



ASSITEJ

International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People

ASSITEJ Newsletter N°76, June 2016



## A Report from Asia

By Asaya Fujita

These days, ASSITEJ in Asia is very active.

The Annual Asian Meeting, which was held in India last year, will be held in Sri Lanka in West Asia this year from August 18th to 20th.

Last summer when we, the presidents from China, Korea, and Japan, had an opportunity to meet, we had decided to have an annual festival rotating among us on a regular basis, and the first one will be held in Beijing, China at the China International Festival for Theatre for Children this summer.

Also, China National Theatre for Children in Beijing, a central theatre from ASSITEJ China, has reached the 60th anniversary of the foundation. To commemorate it, their festival in summer will be expanded and our first China-Korea-Japan Festival is going to be held within it, in which there will be an international symposium inviting international guests to discuss the works from Korea, China and Taiwan after watching them. A performance from Japan will be opened one week earlier.

And in Korea, there was also a new move; Jonngno Children's Theater, a theatre specializing in performances for children has been opened, and Ms. Kim Sookee, President of ASSITEJ Korea, became the Artistic Director. For theatre for children and young audiences whose history is not necessarily long, it is an epoch-making event.

Lastly, in Japan, a new organization has been born, due to the collaboration of 6 organizations in the field of theatre for children and young audiences, called TYA Japan. The purpose of this organization is to collect individual members related to and specialized in theatre for children and young audiences in Japan, and by establishing this organization, we are planning to hold an Asian Festival in 2018 and to host the ASSITEJ World Congress in 2020 in Japan. In Asia where traditional theatre and traditional performing arts still exist, we'd like to create an opportunity to think about the possibilities of theatre for children and young audiences.

[Read in Japanese](#)

ASSITEJ NEWS



---

## ASSITEJ - UNIMA Agreement



ASSITEJ President, Yvette Hardie, was invited to attend the 22nd UNIMA World Congress and World Puppet Festival in San Sebastian and Tolosa from 28 May to 5 June 2016. At this historic meeting, she was able to discuss ideas with current leadership and members of UNIMA, and on the 4th day of the Congress, re-elected UNIMA President Dadi Pudumjee and Yvette were able to make a public announcement that they would find ways to work together more collaboratively as International Associations. There is a commitment to developing the details of this collaboration in the next term of UNIMA and to finding ways to synergise better and support one another, on the basis of shared values.

The wording of the commitment reads: We commit in principle and in practice to collaboration and cooperation between our associations on matters of mutual interest, where appropriate. We do this in order to advocate the theatre and the arts as a universal expression of humankind, as fundamental to human, social and cultural development, and as a bridge-builder for mutual understanding and tolerance as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



ITI (International Theatre Institute) and AITA/IATA (International Amateur Theatre Association) have already committed to this collaboration, and ASSITEJ is in discussion with IDEA (International Drama/Theatre and Education Association), IATC (International Association of Theatre Critics) and OISTAT (International Organisation of Scenographers, Theatre Architects and Technicians) to collaborate as well.

We believe that at this time, working together, synergising efforts and creating a stronger advocacy for the role of the arts in the lives of every human being through using our collective voices is tremendously important.

One of the concrete ideas under discussion is to create a Performing Arts Week, which incorporates the 20-27 March, is celebrated annually and universally, and would include the World Day for Theatre for children and young people (ASSITEJ - 20 March), World Puppetry Day (UNIMA - 21 March) and World Theatre Day (ITI and IATA/AITA - 27 March) in such a way that these distinct individual celebrations would not be lost, but that there could be a greater momentum towards which we can all contribute for the notion of theatre/performing arts as central to our birth right as human beings.

ASSITEJ thanks Dadi Pudumjee (UNIMA President) and Idoya Otegui Martinez (newly elected UNIMA Secretary General), as well as outgoing Secretary General, Jaques Trudeau, for their interest in pursuing this collaboration.

---

## ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2016

---

### ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering and On The Edge are Almost Here

We are very excited as have just over a month to go until the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering On the Edge 2016, where we will meet with colleagues, friends, artists and ASSITEJ members from all over the world.

