



ASSITEJ

International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People

ASSITEJ Newsletter N°78, September 2016



Introduction

By Diana Kržanić Tepavac

Global events that are shaking the world, universal topics of social inequality and inequality in general, the infinite row of images revealing the crude faces of capitalism, these are today's topical issues. The young of course feel these mounting problems that are threatening their future. The questions that the artists are facing are how to overcome these issues and whether it is utopian to believe that working with youth art can affect tomorrow and contribute to a better world.

Throughout the history of theatre, the times of crises have always presented a challenge for artists, thereby causing the vibrancy in theatre art as a reflection of historical context. This kind of liveliness marked this summer as well. We read and heard about gatherings of our colleagues and those outside our association who are working for and with children within theatre and performance arts on various places throughout the world. These events prove the awakening of the consciousness and need for (re)action.

Within its various side programmes, including the Bitef Poliphony devoted to the theatre for young audiences, this year's 50th BITEF festival in Belgrade <http://festival.bitef.rs/artistic-directors-foreword/> is also putting the focus on the issues of migration crisis and other challenges that are affecting Europe recently; the effects of these crises on the society as well as the global consequences.

We in ASSITEJ Serbia are happy to see thINTRODUCTIONat the programmes that we were preparing for quite some time with our partners from around the world are matching with the concept of this festival, known for discovering and bringing innovations in performing arts. It is thrilling to be a part of this internationally renowned festival, whose 2016 title "On the back of a raging bull" referring to the myth of Europe is countered with the title of Bitef Polyphony's 2016 programme "Resisting Rage" <http://festival.bitef.rs/sideprogramme/> .

The title "Resisting Rage" calls for the pursuit of the answer to the question whether the guiding principle of numerous artists in TYA of "making our audience more ready and active for a better world" is a utopia. Whatever the final answer is, artist should respond to the needs of society and, at the same time, be aware and responsible to (re)act. Already these regional, joint initiatives are making a substantial progress. But, the picture needs to be seen in its entirety, as only when you perceive it globally, and not solely in fragments, you can see it crystal clear. The last large ASSITEJ gathering On the Edge in Birmingham was followed by many reactions and reports illustrating the great motivation generated from this event. Among many ongoing calls for participation in various programmes, discussions, competitions and other events to be held in the upcoming CRADLE OF CREATIVITY 19th ASSITEJ World Congress & Performing Arts Festival in May 2017 I would like to stress again the importance of each and every voice bringing new ideas, experiences and points of view to these events.

I urge you to engage in the current activities, to apply, to recommend other excellent authors from your regions. It is of utmost importance that we all meet each other, to build our common picture of the world together, to continue to explore the possibilities and to share our knowledge and

accomplishments in order to reach our joint goal of great performing art for children and young, capable to motivate, bring hope and evoke a better world.

ASSITEJ NEWS



ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2016 On The Edge - UK'S World Festival of Theatre for Young Audiences Hailed a Success

- **400 delegates from 51 countries across 5 continents attended the festival**
- **160 artists from 25 companies, presented 16 productions and 9 works in progress**
- **Week long festival took place in 13 venues, with 91 performances attracting an audience of 9,500**
- **Festival programme also featured 56 symposium events with over 100 speakers**

