



ASSITEJ

International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People

ASSITEJ Newsletter N°74, April 2016



Introduction

By Sue Giles

Being part of ASSITEJ has opened up a world of approaches to theatre and the meaning it has for a young audience.

Recently I witnessed a theatre room of very small children intent on the same moment before them - a wordless performance involving time passing, melancholy and ducks. The children were together in the experience but also completely individual in their response. There in front of me was a human being's ability to let go of self and engage with the universe. It was visible proof of the magic that occurs through an audience's imagination to transform reality.

There is a great ASSITEJ campaign called Take a Child to the Theatre which reminds us that children do not go to the theatre of their own volition; they have to be taken and this only happens if the adults around them think that it's important. In a child's life, adults choose for them and decide for them in matters ranging from the most trivial to the most life threatening. The powerlessness of children is a fact that affects their cultural citizenship.

When a person experiences theatre they are within a live event that involves the senses, the emotions and the imagination as well as a kind of contract of belief. For a time our own reaction and opinion matters most and it is a private experience as well as a shared one. It is a reminder of the power of our own thoughts and of the central, strong place within every individual that remains their own. The artist's intention is one thing, what the audience receives is another.

The nature of theatre; subjective, nuanced, intangible - is one of the things that enables human beings to realise their individual power of expression and belief. The private world of experience is the strength within us all no matter our knowledge or expertise...my thoughts are my own

In many parts of the world, including my own country, adults are invested in control. Driven by anxiety about safety and fear of the world we live in, we deny our children physical freedoms we once had and we are inclined to fill every waking moment with interpretation and commentary.

Through theatre we have the chance to offer space and time to subjective experience and offer a place where the child's power and sense of control is returned.

The theatrical transaction at its best draws this out no matter the age and to enable participation in theatre at any age, whatever the economic situation, whatever the ability, is a goal worth aiming for.

Our challenge as theatre makers is to have no need to adjust the realities or expectations of our audience but to provide the pathways for them to have the most powerful time of their lives.



LAST CALL for performances 2017 in Cape Town

Opportunity

ASSITEJ South Africa reminds all theatre practitioners to apply before the end of April to have their performances presented during the 19th ASSITEJ World Congress of the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People from 17-27 May 2017 in Cape Town, under the over-arching theme "Cradle of Creativity". Applications are through the website: <http://www.assitej.org.za/>

The World Congress is the most important meeting of all members of ASSITEJ, taking place once every three years. It is the culmination of the working life of the association for that three-year period, reflecting on the last period of activity and creating a vision collectively with members for the future.

The Performing Arts festival will encompass a diverse and rich range of theatre productions from across the globe during the last few years, with a special focus on Africa as the "Cradle of Creativity" and on inter-cultural collaborations. It will give a snapshot of theatre for young audiences as it exists at this point in history, and as represented by performances from a wide variety of countries and continents. This is the first time that the Congress and Festival will be held on African soil.

The Festival comprises several platforms, including the International, African and Collaborative Platforms.

The call for participation in the Conference, Symposium, Workshop and Forum section will be announced in the next newsletter.

Deadline April 30 2016.

- [Submissions to the International Platform \(FROM ALL CONTINENTS APART FROM AFRICA\)](#)
- [Submissions to the African Platform \(FROM ALL FIVE REGIONS OF THE CONTINENT, INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA\)](#)
- [Submissions to the Collaborative Platform \(FROM AN AFRICAN COUNTRY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY\)](#)

[Main ASSITEJ SA web](#)

LAST CALL for
Advertisements ASSITEJ
Magazine 2016

ASSITEJ is working on the 2016 ASSITEJ Magazine that will be launched at our next Artistic Gathering in Birmingham, UK:

On the Edge: Interdisciplinary Exchange

We are glad to offer you an **opportunity for exposure 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 back cover.

The deadline for booking an advertisement in the ASSITEJ Magazine 2016 and for receiving artwork is April 30, 2016.

[Read more.](#)



ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2016

ON THE EDGE Symposium Programme

The ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering (AAG) offers an annual opportunity for the international membership of ASSITEJ, artists and other stakeholders to gather in one place to explore TYA Practice – it was created to afford the possibility to explore practice; to challenge and learn from colleagues and peers, and to be inspired through exposure and networking within the field of TYA.

Details of the extensive ON THE EDGE Symposium have recently been announced. Delegates can look forward to a week packed with workshops, lectures, papers, panel discussions and more, to accompany the busy performance programme.

The theme for the ON THE EDGE Symposium is: Where are the Pioneers: Who is on the edge of practice & research?

