



ASSITEJ

International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People

ASSITEJ Newsletter N°84, March 2017



Say it loud! (in Cape Town)

By François Fogel

I am writing from a wealthy country, which values culture as one of the important assets of a society, and where most children have access to the statute of a person of rights. It has allowed, over the years, the progressive development of a vibrant scene in many sectors of creation addressed to children and adolescents, including, prominently, performing arts, undertaken by trained, professional, artists, providing a high level of freedom of expression.

But, through the meetings my participation in ASSITEJ has offered me exposure to international professionals, I have learned how much the context may differ in many countries, either regarding the statute of children or the effective possibility to let artists create. Looking back to the three years since the congress in Warsaw, from these particular points of view, the emergency of protecting the young ones from crisis and violence strikes me in the face. Still, the work of all the people who, everywhere, contribute to save and enforce their access to arts, imagination, and symbolic thinking, continues. They find new ways, new connections, and new faces show up.

[Have you seen the Next Generation panel for Cape Town ?](#) This is what ASSITEJ does: maintaining a unique forum, which manages to give a voice to everyone who seeks to make the encounter happen between children and performing arts. Allowing every participant to the gatherings it impulses or takes part in, to hear about the findings, fears, hopes, and, more than often, to share the happiness of other professionals through their own words. It doesn't judge or try to impose some particular artistic standards, but it employs a wealth of inventiveness, and, not least, of professional thoroughness, to build this framework, for the benefit of TYA worldwide.

Given the tiny financial means at the disposal of ASSITEJ, this work is a story of commitment and risks. Not only from the officials, but from the multitude who, at their own level, empower the national centers and the networks, contribute by inviting other members in their own country, or by funding the Friends of ASSITEJ, offer to lead workshops, or, simply, step up and share the realities they live in with the international community.

The holding of the Congress and World festival in South Africa, in a few weeks, is particularly significant in that sense. After 52 years, it will be the first time that such an event happens in Africa: a major step in the history of ASSITEJ, which proves the ability of our organization to put itself into question and to evolve.

In the economic context that many countries, including South Africa, have to face, it is, also, a big challenge.

Registrations to the Cradle of creativity are now open <http://www.assitej2017.org.za/>. Coming to Cape Town is not only an occasion to meet people from around the world of TYA, and to enjoy a lot of unseen productions. It is a strong act of solidarity, and the recognition of the value of the commitment of each of the members of the community.

[TYA #meetsInCapeTown](#)
[#CradleOfCreativity](#)
[#ASSITEJ2017](#)



ASSITEJ World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People March 20, 2017



Message from Yvette Hardie, President of ASSITEJ

Children cannot take themselves to the theatre. The World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People celebrated every 20th March is a call to recognise the dependence of children on the adults around them if they are to have critical exposure to the arts in general, and to live theatre in particular. For this reason we say "Take a Child to the Theatre Today".

Theatre happens in a particular time and space, and is by its very nature fleeting and of that particular moment. It is about the invisible relationships created in this moment, which unlock the human heart, planting seeds of empathy and growing tendrils of curiosity and enquiry that may impact on the development of the entire human being, and of their future course in life.

But connecting with theatre, appreciating theatre, can require effort from the audience involved. It is not a passive, receptive function. It is an activity that demands attention, engagement, openness, curiosity and critical thinking. It demands total engagement – not just intellectual engagement, but also physical, emotional and some would say spiritual. When this full engagement is taking place, multiple senses are being stimulated simultaneously, and the experience is rich, powerful and transformative.

Many parents understand the value of reading – whether or not they are readers themselves. They understand its functional value and recognise its capacity to be a passport through the real world into new realms for children and young people. They understand that reading is not something to be given up on, even though the initial stages can be demanding and frustrating. Rather, it is a key which can unlock entire worlds for young people, that a thought experienced in a book can translate into a direction for life... They are keen to seek out the book which will capture the child's imagination sufficiently to carry them through the hurdle of learning to read. Why is that same recognition not given to the experience of reading theatre?

Theatre is not something to give up on after one poor experience. It is not something to be forced into a particular mould or subject matter. It can be hard work and frustrating, as well as pleasurable and engaging. It can take time for the 'reader' of theatre to fully appreciate the multiple levels of signs, feelings and meanings that are presented. But as a distilled experience, it allows the audience the opportunity to "truly" see what is there, with fresh eyes, to see the object, person, relationship, signs in a new way, and to discover and interpret their meaning for themselves.

Theatre is, a unique experience of personal meaning-making for children, which requires engagement, and the quality of this engagement will improve with time as children and young people become more attuned to the experience of watching a play.

The idea of theatrical literacy is not a glib one – it is an important and universal window into reading and making sense of the world. And how urgently are these skills needed in a world which seems increasingly hostile to children, and where so many children are disempowered and neglected as a result of poverty, war, conflict and displacement. These children must become our collective responsibility.

The challenge to artists and to arts activists is to ensure that all adults with the power to [#Takeachildtothetheatretoday](#) understand their responsibility to the child who might never encounter live theatre without their intervention and work as hard for all children to be theatrically literate as they do for them to be able to read and write.