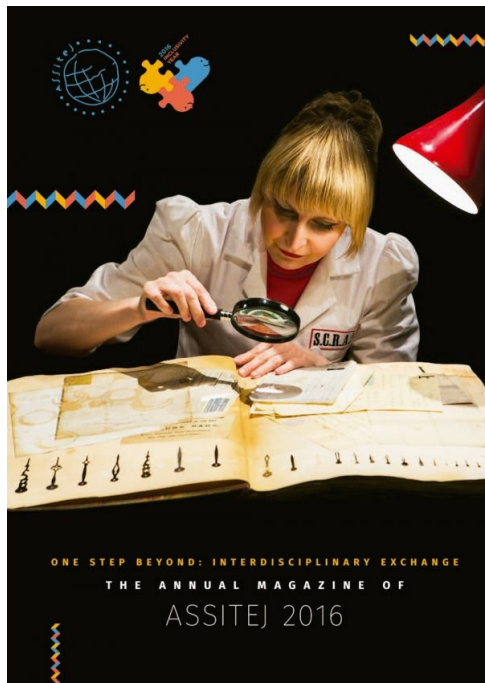
The **2016 ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering and World Festival of Theatre for Young Audiences - ON THE EDGE** - has been hailed a success. The event, held in Birmingham and hosted by the UK and Ireland for the first time, attracted over 400 delegates from 51 countries and featured a programme of 91 performances plus 56 symposium events. From 2 to 9 July an estimated audience of 9,500 people watched some of the best theatre for young people from around the world.

ON THE EDGE, which was sponsored by HSBC, brought the best and most imaginative international theatre for children, young people and their families to the city. Featuring 16 productions by 25 companies totalling 160 artists from 14 countries, including the UK, Ireland, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Australia and South Korea, the festival took place in 13 different theatre spaces across 8 Birmingham venues, with Birmingham Repertory Theatre as the main festival hub.

[Read more.](#)



ASSITEJ Magazine 2016 is now available online!



[View here](#)

TOWARDS



International Theatre Festival for Children and
Young People and the 19th ASSITEJ World Congress



CAPE TOWN. SOUTH AFRICA

New ASSITEJ Awards

Opportunity

ASSITEJ presents the Applause for Lifetime Achievement Award. This award recognizes those who have played a distinctive and inspiring role in the world of TYA for their outstanding body of work over time, and for their profound and lasting contribution to theatre for young audiences in their country or region.

- ASSITEJ Applause for Lifetime Achievement

As a fabulous initiative from our networks ITYARN and Write Local Play Global we present these two other awards:

- ITYARN Research Award

- ASSITEJ Inspirational Playwrights Award (WLPG)

And then there is of course our already well-established award:

- ASSITEJ Award for Artistic Excellence/Honorary President's Award

All these awards will be given during the 19th ASSITEJ World Congress in South Africa, May 2017.

We invite you to check out the details of these new awards on our ASSITEJ website.

DEADLINE FOR ALL AWARDS: NOVEMBER 10, 2016

Next Generation Residency ASSITEJ World Congress 2017

Opportunity

The Next Generation Programme is an ASSITEJ initiative designed to support artistic and cultural

exchange and collaboration between international artists aged 36 years or below, at ASSITEJ events. A Residency programme for 25 artists from the African continent and around the world will be held in Cape Town over the period of the Cradle of Creativity (19th ASSITEJ World Congress and Performing Arts Festival) from 17-27 May 2017.

View complete call [here](#)

Don't forget!

DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

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.

Proposals are also accepted from artists and theatre professionals for workshops, seminars and other events, related to a variety of different focus points, each of which will receive a day dedicated to them during the Congress.

[Read more.](#)

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE ITYARN CONFERENCE AND ASSITEJ FOCUS DAYS:

15TH SEPTEMBER 2016

To apply, go to www.assitej2017.org.za

Call for submissions ASSITEJ Magazine 2017

Opportunity

One Step Beyond: Intercultural Exchange

The title of the 19th ASSITEJ World Congress and Performing Arts Festival is the 'Cradle of Creativity', based in Africa for the first time in ASSITEJ history. Welcoming everyone back to the cradle of humanity, this event will profile Africa's best in theatre for children and youth, alongside performances from other continents.

ASSITEJ was first created because of a desire for intercultural collaboration during the period of the cold war. In the 21st century, this desire for collaboration across borders, languages, ethnicities, and personal histories seems more urgent than ever.

This magazine to be published in 2017 calls for articles that:

- Develop and illustrate intercultural exchange, collaboration, social change, diversity, and transformation in TYA;
- Examine connections between traditional/contemporary and local/global theatrical practices in TYA;
- Discuss the merits and disadvantages of intercultural exchange with regards to globalization, artistry, power, cultural norms and values in TYA.