In putting together the Symposium Programme the organisers wanted to explore what being on the edge might mean to theatre practitioners today. For some, it might be around challenging cultural boundaries, by breaching norms in choice of subject matter, or by taking work across and between different cultural contexts. For others, an edge is a meeting point where practices join, from one practice discipline to another or where ways of thinking join ways of making. For still others, the edge might be a marginal social position that theatre practices try to redress; or, it might be an institutional margin overcome by pulling organizations into networks.

Highlights of the ON THE EDGE Symposium include:

- The ASSITEJ Artistic Encounters on 7-9 July, which explore three themes: Interdisciplinary Practice, Freedom of Speech and Artistic Identity.
- Workshops by a host of specialist TYA practitioners including the Royal Shakespeare Company, N.I.E. Theatre, Upfront Performance Network.
- Case-studies from the cutting edge of TYA practice e.g. Higher Education: *Current Training Practices Internationally*, Theatre from the Inside: *Immersive Theatre Practices*.
- There will be a full and interactive programme from the ASSITEJ Networks (ITYARN, WLPG, IIAN, Small Size and Next Generation).
- A unique event to connect with international partners through Creative Europe: *Across the Borders* which will include networking opportunities

[Read more.](#)





Henryk Jurkowski 1927 - 2016

UNIMA and the world of puppet theatre has lost one of its greatest pillars of scholarly research and artistic talent beyond compare.

Henryk Jurkowski, UNIMA Honorary President and dear friend is no more.

Henryk was an inspiration to puppeteers all over the world, those he met, those he taught and many who read his articles and

books on the art and science of puppet theatre.

Henryk contribution and work spans a whole era, the art which he so loved and the art that he most profoundly brought alive to all of us, his smile, the twinkle in his eye and his encouragement to younger generations of puppeteers the world over, will be sincerely missed by all of us.

Many met him last in Charleville, it was a pleasure and treat to see him in all his spirit and energy in the conferences and interactions during the festival and seminar sessions.

His word was truly admired and accounted for by each one of us who had the pleasure and honour of meeting him through these many years, both in UNIMA as also in many fora around the globe. There are few like him with his critical eye and intellect, his thought and word as also his friendship will live ever more.

In deepest condolences to his family, friends and all of us puppeteers who will always keep him close in our hearts.

Dear Henryk may you rest in everlasting peace, and may you guide us where ever you are.

Dadi D. Pudumjee
President UNIMA

National Centers

ASSITEJ Denmark

Opportunity

FREEDOM PRISON
May 2017, Horsens, Denmark

Komediehuset in Horsens, Denmark invites European ensembles of young actors, dancers, artists, musicians etc. in the age of 18 to 30 years to participate in the project

FREEDOM PRISON in Horsens, Denmark in May 2017.

The project takes place in the former state prison called FAENGSLET.

Approximately 130 participants from different European countries will live and work in the prison for 10 days, where they will show their own productions to an audience based on a free interpretation of the word Prison.



At the same time all the participants will take part in creating the big show called The Freedom Prison Show which will be shown the last two days of the project for 8000 people per evening.

Freedom Prison focuses on freedom and restriction - in terms of politics, art, humanity and history. Sustainability and diversity is

integrated in all aspects.

See full programme and application form at this link: [Programme and Application](#)

The first ASSITEJ Prize

ASSITEJ Finland gave out the first ASSITEJ prize to a well known puppeteer and founder of Puppet Theatre Sampo, **Maija Barič** in Finland. The prize was given because of Maijas's lifelong achievements with Finnish children's theatre. Since the 1970s Maija has been a magnificent pioneer of theatre and arts education in Finland publishing dozens of books related to puppetry as well as performing and writing plays herself. She founded Puppet Theatre Sampo together with her husband and retired from the post of artistic director in 2014.

The prize was given on 20th March as a part of ASSITEJ World Day of Theatre for Children in 2016.



ASSITEJ France

Thanks to the playwrights, worldwide

The 2016 edition of "1 day, 1 play", the instant playwriting game organised by ASSITEJ France to celebrate the World Theatre Day, with the help of Write Local, Play Global, has been a great success, and a real enjoyment for all the readers and participants. Not less than 38 original short plays written in 24 hours, were sent from 12 countries on the theme "The Other", proposed by our associate playwright of the year, Catherine Verlaquet. The youngest author is 11 years old!

We are delighted to offer you the reading of Simona Nyitraová's "Ten clouds for Timmy" (Czech Republic) [here](#), and to invite you to discover all the plays on [1 day, 1 play's website](#).

ASSITEJ Hungary



VIII ASSITEJ Biennale in Kaposvar 2-7th of May

ASSITEJ Hungary is having the VIII ASSITEJ Biennale in Kaposvar. This time around 40 show will be represented from all around Hungary, plus two Belgian companies Finish dance company and "Small Size" shows.

ASSITEJ India

Three playwrights from India are participating in the New Visions New Voices (NVNV) Program at the University of Maryland and Kennedy Center from 23 April to 8 April, 2016.

