



## INTRODUCTION



ASAYA FUJITA

### THEATRE 'INSTEAD OF BULLETS'!

article image



Intolerable events have occurred all too frequently recently. One of these was the surprise attack on the offices of the Charlie Hebdo magazine in Paris in response to the publication of a caricature of Muhammad, the founder of Islam. There was a mass demonstration to protest against this attack on freedom of speech and the murderers were run down and killed. The company printed a new issue of the magazine in protest and it was immediately sold out. Nor is this all, the violence keeps escalating as we see the Islam extremists acting in Belgium. Those who protest say, "Firing bullets against a mere caricature is unthinkable, it violates freedom of speech", and applaud. But I say it is not that simple. What historical and social conditions led to these actions? Of course, freedom of speech should not be the target of bullets. Having acknowledged that as a self-evident truth, I'd like to say we should have the creative ability to have an insight into the history behind the bullets.

I must say this in such a manner because we are the ones who can express this on stage. Our work in the theatre is an excellent medium for us to acknowledge different positions, due to senses of values that oppose each other, and light a path to a better conclusion based on sympathy. It is impossible for us who work in the theatre not to see what lies beyond the different views of the world. Our strength to tolerate diversity, supported by an abundant power of imagination, is the weapon that can replace bullets.

At the beginning of the 20th century, there was a female nursery rhyme poet in Japan who committed suicide at a young age. Her unhappiness was due to the fact that her husband did not acknowledge her value. Among her poems there is the following phrase:

"We are all different and all wonderful"

It is a gem of a phrase that she left after her death. And this line is more powerful than a bullet.

It used to be that something different was found over the sea or on the other side of the planet. But today, something different is right next to you. We cannot survive if we say we don't accept anything different. To be accepted, it is necessary to accept.

You may ask what a Japanese person knows about the Christian and Islamic societies. But because I am Japanese, I must insist that there are things we can see and things we can say.

I say 'words' instead of 'violence' and 'theatre' instead of 'bullets'!

## ASSITEJ NEWS



WORLD DAY OF THEATRE

### World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People - March 20th

**World Day of Theatre for Children is an ASSITEJ campaign, promoted and celebrated through the message 'Take a Child to the Theatre Today'.**

WTD Banner 1755 x 528



National centers and other members of ASSITEJ are invited to visit the page for a complete Tool Kit with ideas on how to celebrate.

The logo is also available so that each country can adapt it to their own language: [/about/wdt-logo-2015/](#)

### WORLD DAY VIDEO

We are glad to announce the **Japanese video for the 2015 World Day** of Theatre for Children and Young People is ready! Watch it, share it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNui1Hbe5T0>

Don't forget to let us know how you will be celebrating!

World -day



## ASSITEJ MAGAZINE 2015

### Call for Advertisements

**Please remember the final deadline for advertisements is February 27<sup>th</sup>!**

ANUNCIO



**Don't miss the opportunity too appear in the 50th anniversary edition of ASSITEJ Magazine**

**For more information and details: Click [here](#)**

## ASSITEJ MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE

### ASSITEJ Member Questionnaire

ASSITEJ would like to thank the following National Centers, Individual Members and Networks for completing our Member Questionnaire:

France, Canada, Senegal, South Africa, Israel, Sri Lanka, Angola, Slovenia, Germany, Vietnam, Ireland, Iceland, Iran, Korea, Poland, USA, Nepal, Mexico, Luxembourg, Russia, Turkey, India, Croatia, Nigeria, Spain, The Little Art, Maas Foundation, Small Size and Write Local, Play Global.

If you still haven't done so, you can fill out your details at: <http://urlz.fr/VzH>

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Representatives of ASSITEJ in support to development of TEY in Japan

article image



The interest for the Theatre for Early Years audiences has been constantly growing in the last two decades. TEY is a huge inviting open space with endless opportunities for new art forms, which makes this field so challenging for artists. With direct contact between artists and audiences as the core value of TEY practices, this field offers the possibility to further explore and experiment with combining most diverse art expressions, genres, styles, poetics, aesthetics, use of the new technology and new media. On the other hand, as a benefit, early theatrical experience receives quite clear and ongoing support in scientific research results, which offers us relevant evidence and support in advocacy for the entire field of TYA.