This event will allow us to share ideas and exchange opinions in the Symposium on Interdisciplinarity - Who's on the Edge of practice and research: workshops, lectures, panel discussions and more.

We will enjoy the work of more than sixteen companies who will show their committed and interesting work as well as new trends in TYA. There will be shows for babies from 18 months on, to adolescents and adults alike.

We will also be able to delight with the multicultural city of Birmingham.

Thanks to our UK and Ireland colleagues for organizing this event with us, to the Birmingham

Repertory Theatre for producing it, and to all the Supporters, Sponsors, Partners and Presenters who have made this possible.

Very much looking forward to meeting you all.



## Don't miss out on your ON THE EDGE delegate package!

ON THE EDGE is the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering for 2016 and takes place in Birmingham from 2nd - 9th July 2016. The whole Symposium and Welcome Programme schedule is now online at [www.ontheedge2016.com/delegates](http://www.ontheedge2016.com/delegates)

As well as a packed performance programme, ON THE EDGE delegates have access to an abundance of workshops, lectures, Works in Progress sharings, trips, a marketplace and social events in the Festival Club.

### **Delegate booking closes at 5pm on Friday 17th June 2016**

After 17th June you will still be able to purchase tickets to individual shows, but will not be able to access the full ON THE EDGE experience.

Delegate packages are selling fast so secure your place now! To book, visit [www.ontheedge2016.com/delegates](http://www.ontheedge2016.com/delegates)

### **We look forward to welcoming you to Birmingham in July!**



## ASSITEJ Magazine 2016 Will be launched this July in Birmingham, UK

**The ASSITEJ Magazine 2016, One Step Beyond Interdisciplinary Exchange** will be launched during the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering at On The Edge, this July in Birmingham, UK.

**If you will not be able to attend, you can order the magazine, which is free and will only be charged for postage. Orders should be made before July 31, 2016.**

Please inform Steve Ball at:

[steve.ball@birmingham-rep.co.uk](mailto:steve.ball@birmingham-rep.co.uk)

For all those who will be in Birmingham for the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering and On The Edge Festival, the magazine will be free and



---

# 19th ASSITEJ World Congress 2017

## CALL OF PAPERS

---



### CALL FOR PAPERS

Opportunity

For the **International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network's (ITYARN) Conference** and **International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People's (ASSITEJ) Focus Days** at the **19th ASSITEJ World Congress and Performing Arts Festival for Children and Young People 'Cradle of Creativity'**, in Cape Town, South Africa, May, 2017.

**CRADLE OF CREATIVITY 17 - 27 May 2017**

**ITYARN RESEARCH CONFERENCE 16 - 17 May 2017**

**CONFERENCE AND FESTIVAL FOCUS DAYS 18 - 27 May 2017**

The International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network (ITYARN) in association with the University of Cape Town (UCT) and Drama for Life, based at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), invite you to submit proposals for the Conference "*Cradle of Creativity: Examining intercultural exchange and diversity in theatre for young audiences*" in Cape Town, South Africa, 2017.

The ITYARN conference will present research into theatre for children and young people, related to this theme. Presentations and workshops will be held in the Drama Department <http://www.drama.uct.ac.za/> on the centrally-placed Hiddingh Campus of the University of Cape Town, in Gardens, Cape Town.

Aside from the ITYARN Conference, the ASSITEJ World Congress and Festival also includes focus-days on which additional seminars, symposia, workshops, readings and other events can take place. We invite proposals that are related specifically to the identified focus. Theatre pieces relating to these foci will also be available as part of the broader festival of theatre for young audiences.