The playwrights are: Sunil Bannur (I am Fine, Thank You), Deepika Arwind (One Dream Too Many) and Vinati Makijani (The Other Side). The three playwrights were selected following the Playwrights Intensive in India in November, 2015. This is a step in developing TYA plays in India.



ASSITEJ ITALY



GIOCATEATRO TORINO

20th edition

4 - 15 APRIL 2016



Giocateatro Torino is a showcase of theatre for the new generations. Held in Casa del Teatro Ragazzi e Giovani, the programme presents a selection of the most interesting new Italian theatrical productions for children and young people. Every year special guests from foreign countries are invited to attend. The festival, which began in 1996 and is held in April, includes Professional Days, in which programmers and theatre directors can watch national debuts of the latest productions.

INFO

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[Read more.](#)

ASSITEJ Kazakhstan

A ceremony of the Professional Theatre Award "ENLIKGUL" was held for World Theatre Day on March 28, in which a member of our center Nurkanat Zhakypbay - Artistic Director of Theatre of Youth in Astana won in the nomination of "Director of the Year".



ASSITEJ Korea

ASSITEJ Korea held the ceremony of World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People at the Multipurpose Hall of Marronnier Park in Daehangno, the theatre district in Seoul, at 4pm on



March 21, 2016.

Every year, most of our members including our first generation gather to join the Celebration. And we celebrated the Day with messages by Jenny Sealey, Yvette Hardie and by Mr. YOON Jo-byung, the former President of ASSITEJ Korea.

This year, ASSITEJ Korea created the 1st Best Actor Awards for those who deserve to be recognized for their devotion to the field, Theatre for Children and Young People.

Also, ASSITEJ Korea underlined the significance of the Day with the ASSITEJ Korea award-ceremony. This year the 13th recipient was Mr. MENG Oan-ho, a Cultural officer of Goethe-Institut Korea, who got credit for contributing to develop contents and cultural exchanges for children and young people.

Please find the ASSITEJ Korea's message for the 2016 World Day below.

Use the link to see the video. (<http://me2.do/5BEoG95x>)

[Read more.](#)



ASSITEJ Lithuania



Acting Up! and Teatriukas in Vilnius

During the month of March, Acting Up! and Teatriukas in Vilnius, Lithuania presented a regular series of early year story and song sessions called Vintage Voices.

Essentially an introduction to the theatre experience, this month saw Dalia Mikoliunatė adding Lithuanian traditional songs to the programme. Vintage Voices is designed to create an intimate atmosphere of communication in an artistic environment which both baby and adult will enjoy.

We are developing an audience that will increase its expectations with regard to early year theatre as they become more familiar with the experience. We are also researching why they come and what words they associate with their experience at the theatre afterwards. Teatriukas translates as Little Theatre and the space is ideal for very young children to experience the theatre for the first time.

Despite its size, the theatre has a costume department, props area, lighting box, as well as kitchen and bathroom facilities. Teatriukas was one of the first independent theatre companies formed in Lithuania after 1991 and directors Dalia and Zilvinas pride themselves on their ability to embrace new audiences, new projects and new partnerships in an international context.

Acting Up! director Cliodhna Noonan says "Teatriukas was a real gem to find and being able to perform there has changed my whole impression of this posting to Vilnius!!!" **In May 2016, the second edition of the Labas! Early Years Festival will be hosted by this very active partnership of Acting Up! and Teatriukas.**



ASSITEJ Spain's Juan Cervera Essay Award



We would like to congratulate Yoloxóchitl García Santamaría, from Mexico city who won ASSITEJ Spain's Juan Cervera Essay Award with her essay "Current Prospects for Playwriting for Children in Mexico".

Yoloxóchitl has written and directed plays for children of her authorship. Her stories and stage show reviews have been published in magazines and cultural supplements, as well as articles on children's literature and theatre, published in congress reports. She has given art, theatre and puppetry workshops.

ASSITEJ Norway

sand
kristiansand
15-17 september
2016

In 2016, **SAND International Festival of Performing Arts for a Young Audience** will be arranged from September 15-17, in Kristiansand, Norway.

The festival's ambition is to be an eye opener and a source of inspiration for anyone who works with and is interested in performing arts for young people, and at SAND, the young audience will be able to experience and participate in performing arts at an outstanding level.

The programme will be soon be launched on www.sandfestival.no and on Facebook. Keep the dates!

Moved into the new Sentralen

ASSITEJ Norway moved into the new Sentralen, right in the heart of Oslo, on March 1, 2016. Sentralen is the oldest savings bank in Norway, and has been converted into a unique building with six venues for cultural experiences. Sentralen is the workplace for over 350 creative people producing a range of cultural expressions, and working to find new solutions to social challenges.



