you follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Keep an eye out for further announcements, with ticket packages going on sale soon!

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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## ASSITEJ Networks

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### Toihaus Theater, Austria

#### International Call for "BIM BAM 2017"

6th International Theatre Festival for Children  
(1-6 years) at the Toihaus Theatre, Salzburg / Austria.



#### FESTIVAL BIM BAM 2017

Toihaus Theatre Salzburg (Austria) would like to announce a call for productions for children to be presented during the next edition of the international Theatre Festival "BIM BAM 2017". The next edition will take place in Feb./March 2017 with the focus on theatre/dance/performances with (live) music and/or music performances for children (1-6 years).

Opportunity

Deadline: APR 30, 2016

Detailed information: [www.toihaus.at/bimbam](http://www.toihaus.at/bimbam) (German)

[www.toihaus.at/index.php?id=1853&L=2](http://www.toihaus.at/index.php?id=1853&L=2)

## Dialogues and exchanges between Small Size companies

Teatro al Vacío Company from Mexico, member of Small Size Association since 2014, shares with pleasure that they will start 2016 with meetings with two major companies that are a reference point in work dedicated to early childhood: La Baracca (Italy) and Teatro Paraíso (Spain).

During the month of February, Teatro al Vacío will conduct a residence in Bologna as part of the new project CERCA/CLOSE. This scenic research project seeks to dialogue in a creative process with artists from La Baracca, in order to learn from the plural experience and enrich scenic proposal. The conclusion of this creative process will be shared as a work in progress or study for organizers in the next edition of the Festival "Visioni di Futuro, Visioni di Teatro". This residence has the support of the Iberescena Program.

[Read more.](#)

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# National Centers

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## ASSITEJ Azerbaijan

### Collaboration project with Sweden

During the last days of December, Azerbaijan State Theatre of Young Spectators held a meeting with Tomas Danestad, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Sweden; the implementation of joint projects by initiative of the Kingdom of Sweden during the following meeting were discussed. According to the negotiation, the Embassy of Sweden in Azerbaijan chose a few works of the famous Swedish writer Astrid Lindgren for translation: "[Pippi Longstocking](#)", "[Carlson on the Roof](#)" and other novels were chosen. The translation will be distributed to children living in refugee camps.

In addition, Azerbaijan State Theatre of Young Spectators took under consideration to stage one of the author's novels within the joint project.

There were some changes in the ASSITEJ-Azerbaijan National Center structure. The General Secretary and Board of Members changed in the National Center.



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## ASSITEJ Cameroon

### African Theatre for Young Audiences in Europe.

From 27/February to 11/March 2016  
Bologna, Italy and Frankfurt, Germany

You will have the opportunity to meet ABOLE, a speechless show created by an African theatre group named: **LE THEATRE DU CHOCOLAT** of Yaounde, Cameroon.

To read the European Programme for **THEATRE DU CHOCOLAT** and get information about the show: [Click here.](#)





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## ASSITEJ Croatia

### The year 2016 – A new beginning for Theatre Epicentre in Zagreb

Theatre Epicentre was founded in 2007 in Zagreb, Croatia, by ASSITEJ Croatia theatre director Ivica Šimić and other children and young people's theatre employees. Its mission was to establish a theatrical centre in the region of Central and Southeast Europe as a networking platform for theatre artists of all backgrounds.



HRVATSKI CENTAR ASSITEJ  
ASSITEJ CROATIA

It was in 2009 that Theatre Epicentre took over the task of providing administrative support to Secretary General of ASSITEJ Ivica Šimić, who served two terms until 2014, when the Secretariat was moved to Mexico. In that period, Theatre Epicentre relocated its headquarters, which are now situated in the very heart of Zagreb, on Preradovićeva Street, in gorgeous, city-owned premises spanning 90 square meters. After constructive talks with the members of the ASSITEJ Croatia Executive Committee during 2014, Mr. Ivica Šimić entrusted Theatre Epicentre, with all its assets as well as the obligation to manage the association, to ASSITEJ Croatia and UNIMA Croatia, as well as several individual members. Upon completion of the formal procedure carried out by the assembly organs, both of these associations have moved to the aforesaid lovely premises, where they are currently working together on creating and implementing theatrical and artistic programmes for (and with) children and young people.

Theatre Epicentre decided to change its statute in 2015, stipulating that only professional associations and organisations which promote various aspects of art for children and young people in their programmes may become its members. In addition to the existing theatre associations, we also wanted to actively involve various associations of writers, illustrators, costume and stage designers, musicians, dancers and new media. Theatre Epicentre's mission, based on informing and connecting all artistic endeavours and tendencies aimed at children and young people in Croatia and the region, has also been revitalised in this manner.

[Read more.](#)



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## ASSITEJ Cuba



### Begins 2016 with actions for improvement

In January we will incorporate two workshops organized by our colleagues in the ITI Cuban Center:

one of them is entitled "Spanish Golden Age Verse," and will be conducted by the

outstanding lead actor, director and Spanish teacher, Ernesto Arias. The other, which has the suggestive title "The Actor's Garden," will be given by the renowned actress, director and teacher Paloma Zavala and will focus on some of the techniques and skills available to actors, such as viewpoints training, Chekhov technique, and theatre anthropology among other physical and vocal trainings.

For the month of February, we will have a Playwriting Workshop with the renown Mexican director and playwright Berta Hiriart; this space will be dedicated to the creation of theatre plays, specifically thought of for children and teenagers.

All of these activities will take place in Havana, Cuba.

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## ASSITEJ México

### The Puppet and the Performing Arts Fourth Colloquium

April 30 - May 8, 2016, Veracruz, Mexico

This 2016 the colloquium happily joins the 40 year celebration of the establishment of the Theatre School in the University of Veracruz.