#### **The Focus Days :**

- Indigenous and Contemporary forms of Storytelling for Youth (18 May)
- Music Theatre for Young Audiences (19 May)
- Theatre for Social Change (20 May)
- Theatre for Healing (21 May)
- Theatre for Children by Children (21 May)
- Dance Theatre for Young Audiences (24 May)
- Theatre for Young Audiences in Africa (25 May) ) in association with ACYTA (African Children and Youth Theatre Arena)
- Inclusive theatre (26 May) in association with IIAN (International Inclusive Arts Network)
- Theatre for the Early Years (27 May) in association with Small Size Network
- New Writing for Young Audiences (across the festival), in association with Write Local. Play Global

To apply, go to [www.assitej2017.org.za](http://www.assitej2017.org.za)

[Read more.](#)

---

## ASSITEJ Next Generation Placement

## Opportunity



**ASSITEJ Croatia** is looking for young producers or theater artists who work in the field of theater for children and young people to get to know the local scene, make contacts, see how they organize the ASSITEJ Festival in Cakovec, communicate with other international guests and make daily reports of the festival.

The areas of expertise required are: directing, dramaturgy, festival management and production.

All those interested, please contact Davor Dokleja at [kdpinklec@gmail.com](mailto:kdpinklec@gmail.com) or [info@assitej.hr](mailto:info@assitej.hr)

Link: [http://www.assitej-international.org/en/ng\\_offer/participation-in-the-organization-of-assitej-croatia-national-festival-in-cakovec/](http://www.assitej-international.org/en/ng_offer/participation-in-the-organization-of-assitej-croatia-national-festival-in-cakovec/)

---

## ASSITEJ Networks

### ITYARN



### 4th. International Theatre for Children and Young People Researchers and Critics Forum



#### ASSITEJ PROJECT

The 4th **International Theatre for Children and Young People Researchers and Critics Forum**, organized by the Theatre for Children and Young People Independent Practitioners Association (**ATINA**- Argentina), in collaboration with the Theatre Researchers and Critics Association (**AINCRIT**- Argentina), the International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network (**ITYARN**) and supported by the Theatre for Children and Young People International Association (**ASSITEJ**) will be held in Buenos Aires City from July 26 - 30, 2016.

With the aim of stimulating the research in the field of TYA, this 4th forum intends to make a theoretical contribution to Theatre for Children and Young People practitioners, to promote the development of new trends as well as the integration of Ibero-American researchers into the international network. During the meeting, different theoretical frameworks on critical approach will be proposed and the role of theory in practice and practice in theory will be discussed. The 4th FORUM is expected to be a platform for exchange. The previous Forums, organized every two years, debated about: "**Taboos in TYA**"; "**Humor in TYA**" and "**Aesthetics in TYA**".

[Read more.](#)

---

## National Centers

### ASSITEJ Argentina



### PATIOS DEL RECREO



Adolescents - on the theme of Adolescent Identity, opens its call for directors who would like to participate in the workshop that will be held in Cordoba City, Argentina in October 5 - 10.

For this, four Spanish-speaking directors will be chosen to partake in the workshop alongside Argentinian directors.

You can find the complete call [here](#).

Download the registration from [here](#).

The call closes on June 30th.

We will give priority to young directors under 35 years of age, but it is open to anyone who wishes to participate.

For more information please write: [patiosdelrecreo@atina.org.ar](mailto:patiosdelrecreo@atina.org.ar)

[Leer en español](#)

## ASSITEJ Austria



### SZENE BUNTE WÄHNE 26th International Theatre Festival May 18 - June 26



This year the 26th SZENE BUNTE WÄHNE Festival in Lower Austria will take place **in spring for the first time**, lasting from May 18th to June 26th.

The big opening and highlight will be **the International Theatre Festival for a Young Audience** - 8 days full of theatre, dance, music theatre and puppet theatre, concerts and performances for young audiences! The festival is based in Horn in Lower Austria.

Let us present some highlights and cordially invite you to the event.

We are looking forward to the festival and to all of our guests and visitors!

[Read more.](#)

## ASSITEJ Azerbaijan



### International Projects and events for ASSITEJ Azerbaijan

May was memorable with International Projects and events for ASSITEJ - Azerbaijan National Center.

ASSITEJ Azerbaijan took part in the "Guest Yard" - VIII International Theatre Festival on May 27 in Orenburg, Russian Federation.