Although the theatre for babies started its first considerable steps in economically well situated countries of Western Europe, where its continuous and remarkable development is the most visible, the theatre practices in TEY are rapidly growing in the significant number of countries throughout the world as well. One of them, which is particularly interested in this field, is Japan. JIENKYO (Japan Union of Theatres for Children and Young People) has created the program "Human resource training / learn the baby drama of the world" that enables Japanese artists to get insights in this field and learn from their guests coming from different parts of the world.

Two years ago, the representatives of ASSITEJ EC and National ASSITEJ centres of Japan and Serbia, Kenjiro Otani and Diana Kržanić Tepavac, developed an idea to create an opportunity for exchange of knowledge and practices of Japanese and Serbian theatre artists. After careful planning and preparations that were carried out with strong will and motivation, and with immense support of Mr. Asaya Fujita, this project was successfully realized by JIENKYO with an eleven-day tour of four Serbian artists in three Japanese cities from the end of January to the beginning of February 2015.

JIENKYO and its representative Director Mr. Yukinori Ohno, with the support of the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs, and outstanding production Akira Ota, organized the program of the visit which included six sets of theatre performances "Baby Space" and lectures in 3 different cities: Fukuoka, Nagoya and Yokohama, performed from 21<sup>st</sup> of January to 2<sup>nd</sup> of February. Each of the visits included a theatre performance "Baby Space" which is a choreographic-ambient-installation for 3 to 8 month toddlers and their parents, created by choreographer Dalija Aćin Thelander and performed by Ana Ignjatović Zagorac and Milica Pisić. Each show was followed by 2 lectures given by the author Dalija Aćin Thelander and Diana Kržanić Tepavac, which created a unique opportunity for introducing the audience to an interesting and particular example of Serbian theatre practice of high artistic value designed for babies, but also for introducing the audience with different theoretical approaches and examples of good practice in TEY from around the globe. We are glad to conclude that the lectures were attended altogether by 140 theatre artists, theatre practitioners, theatre makers, and representatives of mother/ parent associations

resulted with fruitful discussions and inspiring exchanges of ideas.

Finally we have realized that the timing of this event coincided with Small Size Days that was organized for the first time by the very new ASSITEJ network Small Size, which gave a new meaning to all our efforts and an additional significance.

Diana Kržanić Tepavac

Member of the Executive Committee

**SECRETARY GENERAL**

**NEW OFFICE**



Do you want to see our new office?

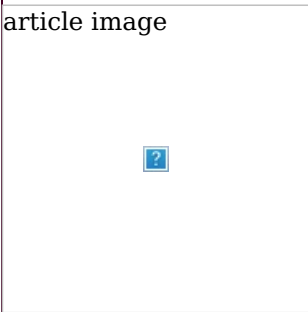
Click the image above

**NEWS FROM THE CENTERS**

**ASSITEJ CUBA**

**Cuban-Danish exchange project**

article image



During the last 10-15 years strong theatrical ties between Denmark and Cuba have grown by the presentation of guest performances and invitations of delegates to festivals in both countries. Now these relations have materialized into a bigger two-step exchange project between ASSITEJ Cuba and ASSITEJ Denmark, including the presentation of five small performances in Cuba in the month of February and a three-week visit in Denmark in April by five Cuban actors and directors:

As this newsletter is published, five small street performances specially produced for the exchange project are taking form; three of them in Denmark by Danish groups and the last two of them as Cuban-Danish co-productions in Cuba (see one in image). In the last two weeks of February these five productions will be presented in a small Cuban province city, Bayamo, and afterwards in a very special "theatre field trip" in the mountains of the very eastern coasts of Cuba, in the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the moving festival or theatre caravan called "Cruzada Teatral Guantánamo-Baracoa". The festival creates a wonderful space for professional exchange, as well for intense encounters between the performances/actors and the audience. An audience that because of its remoteness and strong theatre tradition has an enormous hunger to see, enjoy and interact with the theatre presented in the caravan, which passes by their home on the same date every year.

Later in April five actors and directors will visit the Danish April Festival 2015 to see a great number of Danish performances, give an overview of the Cuban theatre for young audiences in the annual international talk at the festival, take part in an international workshop and visit local Danish partners and theatres.

