

JOIN THE CRADLE OF CREATIVITY !

The 19th ASSITEJ World Congress and Festival newsletter



CRADLE OF CREATIVITY

Share the Cradle of Creativity !



Welcome to the first official Cradle of Creativity newsletter !

You've been added here if you have registered for the **19th World Congress and International Theatre Festival for Children and Young People: Cradle of Creativity**, or because you are a recipient of the ASSITEJ SA newsletter, or because you receive the ASSITEJ International newsletter. If you don't want another newsletter, please feel free to unsubscribe and follow updates on our various online platforms but we will be very sorry to see you go.

In this weekly newsletter, we will provide the latest news and updates and possible bonus content if you keep your eyes peeled...

So what's happening in the office?

We are firing our fingertips across keyboards communicating with artists around the world, across language, cultures and time-zones – it is an honour to be the custodians of the ASSITEJ 19th World Congress and International Theatre Festival, especially here in Cape Town, known as the Mother City, and in South Africa, which the late Nelson Mandela famously called “The Rainbow Nation”.

Teams are at work across South Africa to engage young audiences and to facilitate one of the largest artistic gatherings on the African continent.

The Festival

We know that most delegates are interested in what performances they will be seeing at the festival, so we are going to be featuring three or four of our productions on a weekly basis. Currently 25 productions are listed on our website. More will be added in the next days and weeks as they are confirmed. Booking will be opening mid-March through **Computicket**.



From South Africa

Karoo Moose, directed by Lara Foot, a Baxter Theatre Production

[See details](#)



From Nigeria and Germany

Obisike: It takes a lion's heart

[See details](#)



From China

Three Monks, from China National Theatre

[See details](#)



From Norway

Sparrow

[See details](#)

New Productions Added to Festival Programme since Launch!

Two productions have been added to the preliminary programme we launched earlier this month. They are "Our House" a collaboration between Ishyo Arts Centre in Rwanda and Helios Theater in Germany and "When Lion Had Wings" from Jungle Theatre in Cape Town South Africa.



Our House

Ishyo Arts Centre in (Rwanda) and Helios Theater (Germany)

[See details](#)



When Lion Had Wings

Jungle Theatre (Cape Town, South Africa)

[See details](#)

First 100 Delegate Bookings Completed !

Thank you to our Early Bird Delegates! The Early Bird discounts are now over, but discounted hotel rates can still be acquired through the hotels listed on our website. AirBnB is also available in Cape Town

Struggling with registration?

While many presidents around the world



demonstrate a detached resolve from issues affecting their constituency, here is our President Yvette Hardie ready to take you through the Cradle of Creativity registration. [Watch Here](#)

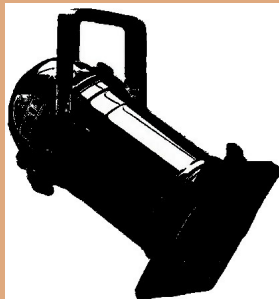


Contacting Schools

We have amassed volunteers to help our team to contact schools across South Africa. These volunteers, situated all around the country are engaging with government stakeholders, school principals and community leaders to encourage them to make the journey down to Cape Town. A core part of our work is to engage children who could not otherwise afford to see theatre.

We are very grateful to these volunteers for their work; contacting and confirming schools for young audiences is a talent in and of itself!

Perhaps at the Cradle of the Creativity, there should be a moment, probably at the bar, to lament the struggles of hard-fought battles by booking agents the world over.



Techies Wanted in Cape Town

We have opened the call for technicians at the 19th World Congress. If you would like to work on this festival as a technician and are able to fund yourself here, please apply! The call for applications can be found on our website and is open to non-South Africans as well.

What are SA techies like? They're cool, calm, collected, capable with a can-do attitude. Despite always finding themselves in the dark, they're the light and hope of every festival. [Apply](#)

#Hashtag#

Let us know how your preparation is going for Cradle of Creativity by using the [#cradleofcreativity](#) and or [#assitej2017](#), not forgetting to [#takeachildtotheatre](#) today on ASSITEJ World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People on 20 March.

[Go to ASSITEJ Website](#)

Creative Arts in South African Schools



ASSITEJ SA has been working with 20 schools in 4 districts over the last two years. These schools are rural, and under-resourced. They work under challenging circumstances and have little in the way of resources to deal with the demands of the curriculum.

The ASSITEJ SA “Kickstarter Creative Arts” project has uplifted the schools with training in the arts subject “Creative Arts”. We’ve engaged with them around suggestions of recycled materials and by providing the schools with Art resources and instruments.

A full presentation on this project will be made at the Cradle of Creativity by Alison Green.

If you would like to contribute to any of the schools we have worked with, or schools closer to Cape Town, please contact Alison on projects@theatre4youth.co.za.

Dance for Young Audiences - Aha moments and cushion squeezing by Nicola Elliott

It seems weird to me now, but only a few years ago I thought of ‘children’s theatre’ as inferior to the pursuits of, uh ... ‘normal’ theatre.

It’s not that I thought children were unintelligent, or that the artists who made the work weren’t talented or hardworking. I suspect I thought that the needs of this audience – their incomplete education, their famously short attention spans, the sense that they had only two settings, indifferent or over-excited – would dominate the work to the extent that concept, form, intention and craft would have to tow the line slavishly or be obliterated entirely.

In this, therefore, I was basically an ignoramus; but I wasn’t in a vacuum. At drama school, our ‘Family Theatre’ module consisted of one weekly practical for half a semester. We saw it as preparation for our rent money, one step up from waiting. Certainly, we didn’t see it as a vocation, not as a vehicle for the best of our ideas, hard work and creativity. And so, of course, the work we produced was crass and generalized. Bored, we did it and moved on fast.

By 2014, I knew my assumptions were way off. ASSITEJ SA was gaining traction and TYA as a constellation of distinct, sophisticated genres was beeping on any working radar everywhere. But dance for young audiences? I understood the hooks that narrative performance could send out, but what of performance without overt narrative? I sat down one day with a stack of DVDs and began.

Well, the aha moments came thick and fast; and pretty soon I was hooked. A year or so later, two performers and I were packing a trailer and heading out to crèches with our very own dance show for 0-4 year olds.

So what would I tell my younger student self? Could I say that every audience member loved it? That they threw roses at our feet and begged for encores? No, no I couldn’t say that. The facts are that some were transformed, some were entertained, and some simply squeezed their little cushion for 40 minutes, stared into space, rocked gently in time to the music and occasionally glanced at the dancers. Nothing is for everyone, and you, Younger Self, would do well to write that down. The real point is that creating a vehicle for transformation, entertainment or quality cushion-squeezing time, takes every ounce of its fair share and more of our talents, ideas,

creativity, love and hard work. A transaction I regret not one bit.

Nicola Elliott is a South African Choreographer and Dance Educator. She is the 2014 recipient of the Standard Bank Young Artist for Dance. Her work "Fingers and Toes, My Body Knows", a dance for young audiences piece will be presented at the Cradle of Creativity.

www.ASSITEJ2017.org.za

ASSITEJ South Africa | Vrygrond Avenue, Cape Town

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