Read [Español](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#)



World Day Guest Message from Francisco Hinojosa

With no previous experience except for having frequented the theater as a boy, at the age of seventeen I directed a play with a cast of friends and classmates. It was presented informally at our high school and also in a more suitable space, open to the public. The play was called *Dress Rehearsal*: it touched on the subject of drugs and above all, as its title suggests, the *mise-en-scène*. It was written by my father, whose innate vocation as an actor was cultivated while he was a young man through scattered performances for local charities. Neither he nor I continued down this theatrical path, although I did become a staunch reader and watcher of plays. Curiously enough, I would later reencounter drama a different way: some of my stories written for children have been adapted for the stage over the past twenty years or more. In the beginning, if the troupes were formal, I would ask that they send me a copy of the adaptation for my approval. But as time passed, I preferred not to, giving free rein to those who do their job with the awareness that during the transit from narration to drama, something has got to give. Sometimes I have attended these performances. Others, I have learned about them through the press, or a webpage. Sometimes the literal content of the text is respected. Others, it acts as a source of inspiration for the creation of a new work. *The Worst Lady in the World* is the story of mine that has been staged most often, whether as a monologue or a marionette or shadow-puppet show, whether as a dramatic reading or a school play or a full-fledged professional performance. The director of a theater company once told me that they had to rescue the actress in the lead role from an enraged audience of young people who saw in her the true embodiment of evil: reality and fiction had melded in their collective imagination. I have also born witness to the demands, during a performance, that some children familiar with the story make whenever the actors follow a script that takes liberties with the original.

A story well-told on stage doubtless captivates the children in the audience and somehow transforms them. Leaving the theater after a show, the world seems different: it has been touched by a performance that allows members of the audience to see beyond the surface. And frequently, a cathartic reaction takes hold upon seeing themselves projected through certain characters or situations. Unlike the solitude of reading, once a story makes the leap onstage, the experience changes: now it is something that is happening before our very eyes, something we may share with others. We are no longer the sole witnesses. The tale comes to life beyond our imagination and somehow, transforms us into protagonists, because we entrust the characters with our emotions and fears, our desires and frustrations. Once they are staged, fiction, music, dance, song, poetry, games, magic, and juggling are all harmonically assembled, along with the resources typical of the theatrical arts: wardrobe, lights, scenery, makeup, props. The contributions made to our cultural heritage –with an emphasis on literature and theater– invariably lead to children exercising their imaginations and finding greater meaning in life.

Francisco Hinojosa, Mexican leading author of children's literature.

Read [Español](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#)

World Performance Week

ASSITEJ proposes a collaboration between international associations involved with different art forms related to live performance, which celebrate their World Days between March 20th and March 27th.

We invite you to participate in week long celebrations as part of the very first World Performance Week. The week includes March 20th, ASSITEJ World Day of theatre for children and young people (and the campaign "Take a child to the theatre"), March 21st, UNIMA's World Puppetry Day, and March 27th, ITI's World Theatre Day, which is also celebrated by other associations, such as IATC, IDEA and others.

Use the unifying logo as well as the ASSITEJ logo and the Take a Child to the Theatre Today logo, to promote the week.

By uniting the activities of these international associations, while retaining the individual character of each day, we hope to strengthen key messages around cultural entitlement connected to the March campaigns, promoting the transformative power of the performing arts for children and adults world wide, and supporting one another to reach our goals.

We invite you all to use it and include in your publications and communications.

[Leer en Español](#)



worldperformanceweek

celebrating the power of the performing arts



20th march

World Day
of theatre for children



21st march

World Puppetry Day



27th march

World Theatre Day

Join the Campaign: Take A Child To The Theatre



**TAKE A
CHILD
TO THE
THEATRE**



**MARCH 20
WORLD
DAY
OF
THEATRE
FOR
CHILDREN
AND
YOUNG
PEOPLE**

**SO THEY
CAN
SEE,
HEAR,
FEEL,
THINK
AND
IMAGINE**

This year ASSITEJ is developing the theme of Intercultural Exchange. We would like to remind you to download this year's logo, if you haven't done so already. Remember you can also adapt this logo into your different languages:

<http://www.assitej-international.org/en/the-world-day-of-theatre/>



**子どもを
劇場に
連れていこう**



**3月20日
国際
児童
青少年
演劇デー**

**みて
きいて
かんじて
すると
こころが
こきだす**

Hashtags

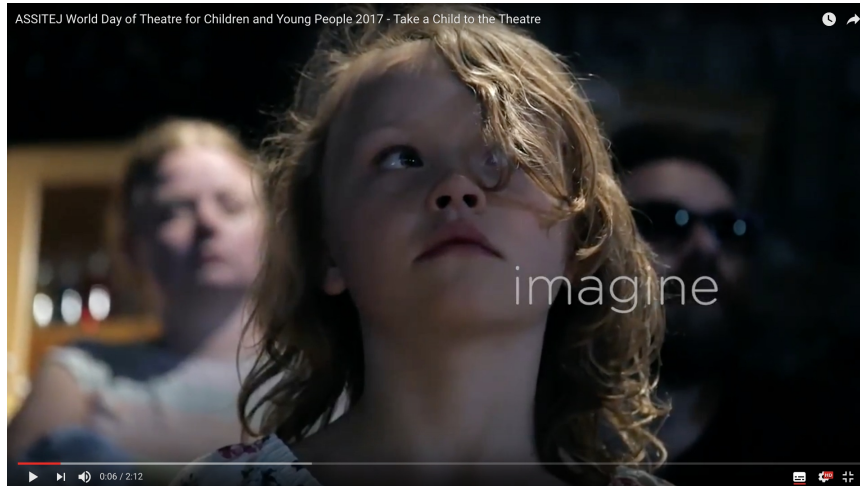
Join the international community and make your event visible worldwide. Remember to use the hashtags for this year's celebrations:

#takeachildtothetheatre
#assitejworldday
#worldday2017

Share the World Day Video

The 2017 ASSITEJ World Day video was created by our colleagues of ASSITEJ Norway. **Please watch and share it!**

LINK: <https://youtu.be/jWzKbeDidc>



World Day Activities of our Members Around the Globe

ASSITEJ Argentina
ATINA Awards - 11th. Edition



On the 20th of March 2017 ATINA will celebrate the TYA World Day with the 11th ATINA Awards Ceremony.

ATINA gives this Award with the aim of highlighting the work of artists and companies devoted to TYA. The Jury is integrated by independent and qualified journalists and researchers.

ATINA Award is given to those Argentinian professionals and Companies who have established new trends during the year and their work can be considered a parameter for the rest of us.

We need frameworks and orientation within this field that many artists choose as their first experience in the art of theatre. We need more and more qualified professionals to face this specialty in modern times. We need professionals who know well and can understand their audience. We need brave, sharp and committed playwriting, which reflects the experience of the audience and interests them. We need experimentation and research of new procedures from the Directors. We need actors who can play with intensity and who can be creative at the moment of making contact with the audience. We need to redefine the scenic space based on each proposal and on the communication with the spectator. It is essential to pay attention to the production details. And especially, a theatre for adolescents that can move, capture, identify and modify them is necessary.

ATINA Awards tries to emphasize these aspects by awarding the more outstanding works in the year, having for certain that this is also a way to encourage and improve TYA in our country."

In this way we join our colleagues all over the world, celebrating the TYA World Day and

invite everybody to take a look at the awarded works in our website www.atina.org.ar

[Read more.](#)

ASSITEJ Azerbaijan

ASSITEJ - Azerbaijan will celebrate the 20th March World's Theatre Day for Children and Youth with a parade of performances for children on the eve of International Children's and Youth Theatre Day which dates back to the ancient and rich holiday of Azerbaijani People.



ASSITEJ Brazil

On March 15th, we'll have the **3rd CBTIJ Theatre Award ceremony**, when the World Day messages will be read.



On the first week of March, we'll send out an exclusive poster, designed by a distinguished Brazilian artist, celebrating World Day.

We are also celebrating CBTIJ/ASSITEJ Brazil's 21st anniversary with a special event showcasing ten TYA repertory productions staged by ten different Brazilian companies, in Rio de Janeiro.

The **CBTIJ 21 Years TYA Repertory Showcase** (*Mostra de Repertório CBTIJ 21 Anos*) will be held at the Caixa Cultural Arena Theatre, downtown Rio, from March 14th to 29th. We'll also have a lecture, a round table and workshops led by members of the Association.

ASSITEJ Bulgaria

20th March Drama Theatre Targovishte together with other partners is going to establish a National ASSITEJ Centre in the country. The date is chosen on purpose as we think that such a centre will boost the development of theatre for children not only in Bulgaria but also in the region through cooperation with other centres and this is the best way to mark the world day of theatre for children.



ASSITEJ Chile TeVeó Award



March 20 celebrates World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People, driven by ASSITEJ through the campaign "Take a Child to the Theatre Today" and the representatives of Te Veó Chile / ASSITEJ Chile use this important occasion to award Mónica Echeverría, recognizing her artistic career in her role as co-founder of the department of Youth Theater of ICTUS, and her work as director and playwright of children's theatre with the first edition of the "Te Veó / ASSITEJ Performing Arts Award for Children and Young People 2016".

The first edition of the Te Veó / ASSITEJ Award will count with the presence of several authorities, people of the culture scene and performing arts community for children and young people.

This award values and recognizes the professional quality work that artists in our country create for our children and young people highlighting:

- The development of quality theatre for children and young people.
- The creation and increase of children and youth audience.
- The investigation, publication and education continue in performing arts for children and young people.

Mónica Echeverría was born in Santiago, Chile on September 2, 1920. As a literature professor, she dedicated twenty-two years of her life to teaching. This activity did not prevent her from developing her calling for the theatre where she participated as an actress, director and playwright in different works. Her most successful works in dramaturgy were with the series: QUIQUIRICO, EL CIRCULO ENCANTADO, CHUMINGO Y EL PIRATA DE LATA, GUATAPIQUE, ZAMBACANUTA.

[Read more.](#)

[Leer en Español](#)



ASSITEJ Iceland

ASSITEJ Iceland will create video messages online to celebrate World Day.

The video will have messages from actors and theatre makers that have shows for young people in Iceland.

We are looking forward to celebrate the day!



ASSITEJ Italy

On the occasion of the World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People - March 20th, 2017



Teatro Telaio invites young people to really listen to each other, because theatre can improve self-knowledge.