Another delegation of State Theatre of Young Spectators was on tour in London on May 28 invited by "UMUD Ltd Company" in the UK.

June will be memorable with one more International event for ASSITEJ Azerbaijan participating in the X International Summer Theatre School that is organized by the Russian Union of Theatrical Figures and Ministry



State Program "Azerbaijani theater in 2009-2019" was approved by the President of Azerbaijan Republic.

of Culture of Russian Federation.

In total around 87 delegates from more than 28 countries are going to attend the summer school during June 1-28. The summer school will be held in Zvenigorod, Moscow region and the delegates will come from USA, UK, Germany, Azerbaijan, France, Poland, and all over Russia.

At the end of June, Azerbaijan State Theatre of Young Spectators will make a tour to the regions. The tour will take place within the framework of "Multiculturalism Year"; likewise 2016 was announced as "Multiculturalism Year" in Azerbaijan. Such kinds of tours are traditionally carried out in order to form the relevant provisions and spiritual aesthetic education among the population living in countryside areas. The

ASSITEJ Italy



## ASSITEJ Italy member wins the competition "IN-BOX GREEN 2016"

The final part of "In-Box" live competition has taken place in Siena (Italy) at Teatro dei Rozzi from 12 to 21 of May 2016. "In-Box" is a theatre national showcase competition divided into two different sections: the BLUE one, which is dedicated to theatre for adults and the GREEN one, for shows and performances built for young people and kids.

Thanks to a strong selection, just 4 plays, out of over 121 applicants, could access the final stage of the competition and **3 of them are part of ASSITEJ**

**Italy:** Kosmocomico Teatro (with "A piccolo passo"), Bam!bam!Teatro (with "Capitani coraggiosi" ) and finally the winner: **Rosso Teatro with the play "IL PAESE SENZA PAROLE"**.



[Read more.](#)



SEGNI New Generations Festival  
26th October - 2nd November, Mantova,  
Italy

The **XI edition of Segni d'infanzia** is coming!

Write the dates on your agenda and book your flight!

Don't lose the opportunity to discover more than 25 international shows, artistic itineraries, national and international thematic meetings! Over 250 events with artists from all over the world.

More info at: [www.segnidininfanzia.org](http://www.segnidininfanzia.org)

[Read more.](#)

## THE CHILDREN'S WORLD Shows From The World For Everyone 22 - 26 June, Turin, Italy

5 days of shows (Theater, dance, circus, music, puppets) for a public of all ages

An extraordinary journey to discover creativity with companies from Denmark, France, Italy, Kenya, Romania, Spain, and the USA.

A travel around the world of theater, music, acrobatics, dancing and fresh joyful surprises at Casa del Teatro Ragazzi e Giovani an on the streets and squares of Turin.

To find out more:



[http://www.teatrodellangolo.it/img/programma\\_2016ingl.pdf](http://www.teatrodellangolo.it/img/programma_2016ingl.pdf)

[www.casateatroragazzi.it](http://www.casateatroragazzi.it)

## ASSITEJ Kazakhstan International Performances

In April Kazakh National Theatre of youth and children participated with the performance "Kara Shekpen" in the festival "Thousands of breaths and one voice" which was held in Turkey, Konya. It won the award for "The best performance".

In addition, our theatre has a new premiere of "The love letters". The author of the play is A.R.Gurney.

On May 18-20 in the 2nd International Experimental Festival "Didar", the theater performed the mono-performance "He" and won in the category "Best Performance".



## ASSITEJ Korea

24th ASSITEJ Korea International  
Summer Festival  
20 - 31 July



12 Days of outstanding performances for children and young people! Come enjoy a festival boasting a feast of quality pieces performed by international and Korean theatre companies!

The most prestigious art festival for children and young people in Korea will be held from the 20th to the 31st of July. This year, it will present 15 world-class shows at some of Korea's leading venues including Jongno Children's Theatre, the first municipal theatre only for children.