Articles should

- Be between 500-700 words maximum and sent in Word and PDF (both), Times 12pt font.

- Include a title and the name of the author at the top, and a 25 word bio of the author at the end.
- All files should be named by last name of author and country.
- Submissions should be in English and in the original language of the author.
- Be accompanied by high quality photos in separate files from the article, TIFF preferred but JPEG is acceptable:

TIFF - size of the photo should not be less than 5 MB.
 JPEG - Non compressed, 300 DPI - 14 x 21 cm (8 1/2 x 5 1/5 inches).

- Photos should be credited with name of photographer, company, and play.

We will inform you about the selection of your submission by December 15,

Send to assitejmagazine2017@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS OCTOBER 15, 2016.



Bidding for ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering or World Congress

If you are interested in bidding for an ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018-2019 or World Congress 2020, we invite you to consult the requirements in the following links, where you will be able to access ASSITEJ's Constitution and Policies & Protocols Handbook:

<http://www.assitej-international.org/en/constitution/>

http://www.assitej-international.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/assitej_international_policies_and_protocol_handbook_may_2014_final.pdf

Remember to let us know three months before the World Congress, General Assembly.

DEADLINE FEBRUARY 17, 2017

ASSITEJ Networks



Small Size General Assembly in Poznan

The new Board for the network was elected as follows: the new President is Katariina Metsalampi (Annantalo Centre, Finland), the Vice-President is Uros Korencan (LGL, Slovenia), other board members are Anna Sacchetti (La Baracca, Italy), Barbara Kolling (Helios, Germany), Barbara Malecka (Centrum Sztuki Dziecka, Poland), Clíodhna Noonan (Lithuania), Gaetane Reginster (La Guimbarde, Belgium), Karel Van Ransbeek (De Spiegel, Belgium), Pilar Lopez (Paraiso, Spain).

The Assembly was full of good content and a wonderful atmosphere.

[Read the Small Size Activity Report to the General Assembly](#)

**Festival Visioni Di Futuro,
 Visioni Di Teatro 2017**
 25 February – 5 March Bologna, Italy

Opportunity

Call for ARTISTS MEET EARLY YEARS

Artists meet Early years offers to the artists the chance to meet early years right in the places where children belong to an educational community, crèches and kindergartens, in order to observe them, to become more familiar with them, collecting suggestions and images that can be useful to the development of a personal artistic research on the youngest ones.

For application [Here](#)

In 2016, *Artists meet Early Years* hosted:

- **3-6** Germany Katherina Winkler and Daniela Krabbe
- **0-3** Austria Sarah Gaderer and Laura-Lee Röckendorfer
- **0-3** Italy/Netherlands Silvia Bennett
- **3-6** UK Maria Giergiel
- **0-3** Italy/Japan Saya Namikawa
- **0-3** Russia Tatyana Parshina and Ekaterina Kochneva
- **3-6** Mexico Adrián Hernández and José Agüero

[Read more.](#)



International Inclusive Arts Network



First of all IIAN would like to thank the organisers of On The Edge for putting on a great inclusive festival. All venues were accessible, there was information in different accessible formats, we had sign language interpreted performances, audio described performances and a truly inclusive young audience watching the shows.

IIAN had a presence across the 10 days and had lots of opportunities to meet, discuss and think about how ASSITEJ can continue to promote and ensure that festivals and events going forward can continue to be inclusive and accessible and build upon the great work at On The Edge.