At both ASSITEJ centers we are very happy to be able to give this possibility to our members and to create exchanges between the theatre for young audiences in Cuba and Denmark. Two countries that have certain similarities that facilitate the communication - many small independent touring groups producing for young audiences - but also a lot of differences that give the possibility to learn from and inspire each other.

ASSITEJ Cuba and ASSITEJ Denmark.



**ASSITEJ ESPAÑA**

**FETEN**



Being the biggest showcase of its kind in Spain, FETEN/EFSAC brings together more than 500 national and international delegates and it's a must for artists and companies to meet Spanish and international presenters, and for presenters to meet

performers from Spain, Europe and America and to attend to their premieres, with an attendance of more than 30.000 children and parents last year. Our fair is also a good chance for networking professionals to share information and strategies with national and international arts officers and movers.

Fundación Municipal de Cultura, Educación y Universidad Popular/ Ayuntamiento de Gijón, the public body organizing the event, is going to launch the twenty fourth edition of FETEN/EFSAC, a project carried out and sponsored in close collaboration with several different institutions and companies, including the Spanish Ministry for Education, Culture and Sports and the Asturian Regional Government. FETEN/EFSAC 24 will take place from February 22 to February 27, 2015

You can find more information about FETEN in our website [www.feten.gijon.es](http://www.feten.gijon.es)



## ASSITEJ GERMANY

### ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2015 (AAG15) and Augenblick mal! Festival 2015



#### GENERATIONS IN DIALOGUE

April 21-26, 2015 in Berlin

ASSITEJ Germany and the Children's and Young People's Theatre Centre in the Federal Republic of Germany (KJTZ) are thrilled to host this years' Artistic Gathering at Augenblick mal! Festival 2015 in Berlin, in cooperation with ASSITEJ International, THEATER AN DER PARKAUE and GRIPS Theater Berlin.

Registration and tickets sale are now available!

More information: <http://augenblickmal.de/tickets/professional-visitors/?lang=en>

Please visit the website [www.augenblickmal.de](http://www.augenblickmal.de) to get all the information about the programme of Augenblick mal! 2015 & ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2015.

Registration fee for AAG15 is 75,00€ (40,00€ reduced). Registration gives you access to AAG15 events and guarantee you a reduced price for all theatre tickets: 8,00€ instead of 13,00€.

To prepare your arrival in Berlin you can find helpful information on this page: <http://augenblickmal.de/service-2/anreise-nach-berlin/?lang=en>

For your accommodation you can book a room in one of the partner hotels of the festival.

More information: <http://augenblickmal.de/partner-hotels-2/?lang=en>

You can also find information about how to get from one venue to the other and so plan the best possible programme for your stay.

More information: <http://augenblickmal.de/service-2/venues-2/?lang=en>

#### Next Generation:

The team of Augenblick mal! 2015 and AAG15 is really glad to welcome the group of young artists selected for the grant programme Next Generation!

Among the 42 selected participants, 26 come from countries all over the world such as Argentina, India, Iran, Serbia, South Africa and many more.

In the festival week in Berlin, they will meet the 16 other participants coming from different German institutions such as the state theatre of Mayence, the University of Hildesheim, the Berlin acting school HfS "Ernst Busch" and many more. Information about the Next Generation programme are available here: <http://augenblickmal.de/next-generation/?lang=en>

### FRATZ International



#### Encounters - Symposium - Festival

##### For Very Young Audiences

While you're preparing your programme for Augenblick mal! 2015, we recommend you the FRATZ festival which will take place in Berlin right before and at the beginning of Augenblick mal!: A great occasion to combine your interest for Theatre for Young Audiences with Theatre for Very Young Audiences.

Information about Booking & Programme: [www.fratz-festival.de](http://www.fratz-festival.de) || Mailing list: [info\(at\)fratz-festival.de](mailto:info(at)fratz-festival.de)

## ASSITEJ INDIA

### Tifli-International TYA Festival

TYA

## Assitej India Organises "Tifli-Internation tya festival 2015"

1-6 February at New Delhi

4-6 February at Hyderabad

With Focus on baby Drama

European companies such as La Baracca, Italy and Helios, Germany will be presenting their shows Spot an H2O respectively.