ASSITEJ Norway are excited to be part of Sentralen, and has also launched its new series; Teaterlørdag UNG. One Saturday, each month, our members are able to show their performances for a young audience in Oslo. The premiere was on March 12, where Pia Maria Roll and her production "Let's Run" was showed for two full houses. We're looking forward to continuing the success with high quality performing arts for a young audience.

ASSITEJ Serbia welcomes a new generation of theatre makers



Throughout the year, ASSITEJ Serbia dealt with young artists and theater makers in the framework of various projects and activities. Therefore, it was only natural to keep the focus of its campaign *Take a child to the theater today*, launched within this year's celebration of the World Day of Theatre for Children and Youth, precisely on the young generations: young writers, actors, theater directors, filmmakers and cultural managers.

In the framework of the program *For emerging artists and all those still growing* (<https://www.facebook.com/events/570504779781875/>), held on March 15th, many young and talented theatre makers had the opportunity to present themselves to a diverse audience, including both their young and very experienced colleagues, theater creators, directors of major festivals and theaters.

Six young writers, who were participating in the project "*Stories from the lunch break*", were presented through their short texts created in the framework of this project. Excerpts of their dramas were presented through a public reading performed by drama students from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts, thus enabling the young authors to hear their lines performed live for the first time.

[Read more.](#)



ASSITEJ Turkey

Opportunity

21st Bursa International Theater Festival for Children and Young People

On behalf of Bursa Metropolitan Municipality, Bursa Culture, Art and Tourism Foundation and with the support of ASSITEJ Turkey we have the pleasure to inform you that the **21th Bursa International Theater Festival for Children and Young People** will take place on **17-22 October, 2016** in Bursa, Turkey.



OPEN CALL

In the festival we are planning to host 16 outstanding performances from Turkey and outside Turkey. Beside performances, the festival program will also include workshops, lectures and discussions on the performances.

You can send your application form to assitejturkiye@gmail.com.

The deadline for applications is May 15, 2016

ASSITEJ USA



One Theater World: Sessions May 6, 2016 at The Kennedy Center

This special one-day event will precede the [New Visions/NewVoices](#) Festival

Featuring:

- A Conversation with Rob Weinert-Kendt

Rob Weinert-Kendt is editor-in-chief of American Theatre. He was the founding editor-in-chief of Back Stage West and co-founder of StageGrade, and he writes about theatre for The New York Times, America magazine, and his blog The Wicked Stage. He studied film at USC and is a composer member of the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theater Workshop.

Plus:

- A Reading of the Young Playwrights for Change Year 3 national contest winning play.
- The Harold Oaks Awards
- Discussion: On The Edge - Challenging the Art Form
- TYA/USA Membership Meeting

For information and to register, visit tyausa.org/programs/otw-sessions-2016



Articles Section.
Knowledge - Experiences -
Reflections.



Non Aligned Dramas for Children and Adolescents. D.N.A.

By Fabio Naggi

Torino, Kids and Youngsters Casa Teatro, October 16 and 17 2015. Two intense days, bursting with all the energy developed and matured over two years of work. Two days of cross-fertilization between

generations of artists who, starting in November 2013, decided to put their heads together and create a workshop focusing on drama specifically aimed at children and adolescents. A workshop encouraging participants to think - but above all to explore a method on which much of kids' theatre is based.

A workshop with few rules but centred around three principles: choose a public, get to know a public and - as a result of this relationship - generate original and specific theatre. Three principles which Unoteatro's artistic directors (Silvano Antonelli, Dino Arru, and Guido Castiglia) have always considered an essential element, the true building blocks of the project, able to launch a robust identity process for Kids Theatre: the D.N.A. of Unoteatro, as in many other Italian theatre companies.

Amid a flurry of official appointments, scheduled stages and an entire series of informal meetings, it is almost impossible to tell the story of D.N.A. - to do so risks nullifying the energy and intensity that were such a feature of the entire project. So many images that remain in one's head: the first community moment with "theatre calling cards;" the presentation of principles by the three artistic directors in front of an audience of curious youngsters; the acceptance of the game; the first rehearsals.

And then again, the presentation of the first theatre studios; interaction with the Estate Bambini public in Ferrara, and with youngsters participating in the Legàmi project in Cascina; the presentation of the evolution of nine theatre studios in November 2013; bringing it all to a close, on 16 and 17 October 2015, with two vibrant days in Torino.



An intense process of interaction and a burning desire to relaunch; a moment that saw, before an audience composed of youngsters, operators, journalists and politicians, the presentation of three theatrical performances together with the presentation of the DNA Charter, a document generated by this entire movement of dramaturgical exploration and analysis.

www.unoteatro.it

[Read more.](#)