During our time in Birmingham we delivered a series of talks, workshops and activities. Each was well attended and each allowed us and the delegates a chance to learn something new. Our activities included:

- **Pop-Up: From the Edge On to the Centre**, an opportunity to share time on a one-to-one basis with a disabled artist.
- **Nuts and Bolts** - a training session by a disabled practitioner exploring making arts spaces more accessible to all.
- **Harnessing Creativity** - a workshop with Next Generation participants
- **A Square World** - a scratch performance by Daryl Beeton
- **Play-writing** - a panel discussion from Theatre-in-Education to the present day

[Read more.](#)

National Centers

ASSITEJ Argentina



4th TYA Researchers and Critics Forum
26-30 July, Buenos Aires, Argentina



From July 26-30 the **4th TYA Critics and Researchers International Forum** took place in Buenos Aires organized by ATINA, AINCRIT and ITYARN on the topic **"From Theatre for Babies to Theatre for Adolescents; is there a theatre for each target age?"**

Researchers, artists and producers from Mexico, Brazil, Paraguay, Chile, Uruguay, Spain, Finland, Japan, USA and Argentina presented their papers, conferences and participated in debate panels. We want to thank our special guests Asaya Fujita, Katariina Metsälampi, Amauri Falseti, Enrique

Olmos de Ita, Kenjiro Otani, Teresa Rotemberg, Sandra Mandoni, Gabriela Hilliar and Elsa Chapato for their participation in the Forum.

The conferences and presentations will be published soon, but in the meantime we would like to share with you the Closing Remarks by Manon van de Water.

[Read more.](#)



ASSITEJ Canada



FOCUS Québec 16-18 November, Montreal, Canada

The Maison Théâtre is very pleased to present the third edition of **FOCUS Québec**, which will take place on **November 16, 17 and 18** in Montreal.

A showcase for **TYA professionals (presenters and programmers)**, FOCUS Québec promotes “made in Quebec” theatre for young audiences. Attendees will discover **9 SHOWS** that reflect the rich artistic creativity of Quebec theatre companies, and will also participate in **3 GET-TOGETHERS FOR THEATRE PROFESSIONALS**; a round table discussion, a survey of arts programs for children, and an overview of 5 new works from Quebec.

We look forward to seeing you in **November!**

For more details about the event, click [here](#).

[Lire en Française](#)

3rd EDITION **FOCUS Québec**

Festival Les Coups de Théâtre International Festival for Young Audiences 13-20, November 2016, Montreal, Canada

It is with great pleasure that we announce the **14th edition of Festival Les Coups de Théâtre - International Festival for Young Audiences** which will take place in Montreal from November 13 to 20, 2016. The biennial event will offer a snapshot of the most imaginative, youth-oriented stage productions from the national and international circuits. Thirteen companies from six countries will be presenting their latest creations at numerous Montreal venues.

We are looking forward to see you in November.

Full Program: <http://www.coupsdetheatre.com/spectacles-2016/>

Info-Festival | [| info@coupsdetheatre.com](mailto:info@coupsdetheatre.com)

[Lire en Français](#)

les
Coups
de
Théâtre

festival
international
des arts
jeune public
13-20 novembre
montréal 2016

ASSITEJ Germany



International Directors' Seminar 2017
12-18 June, Oldenburg (Oldbg), Germany

Call for Applications:

Opportunity

ASSITEJ Germany's International Directors' Seminar invites directors of theatre for young audiences from all over the world to share their ideas. In the past 40 years ASSITEJ Germany has welcomed almost 500 directors at theaters in 13 German cities. A list of all participants and themes can be found here:

www.assitej.de/regieseminar. National centers all over the world are now invited to nominate a director as a participant for next year's seminar on the topic of "Streets and Crossroads". Applications need to be sent to ASSITEJ Germany (Meike Fechner m.fechner@kjtz.de) by **November 7th, 2016**.

Join us! Registration now open!

[Download Application Form Here](#)

[Leer en español](#)



Happy New Ears – Music Theatre for Young Audiences; an International Congress
20-22 November, Mannheim, Germany

Happy New Ears will bring together artists from across Europe already active in the field of music theatre for young audiences with those who want to be so. Experimental spaces and group discussions in conjunction with performances featured in the parallel festival of the same will offer an environment for discussion and reflection on, amongst others, the following questions: What is contemporary Music theatre for Young Audiences and how does it presents itself in Germany and Europe? How can the development of experimental work methods and new performance approaches be nurtured for the future?