Teatro Telaio and Freccia Rossa Shopping Centre propose the project for students of high schools: **The young people and the cyber bullying**

Show **"FOLLOWING IAGO"** + Dialogue with the public, managed by the actor and a psychotherapist.

The show has as protagonist a contemporary and technological Iago that tells what he has designed for defaming Desdemona, inducing Othello to kill his wife and killing himself. The line between appearance and fantasy does blur. It doesn't take much to violate the dignity of a person. Iago tells about honor so as nowadays we use to consider image, which is increasingly conditioned by computer tools.

A Word

theatrical action multilingual inspired by "The Ulysses horse" by Tonino Guerra-director Donata Boggio Sola

The Multilingual project was carried out with students of secondary schools of second degree of Tortona by the initiative of the theater company Coltelleria Einstein and the Public Library Ocheda of Tortona **in** the occasion of World Day of Theatre for Children and Youth People.

25 students involved, 2 schools, 13 languages brought into play: Albanian, Arabic, Croatian, French, Ancient Greek, English, Italian, Latin, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Tortonese.

Languages that are studied in school or spoken in the homes of the town of Tortona, a town not far from Alessandria, Piemonte, in the North West of Italy.

The theatrical action invites the public to listen, understand and stop even just a word. Listening and silence favor understanding, even when you do not know the language.

The first step in understanding each other.

This project is presented by: Theatre Company Coltelleria Einstein- ASSITEJ Italia member, Ocheda Civic Library - City of Tortona, and Marconi-Carnome Institute - High School Giuseppe Peano.



ASSITEJ Latvia

Istaba Art Gallery's message is that Theatre can be anywhere, in an art gallery, a shop, and even in a living room.

We want to celebrate Theatre day by inviting everyone to our performances of "Karneval and potato salad" by Andrus Kivirehk book "Karneval and potato salad" for free. There will be 3 performances on March 26, 2017.

ASSITEJ Mexico

ASSITEJ Mexico celebrates its 10th Theatre Marathon, which will be a special one given the 10-year anniversary. This particular Marathon will have significant emphasis on gender equality and will therefore present several plays by women directors and playwrights.



The Marathon will include 41 performances from 33 different companies, 6 workshops and will count with the presence of 5 publishing houses specialized in children's books.

The city of Guadalajara will also join the celebrations with activities in Theatre Alarife.



ASSITEJ Poland

Take The Theatre to a Child Today



With reference to an ASSITEJ International campaign for World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People, promoted and celebrated through the message "TAKE A CHILD TO THE THEATRE TODAY", ASSITEJ Poland proudly presents: "TAKE THE THEATRE TO A CHILD TODAY". Kids living in Centre for Foreigners in Warsaw will have a chance to participate in the show "The Ugly Duckling", performed by students of the Halina and Jan Machulski's Acting School.

"The Ugly Duckling" is based on a [fairy tale](#) by [Danish](#) poet and author [Hans Christian Andersen](#). The show underlines the fact that being different should not mean being rejected. It promotes tolerance, acceptance and understanding for other people among young viewers. [Andersen's fairy tale](#) gives a new perspective for issues facing us today.

Vibrant and colorful show with musical parts was prepared by students of the Halina and Jan Machulski's Acting School. The School implements an experimental programme for teaching not only actors, but also theatre educators, who specialize in working with children and young people by means of applied drama techniques.

ASSITEJ Switzerland

What possibilities does the theatre offer for children and youngsters for the everyday life at school?

assitej

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

ASSITEJ Switzerland takes the world day of theatre for children and young people as an occasion to put an accent on increasing the cooperation between theaters and schools. This shall draw attention on the opportunities of theatre for a young audience in the school environment.



Therefore on Monday March 20, ASSITEJ Switzerland and "Jungspund" - theater festival for young audiences, organizes in cooperation with "Theater Lenz" an event under the heading «Which possibilities does the theatre offer for children and youngsters for the everyday life at school?». Invited are teachers and prospecting teachers of all grade levels. The event starts with a rehearsal attendance of «Der Kleine und das Biest» by Figurentheater St. Gallen, followed by a panel discussion and table talks, with participation of different representatives from the areas of school, education and culture. The dialogue shall arouse mutual interest in the focus and

shall pave the way to active participation in theater and culture for young people.

Read promotional leaflet in German [HERE](#).

ASSITEJ Uruguay



For the World Day Celebration we are going to make a Festival in the main theater of Uruguay: Solís Theater.

It's going to be a two-day celebration, but will be postponed until April 5th and 6th 2017, due to theater availability.

We are having a public contest, where we invite Uruguayan children's plays to participate in the selection of the four that would be presented in the Festival to Celebrate the World day of Theater for Young People.

View call in Spanish [HERE](#).

ASSITEJ Zimbabwe

Every year CHIPAWO family celebrates World theatre day for children and young people, which we have called CHIPAWO Play Day.



This year with more than 15 schools CHIPAWO will celebrate this day with children from 4 years and above on 1 April 2017 at Theatre in the Park. The performances are going to be based on various plays by children for the children and Zimbabwe audience.

We also join our sister organisation in Botswana CHIPABO in celebrating this day with Zambia- CHIEZA being part of the celebrations.