The ASSITEJ Korea International Summer Festival annually selects a specific country and organizes programs to present the country's culture through performing arts. **This year, it will be organized as part of the Korea-France Year 2015-2016.**



[Read more.](#)



## Haevichi Arts Festival 13 - 16 June, Jeju Island, Korea

Haevichi Arts Festival is one of the biggest art events, which will be held on Jeju Island in Korea from the 13th to the 16th of June. It includes an art market (booth exhibition and showcase), roundtable for networking, symposiums and special performances.

Haevichi Arts Festival aims to act as a window for the development of performing arts and also as a hub for artistic exchanges in Asia.

This year, about 150 organizations, including arts foundations, theatre companies and related public agencies, will be gathered on Jeju Island to promote the development of performing arts and culture. ASSITEJ Korea

also participates in the art market to exchange information and have various meeting opportunities between the 13th and 14th of June.

Please visit the website for further information.

<http://www.jhaf.or.kr/Home/Main.aspx>

---

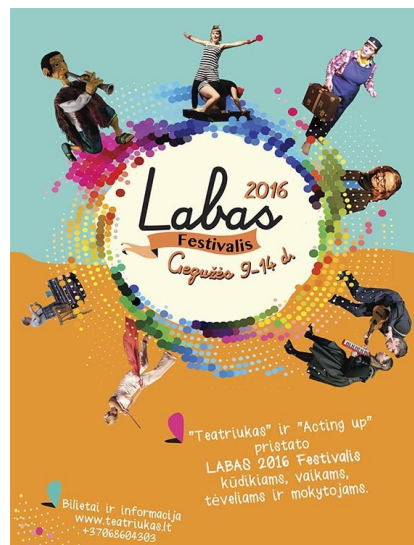
## ASSITEJ Lithuania



## LABAS! FESTIVAL 09 - 14 May, Vilnius, Lithuania

In May of this year, Acting Up! and Teatriukas ([www.teatriukas.lt](http://www.teatriukas.lt)) teamed together to present a project Labas! early years arts festival in Vilnius, Dubinigiai and Moletai regions in Lithuania. This was the second edition of the festival which we ran in children's homes and non-theatrical venues in Vilnius in 2015. It is mainly funded by the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture. (Lietuvos Kultūros Taryba)

The festival is designed to be an encounter of cultures, both from the host country and from the international participants. This is what makes it unique. All audiences are aged 0-6 years with carers/families. Participants in this second edition were from Austria (Theater NuU), Croatia (Mala Scena and Puna Kuca), Italy (Graziano Venturuzzo), Germany (Barbara Koelling from Helios Theatre), UK / Peru (Jose Navarro) and Egypt (Mostafa Abd El Ghany). Along with Ireland (Acting Up!) and Lithuania (Teatriukas).



[Read more.](#)

---

## ASSITEJ Macedonia

Opportunity

## Fener-International Puppet Theatre Festival 9 - 12 September, Skopje, Macedonia

**An open call for co-shining.**

**Buden Teatar** would like to announce the preparation of the third edition of the **Fener-**

**International Puppet Theatre Festival**, which will take place in Skopje, Macedonia, between 9 and 12 September, 2016.

“Fener” in our language means “lantern”. That is what we are, and what we intend to be: a gentle light adding more enchantment to the realm of the childhood.

Do you have an amazing, tender, inventive, heart-warming performance that you would like to share with the young Macedonian audience? Please send us a link to a full video of your performance at [budenteatar@gmail.com](mailto:budenteatar@gmail.com), no later than 15 June.

By coming to our festival, you are supporting us in our mission to introduce the Macedonian audience to the multitude of forms and expressions that puppetry has to offer. Because—psst!—this is kind of a secret, but we’ll tell you anyway: Puppetry in Macedonia is still an uncharted territory.



## ASSITEJ Mexico

**FITPA**  
1st. International Early Childhood Theatre  
Festival  
June 30 - July 3, Guadalajara, Mexico.



### First baby Theater Festival in Mexico

The main objectives of this festival are:

1) Address the urgent need to create inclusive spaces and events that promote meaningful encounters for children and their families in the state of Jalisco. Uphold the cultural rights of children from 0 to 6 years, to have the opportunity to attend cultural and artistic events of the highest quality and designed specifically for their age.