All practicing artists active in, and students of, the following fields are invited: composition, libretti, music, singing, direction, dramaturgy, visual art. Equally, colleagues and students of teaching, research, arts communication and promotion who are interested in the development of contemporary music theatre for children are most welcome.

Registration: 20th July - 10th October 2016

www.happynewears-congress.de

ASSITEJ Italy



Generation Festival - The Languages of Dance
6-9 October Trento, Italy

Going beyond words to learn to dialogue through the body and its expressions, through performances, workshops and opportunities for training and exchanging views.

For the first time in Italy, a Festival is dedicated to Dance



as a communication tool to reach the world of children and young people.

Ten performances of Italian and foreign companies: Collettivo Cinetico, Performing Group (Germany), Manifatture Teatrali Milanesi, fABULEUS and NBproject (Belgium), Compagnia Teatro di Piazza d'Occasione, Arch8 (Holland), Transadriatica, Abbondanza e Bertoni, Silke Fluegge (Austria), Tardito-Rendina.

For further information about timetables, locations, organization of performances, workshops, meetings and much more, please visit our website at: www.yfestival.it

View full program [Here](#)

SEGNI New Generations Festival

26 October - 2 November 2016, Mantova, Italy



Welcome to Italy, in Mantova with SEGNI, New Generations Festival!

It is the opportunity to visit Mantova, the Italian Capital of Culture 2016, and to discover **26 selected productions**, with over **300 performances in 8 days**.

All the performances are able to tour and available for an international audience. You can see the full programme and detailed:

<http://www.segnidinfanzia.org/operators-area/?lang=en>

The registration is open!

Take a look at the different packages including accommodation in Mantova, breakfast, lunch and dinner and free entrance to all productions plus exclusive guided tour to the main monuments and museums.

ASSITEJ India New Executive Body



A General ASSITEJ India meeting was held in New Delhi on 3rd and 4th September 2016.

Elections were also conducted and a new Executive Committee was elected as follows:

President: Mr.Imran Khan, i-entertainment, New Delhi.

Vice President : Ms.Meena Naik, Kalsootri, Mumbai

Secretary: Ms. Shaili Sathyu, Gillo, Mumbai.

Treasurer: Mr.Wamiq Aijaz Abbasi, Anant, New Delhi.

Executive Members: 1. Mr. Anup Ranjan Pandey, Bastar Band, Raipur

- Mr.Subhash Rawat, Purvabhyas, New Delhi
- Mr.Swapan Mondal, Shudrak, Hyderabad.
- Mr.Udaya Bhanu Garikipati, Bhoomika, Hyderabad.

Members discussed the report of activities, ongoing programmes, future plans and the Tiffi International TYA Festival to be held in New Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad in December 2016.



ASSITEJ Ireland



Baboró

17-23 October, Galway, Ireland

This October, we are celebrating 20 years of presenting the best of Irish and International work to thousands of children and their families, and we'd like to welcome you to Galway for what promises to be a very exciting line-up!

The delegate box office opens on 6th September and you will receive an email with full information on the programme and how to book.

If you need to plan further in advance, please contact Jennifer at producer@baboro.ie for more information on the programme and assistance with your planning.



ASSITEJ Japan



Asia International Festival of Performing Arts
for Children and Young Audiences Japan
2018

Call for Performances

Opportunity

TYA Japan and ASSITEJ Japan Centre are looking for 15 performances for children and young audiences from Asian countries for Asia International Festival of Performing Arts for Children and Young Audiences in Japan held in February, 2018.

<http://assitej-japan.jp/?p=412>

"Asia International Festival of Performing Arts for Children and Young Audiences in Japan"

Festival in Tokyo

Dates: February 20th, Tue ~ 25th, Sun, 2018

Venues: National Olympics Memorial Youth Center, Geinoh Kadensha and etc.