A day, A play #4:

The 4th edition of A day for a play, the TYA instant playwriting game organised by Scènes d'enfance - ASSITEJ France with WLPG, in conjunction with the ASSITEJ international theatre day and the ASSITEJ Congress in Cape Town (May 2017) has more than 120 persons registered, from 32 countries over 6 continents.

They are sending their plays, which will be published on a brand new website at

www.1day1play-WLPG.org, on March 20th.

Here is a map of the registered countries:



Towards ASSITEJ 19th World Congress Cradle of Creativity



Congress Registration

Registration for the 19th ASSITEJ World Congress and Performing Arts Festival Cradle of Creativity is open!

<https://confco.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/assitej/infosite>

Let the office know of representation/delegation from your countries attending the General Assembly at sg@assitej-international.org

General Assembly

If you are an ASSITEJ member, you will soon receive detailed information for the General Assembly such as: EC Candidates, Bidding for Artistic Gatherings and Congress, Proxies, Proposed Constitutional Changes and more...

Join us for the ASSITEJ Auction



Bid on unique and extraordinary objects while supporting the activities of **ASSITEJ and the Next Generation Programme**.

Join colleagues from across the world at The 19th ASSITEJ Congress in Cape Town and 2017 Auction. On the evening of the 3rd day of the General Assembly, colleagues from around the world are invited to come together for an

evening of entertainment, fun and competitive bidding!

All proceeds will go to the Next Generation placement and residency programmes which enables younger artists from around the world to experience international exchange, many for the 1st time.

The event will be a memorable evening for the whole of the ASSITEJ community, including participants of the 2017 Next Generation Programme brought together for the very first time in Cape Town.

OBJECTS AND THEIR STORIES NOW WANTED!

[Leer en Español](#)

[Read more.](#)

The International Theatre Festival

Currently 25 productions are listed on our website: <http://www.assitej2017.org.za>. More will be added in the next days as we finalise the last details. The full programme will be announced and booking will be opening mid-March through **Computicket**. After registration, you will receive a code to access Computicket and will need to pay a nominal amount for the sponsored tickets allocated to your package. If you have not yet signed up to the weekly newsletter which gives you all the details about Cradle of Creativity, including more details about productions, we invite you to sign up [here](#).

ASSITEJ Networks

Small Size Days 2017

Small Size Network celebrated its yearly common event Small size Days on the last weekend of January (27.-29.1.2017): shows, workshops, conferences, street-actions and concerts, all dedicated to early years children, all with small audience groups. Under the motto "The art is not a matter of age but of curiosity", this year the event reached a new record: more than 120 activities took place in 20 different countries, involving more than 5.500 among children, parents, teachers and artists.



La Sala Miguel Hernandez / El mes Petit de Tots

We are glad to inform you that the dates of the new edition (13th) of Festival El Més Petit de Tots are from November 11th to November 26th, 2017. As usual, it will be held in different cities and theatres in Catalonia. More information about the programme will arrive soon.

Teatro Al Vacio and Teatro Paraiso Antzerkia

We are happy to share with all of you the artistic residency that Teatro al Vacío company (Mexico) will carry out in Kunarte, headquarters of the Teatro Paraiso Antzerkia Company in Vitoria - Gasteiz, Basque Country (Spain). The project, "SKY and EARTH", has two moments: the presentation of PULSAR, a show for children from 0 to 2 years on the concept of "earth" within the program of Kunarte; and the process of creating a new show for children from 0 to 2 years on the concept of "sky", a creative process with the collaboration with the members of Teatro Paraiso-Antzerkia. The two scenic proposals are based on notions of space, time and habitat. The spatial levels in which we inhabit, the influence of gravity on our being, the challenge of conquering it to stand, the qualities of matter that can move up and down. This residency will give us the possibility to exchange views on theater for the early years, to know closely the development of different creative processes, modes of production, relations with the public, the community and the field of education. An important exchange of experiences of two member companies of the Small Size network to strengthen ties, establish communication links, strengthen research and creation networks, and enrich the work we do for early childhood.

National Centers

ASSITEJ Belgium
Theater De Spiegel presents the following
early years shows in '17-'18



ASSITEJ BELGIUM

Theater De Spiegel is an internationally renowned music theatre company based in Antwerp, Belgium. We specialize in high quality and poetical performances for babies and toddlers. Our productions are intimate and heartwarming, and we are always looking for unique, exciting ways to involve our young audience. Theater De Spiegel arouses the curiosity and amazement of children and adults alike and stimulates their imagination.

We warmly invite you to see our work in person.

Beat the drum! - **visual concert for children from 8 months to 3 years old**

A book is a book - **object theatre for children aged 1,5 to 4 years old**

Nest - **poetical music theatre for children from 6 months to 3 years**

Caban - **artistic play area for children between 3 months and 3 years old**

Every year we play about 100 performances abroad.

In the next couple of months we will perform at numerous festivals.

For more information please contact Zita Epenge, our Financial Director at zita@despiegel.com or visit our website: www.despiegel.com



ASSITEJ Denmark
Aprifestival 2017 is
approaching!
23 - 30 April, Sønderborg, Denmark



This years' *Aprifestival* takes place in Sønderborg, in the southern part of Denmark



near the German border. From April 23 to the 30th, the entire municipality of Sønderborg will be a buffet of theatre for young audiences. There will be around 100 professional theatre companies presenting over 140 different performances, amounting to almost 700 shows. In other words: Plenty of opportunities to experience a great variation of theatre.