Focus Country is South Korea with three performances and 6 workshops.

The festival in its second year becomes a two city affair.

## ASSITEJ IRELAND

## IRELAND

ireland

It has been nearly ten years since making the first step to re-constituting the ASSITEJ centre in Ireland!

The first TYA Ireland committee explored ways to support the growth of the sector here through an association of like-minded and committed artists, companies, festivals and venues:

- A newsletter that would circulate widely both at home and abroad, keeping all informed of developments in Ireland and internationally.
- A website dedicated to the membership that would share information and act as a portal to member's own websites.
- A gathering of members to share work (finished and in-development), methodologies and practices; and to interrogate the sector in Ireland and in reference to what was happening internationally.
- Members were encouraged to offer 'masterclasses' from specific practitioners that were working on projects in Ireland and to open these to the wider membership.
- To ensure Irish representation and input at ASSITEJ International meetings and Congresses.

In the intervening years much has happened in the arts and more specifically TYA. We have grown from an initial meeting of 5 organisations to over 30 members (companies, venues, festivals, independent artists). The Arts Council now has a dedicated department with YPCE (Young People, Children & Education). It has been working tirelessly to put this demographic clearly in the frame and to encourage successive Councils to give the support needed to ensure that young citizens have access to a wide arts experience both inside and outside school. Theatre for young audiences has taken its rightful place as a vibrant and exciting form of theatre that constantly challenges and pushes boundaries in the creation of high-standard theatre experiences for all.

At the World Congress in Adelaide in 2008 the notion of The Islands on the Edge of the World came into play between delegates from UK and Ireland. We talked of the sense of being isolated geographically as well as being on the periphery of the 'theatre sector' - we spoke of developing stronger links and looking to establish our own 'regional network' similar to those in Europe, Africa, North America, South America, Asia etc.

The annual Gathering started in Cork in 2008 and immediately provided an opportunity to develop this relationship with colleagues in TYA UK. This led to fruitful collaboration with TYA NI who hosted the Gathering in Belfast (2010) and again in Derry-Londonderry (2013) making it an all-Ireland event.

In 2012 TYA UK proposed a bid to host the ASSITEJ International Meeting (now called Artistic Gathering) in Birmingham in 2016 and invited TYA Ireland to join in the bid. This would be the first time ever to have an ASSITEJ Congress or International Meeting in this 'region'.

At the World Congress in Warsaw, Poland the bid was a resounding success and as you know now plans are heating up to make ON THE EDGE: Birmingham 2016 a gathering to remember for ourselves and our colleagues throughout the world.

It is with the greatest of pleasure and hope for the future of our sector that I step down as Chair of TYA and hand the reins over to an energetic and dedicated new committee chaired by Maria Fleming, Theatre Programmer at The Ark that will bring us through the challenges of the coming years. I look forward to it.

Thank you for all the support and encouragement over the years.

Philip Hardy

## ASSITEJ KOREA

## Theatre Awards in ASSITEJ Korea Winter Festival Seoul 2015

"Princess Pyeonggang & Ondal the Fool" produced by Bookteller's Quilt, an object show transformed from a Korean folktale of love story between the princess and an

article image



ordinary man in ancient kingdom, received Outstanding Production Award, Audiences Award, Best Performer Award, and Best Music Award at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Seoul Children's Theatre Awards, the one and only awards in Korean performing arts scene for children, organized by ASSITEJ Korea.

As a final nominee for the Seoul Children's Theatre Awards, the piece competed with 2 other nominees in the 11<sup>th</sup> ASSITEJ Korea Winter Festival Seoul from January 8 to 17, 2015. The jury of the Awards praised the piece saying "creative idea transforming history into an object play with daily tools" and "brilliant ensemble acting and effective combination with musical elements."

One of the other nominees, "The Great Big Turnip" produced by INS Puppet Theatre received Director Award and Best Performer Award.

At the award ceremony, ASSITEJ Korea honored Dr. KIM Young-jong, a head of Jongno-gu District Office, with Special Achievement Award recognizing his contribution to creating better environment for children especially in his effort for founding performing arts center exclusively for young people at his district in Seoul.