We also want to review and analyze the reasons for the exclusion of children from 0 to 3 years from public and private cultural spaces in our country.

2) Promote the exchange and dialogue between stage creators dedicated to early

childhood through the presentation of shows, roundtables, workshops for babies, parents and specialists.

[Leer en español](#)

## Theaterwelt

13 June - 10 July, Mexico City.

Theaterwelt is a series of staged readings held every two years. A window to the contemporary theatre in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. **This year, 2016, the event has been included in the schedule of the Mexico-Germany Dual Year.** The plays were selected from the most recent German-speaking theatre productions.

The name symbolizes our pursuit and

interest in understanding the Germanic culture. Theatre-world-theatre; and is comprised of staged readings from the authors of greater importance in the theatrical scene of this culture, as well as workshops given by personalities of the German theatre, taking thus the opportunity to learn and confront the idea of Mexican theatre with that of these European countries. On this particular issue, the companies invited to work on the readings were those whose research and aesthetic discourses can result in a fresh and original interpretation of the texts.

This year is the fifth edition of Theaterwelt, and for the first time in this series, which ends on July 10, there will be two readings of children's plays: **Only One Day**, by Martin Balscheit, with the company Finisterra Project and **Three Head**, by Carsten Brandau, with the Company Oniria.

The project is organized by the Fine Arts Institute, with the support of the Goethe Institut Mexiko.

Admission is free and the complete program is available at [teatro.bellasartes.gob.mx](http://teatro.bellasartes.gob.mx)

[Leer en español.](#)



---

## ASSITEJ Norway

**assitejnorge**

### SAND International Festival of Performing Arts for a Young Audience 15 - 17 September, Kristiansand, Norway

**Programme launch.** The artistic programme on SAND festival is based on the theme: interdisciplinary arts. The key words are shape, space, scenography, technology and movement. The programme is aimed at audiences ranging from infants to adults. The audience will get the chance to venture into dark forests, sea birds explore the world around them, to consider people's choices in the normal state and in the state of an emergency, plus much more!

Artists featured on SAND 2016 are Heine Avdal, Katma, Classics for Kids, Transiteatret, Teater Fot and Rimini Protokoll.

Check out the complete programme at [www.sandfestival.no](http://www.sandfestival.no)

[Read more.](#)



---

## ASSITEJ Rwanda

### UBUMUNTU Innovative Performing Arts Festival 14 - 17 July, Kigali, Rwanda

21 years after the Rwanda Genocide that shocked the world, impressive grass root



movements have come up to aid in the country's recovery and peace building processes. One of the most promising of such is the Ubumuntu Arts Festival.

The Genocide against the Tutsi ethnic group started on the 7th of April 1994 and lasted for 100 days and saw over 1,000,000 dead. Each year since, Rwanda holds a 100 day commemoration period in which genocide perpetrators give testimonies and victims tell their stories. Public performative arts form part of the commemoration activities and have played a big role in seeing victims forgive perpetrators.

[Read more.](#)

---

## ASSITEJ Serbia



### Press release

#### **The reaction regarding the results of the *Call for Applications for Funding and Co-financing of Projects in the Field of Theatrical Creativity and Interpretation for 2016 of the Ministry of Culture and Information of Republic of Serbia***

Decisions of the Commission appointed by the Ministry of Culture on the allocation of funds for financing and co-financing of projects in the fields of contemporary art for the 2016 published in May of this year, sparked strong reactions among the actors of the arts scene in Serbia. ASSITEJ Serbia was amongst the first to publish its statement in the series of reactions from various associations and organizations that express a strong protest against further collapse of the cultural scene in Serbia, which is already too shaky.

We believe that the distribution of a large amount of funding and support to a few projects only, selected by the Commission, predicts a uniformed, monotonous, limp and non-inventive scene. We wonder who (and why) strives to crumble the diversity of the art scene without the presence of a range of various projects, without innovative and vibrant theatre that inspires, without the live theatre that responds to the time in which we live and offers new perspectives on the challenges that our society, particularly children and young people, is facing today.