A Danish festival with international events

More information:

www.info.aprilfestival.dk (English web site)

www.aprilfestival.dk (Danish web site)

[Read more.](#)

ASSITEJ Germany International Exchange on Fair Cooperation



"When does intercultural exchange work and when doesn't it? Why do we work together? Who decides what and why? How can we create a truly fair co-operation and a true exchange rather than a new form of cultural imperialism?" (Yvette Hardie)

These questions asked by Yvette Hardie when visiting [Schoene Aussicht](#) Festival last year and the everyday experience of artistic cooperation triggered the idea for an exchange on co-operations between theaters in German speaking countries and theaters in African countries.

ASSITEJ Germany and the [Festival Hellwach](#) organized a workshop on questions of Fair Cooperation. Over 60 participants from 10 different countries took part in a lively exchange on the prerequisites of eye-level-cooperation. The Cultural Secretariat of North-Rhine-Westfalia hosted a group of six artistic directors and theatre managers from El Salvador, China, India, Egypt, Romania and Brazil who also contributed to the workshop. In a discussion with Wolfgang Schneider, Chair of ASSITEJ Germany, Annika Hampel (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology KIT) presented her doctoral thesis based on research in India and the Helios Theater, Theaterhaus Frankfurt, Theater STRAHL, [Africologne Festival](#) and Junges Schauspielhaus Dusseldorf presented their cooperations with partners in Nigeria, Rwanda / Isyho Arts Center, Cameroon / Theatre du Chocolat, Zimbabwe / IYASA and other African countries. The discussion will continue at [Starke Stuecke](#)-festival and, of course, the World Congress in Cape Town.

www.helios-theater.de

www.assitej.de

www.nrw-kultur.de/de/newsletter_static/newsletter_ibp_2017_02_february/r/

AUGENBLICK MAL!



DAS FESTIVAL DES THEATERS FÜR JUNGES PUBLIKUM 25.-30. APRIL 2017

Augenblick mal! 2017

The Festival of Theatre for Young Audiences

Ticketing has started

Ten outstanding performances from Germany and three international shows will constitute the program of Augenblick mal! 2017, the national biennial of TYA in Germany.

Many international guests already know the inspiring atmosphere of the festival which hosted the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering in 2015 and includes venues in different areas of Berlin. The program is now online.

Augenblick mal! is happy to announce a visitor's program for international guests. Please check the website

www.augenblickmal.de

Welcome to Berlin! Contact: Henning Fangauf International Relations - h.fangauf@kjtz.de

Don't miss: Advertising opportunity at Augenblick mal!

Augenblick mal! Festival in Berlin will host international guests and performances as well as about 400 experts and TYA practitioners from Germany. International festivals and theatres are invited to advertise their activities in the Augenblick mal! programme.

Contact: Marit Buchmeier marit.buchmeier@augenblickmal.de

Number of copies printed: 1500

Full colour ads: 1/4 page 125 € - 1/2 page 250 € - 1/1 page 500 €

Please contact Marit Buchmeier for details before March 23rd in order to reach the German speaking TYA scene.

Festivals Focus on Music Theater for Young Audiences

Big Bang Festival – initiated by Wouter Van Looy and hosted for the second time in Hamburg / Germany, shows several international productions. ASSITEJ Germany and Big Bang festival have invited artists involved in music theater for young audiences to see performances, meet the artists and develop future projects.

In addition, **FRATZ Festival Berlin**, addressing very young children, cooperates with the Young Opera at Deutsche Oper Berlin and creates a focus on music theater for the very young.

www.bigbang.hamburg

www.fratz-festival.de

ASSITEJ Japan 2018 Asia TYA Festival in Tokyo



ASSITEJ Japan Centre proudly announces that we will host **Asia TYA Festival** in Tokyo Japan in the end of February 2018, inviting a number of TYA performances from Asian countries and presenting our continuous projects including Next Generation Program in Asia and Baby Drama Program with TYA Japan, a newly launched organization.

Alongside performances, there will be a number of symposiums and workshops focusing on Asian performing arts for children and young audiences.

We will announce further detailed information about the festival in the near future!!

ASSITEJ Latvia EJU MEKLET! International Festival of Performing Arts for a Young Audience March 9-12, Riga, Latvia



From March 9 - 12, the theater festival 'EJU MEKLĒT!' will take place in Riga. It is organized by ASSITEJ Latvia and will offer an exchange of experience between theater professionals, spectators, actors, parents and children.

The festival program offers a wide range of genres - a drawing theater, object games, mini opera, Shakespeare's text in a clownery, philosophy in the movement's performance, also performance as a lecture and puppetry. Additional events – international professionals symposium 'Performing Arts for Young Audience – entertainment, education, personality' and contacts program 'Festival club' is to be held in the framework of the festival.

Full program is available here: <http://ejumeklet.lv/en/program/calendar/>

More information

www.ejumeklet.lv

www.assitejlatvia.lv

[Read more.](#)

ASSITEJ Lithuania LABAS!