Local Festivals

Dates: February 16th, Fri ~ 18th, Sun, 2018

Locations (tentative): Sapporo, Fukushima, Nagoya, Osaka, Fukuoka, and Okinawa

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: SEPTEMBER 30TH 2016

Final Selection will be announced on: November 4th, 2016.

[Read more.](#)



The 35th International Arab Youth Congress 8-14 August, Jordan

130 young participants age 13-17 from: UAE, Pakistan, Tunisia, Kosovo, Iraq, Palestine, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Holland and Jordan, participated in the 35th International Arab Youth Congress, under the theme "Innovation and Leadership", which was held Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Ministry of Education. <https://youtu.be/GgFp0XF7CM4>

For more information about The National Centre for Culture and Arts (NCCA) activities and the congress please visit the following links:

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NCCA.KHF?ref=tn_tnmn

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PacKhf>

[Read more.](#)

ASSITEJ Korea

24th ASSITEJ Korea International Summer Festival!



The 24th ASSITEJ Korea International Summer Festival took place in Seoul, Korea from the 20th of July to the 31st of July. It was organized with 15 world-class performances from 10 different countries to over 8,000 audiences and various other activities including Korean-French Symposium and Roundtable on International Networking. This year, about 20 international delegates from China, France, India and Japan and over 80 artists from 15 theatre companies participated in the Summer Festival.

[Read more.](#)



ASSITEJ Netherlands

Children's Theatre in Search of New Audiences. The City in All its Diversity. 1-4 September, Amsterdam, Netherlands



From September 1-4 ASSITEJ NL organised, in collaboration with Dutch Performing Arts and in the context of TF Jong, a professionals' programme about performing arts for young audiences in all its diversity.

Performances the professionals attended were Know Me (12+) by [BonteHond](#), Jihad, the performance (15+) by Senf Producties, Mating Season by Danstheater Aya/[Alida Dors](#), Veil(12+) by Danstheater Aya, In the distance (2+) by Malou van Sluis and Judith Sleddens, Hip Hop Hooray! (4+, Frontaal/Don't hit Mama) and 100% Selfmade (12+, Maas Theater and Dans Dox), iPet([BonteHond](#), 2+), We are going on a bear hunt (4+, by [Theater Sonnevank](#)), The Aunties (8+) by de [Toneelmakerij](#) and In my mind I'm a thin girl (12+, NT Jong).



ASSITEJ Norway

assitejnorge

Suzanne Osten visits SAND Festival 15-17 September, Kristiansand, Norway

Internationally renowned director and playwright Suzanne Osten from Sweden comes to SAND Festival to talk about her film adaption of the book and play for children, "The Girl, the Mother, and the Demons".

The film "The Girl, the Mother, and the Demons", by Suzanne Osten was released in spring 2016, and has been subject to extensive public debate, in the aftermath of the Swedish film institute rating the movie PG 15. "The Girl, the Mother, and the Demons" is originally a book by Suzanne Osten that was later staged at Unga Klara. The book's thematic concerns children who live with mentally ill parents. Author, director and children's rights advocate Suzanne Osten is a pioneer in the field of art for children and young people, and fights for children's right to experience challenging, brave and relevant art. Read more about the film screenings and talk here:

<http://sandfestival.no/film-screening-the-girl-the-mother-and-the-demons-by-suzanne-osten/?lang=en>



Photo: Sebastian Danneborn

Welcome to SAND 2016!

From 15-17 September, we invite you to watch performances of high international standards, take part in an extensive professional programme, including workshop viewings, talks and seminars, and last, but not least, meet and mingle with artists, directors, scenographers, and other professionals. If you haven't secured your international delegate package or a festival pass, there are still single tickets for events available.

Check out our web page: www.sandfestival.no

sand
15-17 SEPTEMBER
2016



Articles Section.