The presence, history, aesthetics and different functions of the puppets and puppeteers in performing arts are some of the matters that this Colloquium will invite practitioners to reflect on.

Papers:

**Presentations in Spanish, not exceeding twenty (20 ) minutes. Proposals for participation, no more than one page, and a brief curriculum vitae should be received no later than February 29, 2016.**

For further information and details please [click here](#)

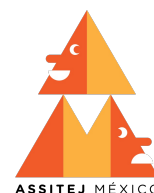
## Opportunity



## Other activities in Mexico

Mexico City has the largest artistic production of the country. Below we share the activities of three companies developing their artistic projects in different areas of Mexico. This activity has certainly had a major impact .

[Read more.](#)



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## ASSITEJ Namibia

### Bringing ChiNamibia to more children

We will be preparing to branch out to 14 regions with a project called "**Bringing ChiNamibia to more children**". This will be our main focus for the year because we will be operating at a national level.

We will also open our centers where we operate and start with the teaching for the year and start with preparation of our first event which is celebrating **International Mother Language Day** on the **20 February** 2016. On this day children perform cultural dances, storytelling, poetry and songs in their mother tongue. This is a full day of celebration.



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## ASSITEJ Norway

Save the dates: SAND  
International Festival of  
Performing Arts for a Young Audience Kristiansand, September 15th  
to 18th 2016

[assitejnorge](#)



ASSITEJ Norway are thrilled to announce the next edition of SAND! The festival will for the first time appear as an annual event, and we ask you all to mark it in your calendar. The theme of the festival is **inter-disciplinarity** in arts for a young audience.

***Interplay between the arts***

As a follow-up of last year's theme of **interplay** – the theme of the festival thus focuses on the interplay between different artistic expressions. Some of the questions we will be exploring through performances, seminars, discussions and workshops are: What does it mean to work in an inter-disciplinary manner? How can we ensure a non-hierarchical relationship between different dramaturgical elements of a performance? Why is it interesting to work with inter-disciplinarity for a young audience? How can new media and technological innovations add to the arts for children?

### **International professional programme**

This year's festival will be somewhat smaller in size as we want to gradually expand into an annual rhythm. For the 2016 edition a stronger focus will be on the professional programme, both aimed at practitioners and scholars. A handful of high quality performances will be carefully selected to raise interesting questions in line with the festival theme. There will be no call for performances, but instead we aim to present a range of artistic and research projects for an international professional audience.

**Watch out for an international call for presentations which will be announced shortly!**

[www.sandfestival.no](http://www.sandfestival.no)

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## ASSITEJ Switzerland

Action Robin Hood for the  
World Day of Theatre for  
Children and Young People



theater für junges publikum  
théâtre jeune public  
teatro per un giovane pubblico  
teater per public giuven

By the world day of Theatre on the 20th  
of March 2016, ASSITEJ

Schweiz/Suisse/Svizzera/Svizra would like to allow the children with financially and socially weak backgrounds a visit to the theatre. Within the scope of the action Robin Hood, visitors can donate the amount of a ticket. Thanks to this support and with the help of well-chosen social institutions of Switzerland, children and youngsters will go to the theatre on the 20th of March! Postcards in all four national languages can be requested to [info@assitej.ch](mailto:info@assitej.ch) (Illustration by [Silke Schmidt](#))

More Information on [www.assitej.ch](http://www.assitej.ch)

### **SHERLOCK 2016 from 25th to 28th of September 2016 in Schaan (Liechtenstein)**

Every two years ASSITEJ Schweiz/Suisse/Svizzera/Svizra organizes, in cooperation with ASSITEJ Liechtenstein, a meeting and training seminar for theatre professionals from Switzerland, Liechtenstein and abroad. The three-day workshop intends to encourage individual artistic development, the quality of theater work for a young audience and the exchange among national and international theater professionals.

Further information will be published soon on [www.assitej.ch](http://www.assitej.ch) or [www.assitej.li](http://www.assitej.li)

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## Articles Section. Knowledge - Experiences - Reflections.

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### Boomerang – Documents of poverty and hope

An international theatre project.  
By Dirk Neldner

Three theaters from Europe (*lead organisation Teatro Elsinor, Italy, Teatro O Bando, Portugal and Pilot theatre, UK*), two from Canada (*Dynamo Theatre, Montreal and Presentation House Theatre, Vancouver*) and the Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP), have joined together to work globally on the theme Poverty and Migration. Six intercontinental co-productions combining documentary theatre form with the aesthetic variety of the involved theaters grow out of the interview material.

In 2013, as we began to have our first thoughts about an international theatre project, I had just returned from Portugal. There, our friends from Teatro O Bando, had told me about a restaurant in Lisbon that had specialized itself in organising farewell parties for young Portuguese people who were emigrating: a cynical symbol of the crisis in the heart of Europe.

This was during the height of the European banking crisis when many young, mainly well-educated South-Europeans left their countries in search for work. Mass poverty, which had been considered as defeated, came back to Europe.

With the project »*Boomerang-documents of poverty and hope*« we wanted to go on a theatrical root-tracing search to see how the flight from poverty influences the personal vitas of young people. The chosen form of documentary theatre seemed fitting because it called for a concrete artistic examination of the experiences of those directly affected.

Not even two years later, totally different events demanded our attention: War, terrorist attacks and the gigantic wave of refugees who arrived in Europe last year. It was important for the theatres who co-operated in the intercontinental coupling, to refer to this critical situation. This is especially true for the project theatres whose young target audience demands a sensitive way of dealing with current developments.



Full article [click here](#).