[Read more.](#)

---

## ASSITEJ South Africa

### African Youth Theatre and Dance Festival 2016 21 - 24 June



The second edition the African International Youth Theatre and Dance Festival will bring together African youth between 16 and 21 years for an inspired creative encounter which celebrates art forms as a contribution to youth empowerment, and develops these forms towards Cradle of Creativity, the 2017 ASSITEJ World Congress and International Theatre Festival for Children and Young People to be held in Cape Town.

This year the festival's focus is on developing critical thinking and writing about theatre and dance. It will feature performances of plays and dance for youth and a residency for young people in Cape Town, with workshops, discussions and performances. The programme will see professional theatre makers and journalists engaging with youth over the week and introducing them to various theatre and dance techniques and developing their capacity to think and write about the work. An important outcome will be a team of "Young Critics" with growing capacity and awareness of radio, print, and social media arts criticism and review.

Hosted by ASSITEJ SA in partnership with AITA/IATA and Artscape.

---

## XIX Premio ASSITEJ España de Teatro para la Infancia y la Juventud

In order to arouse greater interest for quality theatre, ASSITEJ Spain announces the XIX ASSITEJ Spain Award of Theatre for Children and Youth.

Authors of any nationality may participate, with the requirement that the works are written in Castilian and adapted to the theatrical genre, as well as to a young audience.

The theme, structure and number of characters are totally free of choice. Moreover, the work must be unpublished and not have been awarded nor presented in other competitions.

Each participant can submit up to two works, which will be sent by email to [premiosteatro@assitej.net](mailto:premiosteatro@assitej.net) in PDF format and with a minimum length of 30 foolscap sized sheets.

A single prize of € 2,500 along with a commemorative trophy for the best work presented to the jury, will be awarded.

In addition, the winning work will be published by the Association within their own Theatre Collection, while the author will retain all rights to the text.

The deadline for applicants to submit their writings is **October 30, 2016**, and the jury will make its decision public before February 10 next year.

Download the basis: <http://ow.ly/SZY0300nmGm>

[Leer en español](#)



## ASSITEJ Sweden



### Festival of Young Playwrights 2016

27 June - 2 July. Ljungskile, Sweden

For the first time **Interplay**, the international network organization for the furtherance of young playwrights, will have their bi-annual workshop in a Nordic country, and the focus will be on playwriting for young audiences. Hosts of this year's Interplay are **ASSITEJ Sweden** and **Barnteaterakademin** (Children's Theatre Academy, based in Gothenburg) that just celebrated its 10th anniversary of promoting new writing for TYA.

35 participants from all over Europe will meet in Ljungskile on the Swedish West Coast to discuss their plays for inspiring, practical and creative days of lectures, workshops, forums and events with experienced international tutors. Through workshops and small scale productions they have the opportunity to improve their work and develop new skills.

Interplay Europe also supports international youth exchange and seeks to contribute to better understanding between nations.

More information [here](#)

[Read more.](#)



# INTERPLAY

Global | Playwright | Development

ASSITEJ Switzerland



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

Artist Encounter

**Collaboration of ASSITEJ Switzerland and Festival Blickfelder - Künste für ein junges Publikum (Arts for young audiences) from 2nd to 12th of June in Zurich (CH)**

ASSITEJ Switzerland uses the presence of international theater and dance companies as an opportunity to invite members of the association for an artist encounter. The companies from Holland, Belgium, Germany and Italy are prepared for meeting Swiss colleagues during the festival. Of particular interest for both sides will be the exchange of developments in the field of theater for young audiences, working conditions and cultural policy activities.

The encounters will happen on the 5th of June at the festival centre and on 10th of June at the Schiffbau Zürich, venue of Junges Schauspielhaus Zürich.

For more information about the festival and the program, please have a look on the following link: <http://www.blickfelder.ch/Blickfelder-2016.2529.0.html>



## Articles Section.

Knowledge - Experiences - Reflections.