Logo -ASSITEJ-Korea \_1



ASSITEJ  
MACEDONIA

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

#### BITOLINO-LOGO-english



#### Call for Applications

5th International children's theatre festival "BITOLINO" Bitola, 05-07 August 2015  
The deadline to send the applications is 31 March 2015

See in the attachment, the Festival's Regulation and the Application Form or visit [www.babecteatar.com](http://www.babecteatar.com)

We thank you all for your attention and hope to see you soon!

Download form [HERE](#)

ASSITEJ MEXICO

### 3rd Colloquium The Puppet and the Performing Arts

Img



With the idea of promotion, contribution and diffusion of the knowledge of puppetry, the 1<sup>st</sup> colloquium The Puppet and the Performing Arts, was organized in 2013 in Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico.

This year, we are glad to announce the 3rd colloquium: The Puppet and the Performing Arts will take place in Xalapa, Veracruz in April with different activities, including a main lecture that will be given by renowned artist Julie Taymor.

For further information and details contact: [oriverak@gmail.com](mailto:oriverak@gmail.com)

article image



### Small Size Days "Time and Space for the Youngest"

Because all children are citizens who, starting from their earliest years, have the right to fully experience and be involved in the physical and mental spaces that art and culture can offer them, and to share them with the adults: parents, teachers and artists.

At the end of January (January 30th - February 1st), the first edition of Small size days took place - three days dedicated to shows, workshops and other activities for children from 1 to 6 years aimed at promoting performing arts for early years. [www.smallsize.org](http://www.smallsize.org)

In Mexico, the company Teatro Al Vacío celebrated by offering free conferences, workshops and performances in Mexico City and Puebla.

ASSITEJ NEW



This March sees the return of New Zealand's biggest arts festival for young people. Now in its seventh outing, the biennial Capital E National Arts Festival this year runs from 7 to 21 March in Wellington, New Zealand.

- 11 New Zealand and international productions
- 1 mini Film Festival
- 5 world premieres
- 169 performances
- Over 18,000 students anticipated to attend the Festival through their schools
- 4,000 young people and family members expected to attend public performances

The Festival opens with the New Zealand premiere of 'Caterpillars', by Paris-based New Zealander Thomas Monckton and Finland's Kallo Collective. Three Australian companies are taking part in this year's Festival.

New Zealand companies presenting at the Festival include:

- Trick of the Light Theatre, presenting the world premiere of 'Beards! Beards! Beards!'
- Little Dog Barking Theatre, with a new adaptation of the children's book, 'Guji Guji'
- Taki Rua Productions, fusing contemporary theatre with Māori arts in 'Ngunguru I Te Ao I Te Po'
- Java Dance, exploring the magic beneath our feet in 'Dirt & Other Delicious Ingredients'
- Capital E's National Theatre for Children, transporting audiences to the front lines of the First World War with 'An Awfully Big Adventure'

For the full Festival programme, visit the Capital E website:  
<http://capitale.org.nz/national-arts-festival-shows/>

## 11th ASSITEJ festival in Norway

**The 11th ASSITEJ festival in Norway takes place on October 6th to 10th 2015. We are thrilled to announce that the 11th International ASSITEJ festival in Norway will host the semiannual meeting of the ASSITEJ Executive Committee. A very warm welcome to our friends from all over the world! SAVE THE DATES!**

We welcome you to Kristiansand and Norway for five days of surprise, suspense and splendour. Top notch performances from Norway and around the world, international encounters and an exciting side programme.

The ASSITEJ festival seeks to

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

The programming for the next ASSITEJ festival is now in full swing! We received almost 150 applications from abroad and more than 50 from Norway. We are overwhelmed by the response! The applications have been assessed by our Artistic Advisory Board, who have made their recommendations. The final decision will be made early March, with a preliminary presentation of the programme for World Day for Theatre of Children on March 20th. Stay tuned!

For the first time, we welcome international members into our Artistic Advisory Board. We are lucky to draw on the expertise and enthusiasm of these wonderful people. Read more about the festival and the Artistic board [here](#).

[link:[http://assitej.no/?page\\_id=678](http://assitej.no/?page_id=678)]

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