Now in its third year, the Labas! festival is the brainchild of Dalia Mikoliunaite from Teatriukas in Vilnius, Lithuania and Ciódhna Noonan from Acting Up! in Dublin, Ireland. The first edition (2015) was small and compact and enjoyed the support of the Irish Embassy, the Croatian and Lithuanian Ministries of Culture and the Austrian Culture Forum in Lithuania. It was a first step in the direction of international collaboration on the idea of presenting new performances to an audience under 6 years old and their carers. Performances were in cultural venues in the city and selected state facilities in the Kūdikių namai (Vilnius residence for infants with developmental delays) and minority communities in Vilnius.

[Read more.](#)

ASSITEJ Mexico
 Call: International Award for
 Theatrical Essay 2017



Presented by the **Theatre Department of the Mexican Fine Arts Institute, the National Center of Research and Documentation, the Spanish magazine ARTEZ and the Mexican magazine Paso de Gato.**

All essays must be originally written in Spanish and must be unpublished.

The theme is open, but must be related to the contemporary theatrical happening.

Results will be announced during the **10th Theatre Book Fair 2017** in Mexico City and given during the **38th National Theatre Encounter 2017.**

Deadline: **July 17, 2017.**

Please send material to: premioensayoteatral@gmail.com

For complete information in Spanish, view [HERE](#).

ASSITEJ Norway
 SAND International Festival
 September 12-16, 2017



Save the date!

SAND International Festival is an investigating and explorative festival which is programmed with its basis in a theme. The working title for the 2017 edition of the festival is "On the run". The 2017 festival focus is the ongoing refugee crisis and how this situation affects our lives and society, and social challenges in the lives of children and young people.

Art and society are tied together in a closely knit web. Historically, art has alongside science and philosophy, contributed a considerable extent to human knowledge and insight. It provides a place in which we can come to the founding realization of who we are and how we want to be towards ourselves and others. The process is also the reverse: Society and the aspects that throughout the ages have put their mark on it, have always nurtured inspiration and creativity for artists and the art they create. Therefore, artists are able, through the aesthetic means they have at hand, to give us another entry point to reflect upon the society in which we live.

[Read more.](#)

ASSITEJ Spain
 TEATRALIA - XXI edition
 3-26 March, Madrid, Spain

In the words of the festival director Lola Lara, Teatralia aims to bring quality theatre to all audiences regardless of age (there will be performances for babies from 3 months and for adolescents) and coming from different continents. The language of arts crosses borders.

The International Festival for children and young people of the Community of Madrid, has already put tickets on sale for its twenty-first edition. This year, the festival will take place from March 3-26 and will flood the stages of the region with 24 shows and 140 performances. It is an essential event that bets on quality theatre for all audiences and summons the best national and international companies working for a demanding young audience.

The festival, present in 31 municipalities, pays special attention to audience, gender and age diversity, and doesn't forget spectators with special needs, facilitating the inclusion of people with intellectual disability to enjoy culture, as well as those affected by deafness or visual impairment.

The most current trends in matters of theatre, dance, circus, music, puppetry and shadows compose the sample of performances for this year. The festival offers works for all ages (0 to 18 years old) that is complemented by workshops, performances in hospitals and a big school campaign with 58 performances at schools and institutes throughout the region.

Read more information in Spanish [HERE](#).



FETEN 2017

12 - 17 February, Gijón, Spain

FETEN, the European Performing Arts Fair for Children held its 26 th edition consolidating itself as the main point of encounter for professionals of this sector in Spain. The recognition that grants it the Max Award 2016 for its contribution to Performing Arts endorses this event and places it in a prominent place within the state culture.

As a Fair, FETEN has been designed as a place of encounters and as a network facilitator, specialized in cultural products designed for children and families; it is a unique opportunity for programmers, artistic directors and distributors to watch a selection of the latest and best cared for within the performing arts scene for children.

It is the main Fair of its kind in the country, gathering more than 900 national and international representatives, making it a must visit for the meeting of artists, companies and professionals, making it also an opportunity to meet with and chat with creators from Spain, Europe and America and watch their performances.

For active and networking professionals, it is also a good occasion to exchange strategies and information with other promoters as well as national and international drivers.

FETEN contributes significantly to the flow of the sector's economy, promoting both the commercial aspects of sale and distribution in the market of performing arts as well as the formation of audiences by the contemporary cultural practices through the approach of family audiences and the educational community.

[Read complete document in Spanish](#)



ASSITEJ Sweden Shadowland



On March 20th, we are finalizing our one and a half year long project "Shadowland" with performances and discussions. The one-day event is organized in cooperation with Unga Klara in Stockholm.

The project has dealt with the issue of racism and racist structures. We have tried to investigate the effects, if any, on performing arts for children and youth. Has performing arts for young people embraced these issues? Are they mirrored in our repertoires? Do our performances raise questions or encourage resistance?

During the project we have co-operated with artists and individuals in many countries, Denmark, Norway, Germany, USA and United Kingdom, as well as, with many artists, theatres, dance companies and organizations in Sweden.

In March/April we will also finalize a report about the project.



ASSITEJ TYA UK Looking for artists to join TYA UK at ASSITEJ World Congress and Festival



TYA UK (England) has successfully secured funding from Arts Council England for the 'Quality of Difference'; a research project, which will include an artists' delegation to the World Congress in Cape Town in May 2017.