Knowledge - Experiences - Reflections.

Next Generation at ON THE EDGE 2016 - Experiences

Birmingham Daily Musings

By **Nishna Mehta - India**

ON THE EDGE 2016, Birmingham was just my second time at an ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering but it felt like coming home. I was looking forward to meeting people I met in Berlin last year and many more I hadn't met yet, including the Next Generation participants. I was missing the Berlin NG group so bad, but at the same time looking forward to the new group and an exciting week ahead with Aamir Nawaz (Pakistan), Bhavik Parmar (England), Catherine Boot (England), Derem Ciray (Turkey), Elidh MacAskill (Scotland), Emma Jayne Park (Scotland), Gina Saggiante (Mexico), Heidi Schoenenberger (USA/Ireland), Katy Weir (England), Kirsty Roberts (England), Leonie Bruckner (Austria), Luciana Candido de Lima (Brazil), Niamh NiChonchubhair (Ireland), Philip Morris (England), Sacha Copland (New Zealand), Sachiyo Yorifuji (Japan), Sarah Hope Morrissey (Ireland), Samantha Porciello (Northern Ireland), Stacey Sampson (England), Thong Pei Qin (Singapore) and Yusrah Bardien (South Africa). And us! Nina Weber (Germany) and I, from the 2015 group of Next Generation participants..

[Read more.](#)



Holidays in the archive – a visit from Poland

By **Agata Drwięga**

Sometimes people do things, which seem completely incomprehensible for others. Collecting spiders, taking ice baths or passing the entire days in front of the computer's screen playing video games are included. I am particularly absorbed by theatre for children and young audiences, which is not a popular and seriously taken interest in Poland where I come from.

Poland has been a member of ASSITEJ for decades and we have a great tradition of puppet theatre, which due to historical purposes (over 40 years of communism and socialist realism) is equating with TYA (nowadays this situation is slowly changing). In our history have appeared many outstanding theatre artists like Krystyna Miłobędzka and Leokadia Serafinowicz (from Teatr Marcinek in Poznań); Jan Dorman (who set up his theatre in Będzin); Halina and Zbigniew Machulski (Teatr Ochoty in Warsaw) whose work was dedicated to children and young people. Thanks to an outsized work of Children's Art Centre in Poznań plenty of new plays for young audiences have already been written and theatre for babies and the youngest children is well known here. Despite the fact that this list is not complete, TYA's position is not as high as it is in Germany. Neither there is a comprehensive bibliography dedicated to this topic, nor is TYA an area of interests for universities.

Last winter for the first time in my life I had heard about Natalie's Saz work and I realized how limited my knowledge in the area of TYA's history was. Then I decided to learn something more and I was told the Central Archive of ASSITEJ in KJTZ is the best place for the prospecting. Well... it really is!

However I had had an inkling of what ASSITEJ was, just after I read the history of this association (which is a great work of Nat Eek) and I looked through the “Théâtre enfance et jeunesse” magazine I understood the magnificence of the association. In the international library I found the great historical books written by Manon von de Water and interesting International Guide to Children’s Theatre and Educational Theatre edited by Lowell Swartzell. The Central Archive is a perfect place for both research about contemporary and historical YTA in Germany, Europe and the worldwide. Especially the collection of the German one is impressive. Hundreds of thousands of books, scripts, magazines, theatre programs, audio and video recordings, pictures and posters – they are put in order in a few rooms at three levels and dr. Jürgen Kirschner who is responsible for the collection seems to know everything about every little piece of paper which can be found here.

Frankfurt am Main is charming modern city where grey herons, egyptian geese and rabbits live in the parks, and where I spent 10 days of my holidays reading and discussing books and documents of YTA, surrounded by inspiring people from KJTZ who do a great work for spreading magnificent ideas. Thank you!

Agata Drwiega

Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
Faculty of Polish and Classical Philology
Department of Drama, Theatre and Performance