### The Role of the Puppet in making early years theatre

By Rachel Riggs

*Imaginary Leaps creative director reflects on the role of the puppet in making early years theatre and its importance in finding ways to communicate effectively with children:*

For the past 5 years whilst resident in Western Australia, I have been exploring the world of puppetry and play with children of all ages. At the heart of my work with Imaginary Leaps play research workshops, is a creative open learning process, child-led, with active learning through puppetry, innovating original theatrical material with and for young children. The sessions explore sensory materials and objects, with music and movement, to stimulate imaginative play, engaging the children as participants and audience in a process of creating characters, stories and mini-worlds. Our aim is to go on an adventure - a journey of investigation with the children, to support and develop their imaginations and learning, which creates interesting ideas and material for early years theatre making.



'There is a fragile border between play and theatrical dimension' (Frabetti, 2009)

In an Imaginary Leaps session, the puppet is the focus, to begin an investigative framework of activities, scaffolding different sensory play techniques within a theme or story. Sitting in a circle to make a clear space, provides focus for the puppet and welcome's everyone in a secure routine. Bobby is a soft, tactile child puppet where characteristic gestures and features

are only gently suggested so the children's own imaginations can imprint what they want to see. Simple eyes and a curved line for a mouth, allows the child the freedom to 'fill in the gaps', changing its expression in the eyes of the child. Bobby is non verbal, and built to be touched and embraced, as required by the child, and can be any gender or culture. The puppet helps the children find their own confidence, role and identity through play.

Over the sessions, most children build a strong bond with Bobby and every child has their own relationship with the puppet. As they get to know the puppet in the sessions, they often spontaneously show affection when they say hello, enjoying expressing how they feel to the puppet, even if that is sometimes a punch! I remind them that Bobby is a real baby puppet, gathering him up and modelling comforting. 'He is just a little puppet, How do we treat babies?' I ask them. At Kulunga Aboriginal Kindergarten in Western Australia the children answered 'We kiss them, we hug them, we play peek a boo, and we are gentle.' Very often children will discipline the other children, if they feel they are not treating the puppet well. At Kulunga, the puppet Bobby provided a strong focus to discuss how we treat each other. Children were able to have a safe space to communicate and this opens up a line of communication for discussion on how we should treat each other respectfully.

Children practise all skills through rhythmic repetition and it is through play that children imitate adults. Puppets and people alike need tender care. This gives space to talk about emotions simply, and the children express to the puppet how they feel today. We talk about the different feelings, are we happy or sad? or more complex emotional states. Bobby the puppet listens to a 4 year-old girl expressing her feelings, she says she feels 'ticky inside'. 'She's not right' she says in the third person, echoing her parents' voice, as she has been unwell previously.



Puppetry has a 'distancing effect'. Just as Rod Hull was never blamed for his puppet emu's bad behaviour, a young person can make a puppet say and do things which they would feel unable to do. This allows children to express what they truly feel and gives a greater understanding of how to meet their needs. The affirmation that the child is able to communicate with other children, other people, through the puppet increases self-esteem and confidence.

Working in creating theatre for young children, we always starts with the objects & materials in their hands. Later on, the objects and materials may be made into fabricated puppets but to begin it is a process of experiences with the children. To learn what is appropriate and engages the very young child. Throughout history, children have made simple models of people. Scraps of cloth, bits of wood and stones come alive and are animated.



Puppetry in its play and making theatre, is an activity that provides sensory stimulation simultaneously for intellectual and emotional development. In practice, for the participants in the sensory play, it brings the human basic feeling of oneself, a feeling of one's unique value, coming from deeply inner fields of their own personality, not from external incentives or awards. But it is a great experience for all, children and adults, to become participant and

audience of this unique process of imagination.

'Theatre is transformation. It is a vision created by an artist...transforming...himself or a puppet or even an object into an imagined character' (Jurkowski,1988)

[www.imaginaryleaps.com](http://www.imaginaryleaps.com)

[www.dynamicnewanimation.co.uk](http://www.dynamicnewanimation.co.uk)

[Read more.](#)