Opportunity

The project aims to map provision and practice in England's Theatre for Young Audiences sector that contributes to the Creative Case for Diversity, it will seek to address a question fundamental to the development of theatre for younger audiences: *What do we need to put in place to ensure theatre for children, young people and families is reflective of the society we live in today?*

TYA UK are currently looking for six artists from England to join a delegation to the ASSITEJ World Congress and Festival in May 2017 and a researcher who will map provision and present findings at a special event in July in Birmingham to mark the one year anniversary of the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 'On The Edge'.

The research project will map current provision and practice in England in relation to The Creative Case (<http://www.creativecase.org.uk>) and at this stage we are focusing particularly on work made by BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) and Disabled artists. The research will be used as a baseline understanding for the sector, to inform future commissions and programming across the TYA network in the future.

ASSITEJ USA

Theatre for Young Audiences USA Presents

One Theatre World 2017

May 3-6 in California's Bay Area

Featuring: Sonia Manzano / Tim Federle / Sean Fenton

Performances by: Alliance Theatre / AXIS Dance Company / Bay Area Children's Theatre & Oregon Children's Theatre / Berkeley Rep / Golden Thread Fairytale Players / Youth Speaks



Master classes by: AXIS Dance Company / Red Ladder Theatre Company / San Francisco Mime Troupe

Plus: OTW Song Slam / Breakout Sessions / And Much More

Open Registration begins January 16 (Member Registration open now!)

More information and registration at OTW2017.ORG



Articles Section. Knowledge - Experiences - Reflections.

Nora Villa and Rwanda Culture as a lever for rebuilding

By Joël Simon and François Fogel

Nova Villa is an association for culture and popular education, which develops a project for young audiences from nursery to adolescence. It is located in Reims (France), where it hosts playwrights and artist driven shows, notably about steep social themes. The project is open towards Europe and the world, in an strong, political, willingness to propose to local families an encounter with other cultures, and, as well, to share the artistic discoveries of the association.

This opening to the world has, notably, been illustrated by the more than 15 years partnership between Nova Villa and Québec, and with Mexico, invited several times. In 2015, for the 2 festivals that the association organizes (Reims scènes d'Europe, in partnership with 7 cultural structures in Reims, and Meli'momes, the TYA festival of its own), 10 shows, from 8 different countries have premiered in France. That year, a door also opened on Africa, with the programing of a production from the Zimbabwean company IYASA and the invitation of the Rwandese artist Carole Karemera.

The encounter with Carole Karemera happened at the occasion of the German festival Hellwach , in Hamm, where she presented "My little hill", a production about the raucous history of Rwanda, which celebrates life, mutual respect, and cultural diversity in the country. Carole Karemera lives in Kigali, Rwanda. Born in Belgium, in 1975, of Rwandese parents, she studied in the Royal Music Conservatory in Mons (Belgium), the first black women from sub-Saharan Africa to be admitted.

[Read more.](#)



Interdisciplinarity as a way of enhancing the theatre experience for toddlers

By Laura Buysens

The world is evolving in a fast way. Internet and multimedia are everywhere in our daily life. In the same way theatre performances become much more than just theatre. It is increasingly interdisciplinary. 4Hoog is a qualitative production company for spectators from the age of 3, with a special focus on toddlers. 4Hoog has always searched to make productions with interdisciplinary exchange in a leading role. KEIK, WOESJ and WANIKAN, three performances by 4Hoog are good examples. They each take bits and pieces from different genres and styles, and move across art disciplines to create something new. They integrate various disciplines and at the same time manage to stay true to theatre, touching the audience, young and old.

KEIK (3+)

Tracking down the bird

Through the pouring rain,

Victim of the wind,

Searching for a tree

For a nestless egg

Behind the field

Of melting snow.

We see all at once.

KEIK !

[Read more.](#)



Nicole and Martin

By Martin Gubler

“We tell stories. And today we are going to tell you a tale from the forest. Open your eyes, prick up your ears, the story is starting....” For 15 years Nicole and Martin have been travelling the roads and seas of Europe, pitching their magical White Tent, and enchanting audiences with their unique travelling theatre. Inside the renowned White Tent the world of theatre and fairy-tale come to life. Ancient folk tales take on a new guise with Nicole & Martin’s unmistakable story-telling style. Children and adults alike are taken on an unforgettable journey. Award-winning masterpiece shows combine narrative, music, song,



dance, juggling, acrobatics, laughter, goosebumps and wild imagination for the whole family.

We are an independent not-for-profit theatre company that creates, produces, performs and tours our own work. We were founded by performers Nicole and Martin Gubler-Shranz out of a desire to create truly communal theatre without borders of location, age, language, money or background. We travel with our own Theatre which we put up everywhere that we go. It seats from 330-350.

We are passionate about the power of storytelling, about theatre, and about reaching the child in all of us. We have dedicated ourselves to reaching the highest level of skill we possibly can. As well as visiting towns, cities and villages, we are committed to reaching audiences in rural locations, where there is not regular access to theatre. As a result we live in our wooden wagons all the year round, and tour for eight months each year, and try to go anywhere we are invited. We work with people and organisations who share our values and our passionate belief in theatre, in stories, and in our audiences. Our shows begin from Tales as collected by the brothers Grimm.

