ASSITEJ Next Generation Programme 2022

Theatre & Performing Arts for Young Audiences: Building Collective Resilience (TPAYABCR)

Project Number: 101054258
Deliverable Number: D2.7
Written by: ASSITEJ Sweden & ASSITEJ International
October 2022

assitej-international.org
The Next Generation residency program is an ASSITEJ initiative, designed to support artistic and cultural exchange and collaboration between international artists aged 36 years or below, interested in performing arts for young audiences.

Participants
For the 2022 edition ASSITEJ Sweden and Bibu invited 16 artists, critics, producers, researchers etc. from around the world to attend the Next Generation residency program at the Bibu festival in Helsingborg. Due to difficulties of receiving VISAs, covid 19 related issues and personal matters only 13 participants were able to participate. 3 of them were invited only a few weeks before the festival to substitute the "original" participants not being able to make it. In addition to the 13 participants, 2 alumni from the former edition in Kristiansand participated. The total amount of participants, alumni included, was 15.

Crew
The residency crew was constituted by two producers - Linnea Lidberg, ASSITEJ Sweden and Niclas Malmcrona, ASSITEJ Sweden - planning the setup and facilitation. Maja Kihlberg, trainee at Bibu & ASSITEJ Sweden also had a producing role. In addition to them two tutors were hired to provide artistic- and thematic guidance and inspiration. Bengt Andersson, theatre director and board member of ASSITEJ Sweden served as artistic tutor. Vivian Doumpa, Placemaker at STIPO & Placemaking Europé served as a tutor of placemaking. The artistic dance director Lisa Spets was also supposed to join as an artistic tutor but cancelled due to illness.
Themes: Placemaking & Sustainability
For the 2022 Bibu Next Generation Residency the participants worked with Placemaking as a theme. Placemaking is a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of public spaces. Placemaking capitalizes on a local community’s assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that promote people’s health, happiness, and well-being. During the residency we researched what this can mean to and how it relates to our work within performing arts for children and youth.

The Next Generation theme of placemaking was connected to the overall theme of the festival: sustainability.

Content & task
On behalf of the ASSITEJ International the Next generation participants are assigned a task of creating an artistic presentation for the festival guests in the end of the residency. During the week the participants collaborated to create content to the presentation with guidance from the tutors and inspiration from their assigned workshops and festival performances and seminars. The participants spent approximately 20 hours for this work and 2 hours for their presentation. They experienced 8 performances and 4 festival seminars/activities within their schedule. The entire schedule is to be found in a separate document.

The crew planned for the participants to be divided into four different groups to do four different presentations. In the end, the participants preferred working as one in a big group, doing one presentation divided into 15 different parts/fragments from all the participants. The result was a performance stressing inequalities in society, such as war and the inability for some to receive Visas to join the residency. The public performances were ranging between manifesto, dance, storytelling, exercises, visiting the church doing a ‘quiet minute’ for war victims and planting cardboard flowers in the soil.

Preparations
As hosts of the Next Generation residency program 2022 ASSITEJ Sweden started the communication with the participants (chosen by ASSITEJ International) through mail correspondence in February 2022. ASSITEJ Sweden set up two online meetings with the participants on the 23rd of March & 27th of April, 1 and 2 months before the residency. During the online meetings (Google meet) the topics was to get to know each other, to give information about the residency and give some time for questions. On the second meeting Vivian Doumpa held a lecture about the theme of placemaking.

Artistic work, workshops and presentation
During the week the participants took part in different workshops led by the tutors. On the first official day of the residency the workshops were mainly focusing on the theme of placemaking and to get to know each other. The crew had chosen the square Gustav Adolfs torg as the place to work on, within the theme of placemaking, in advance. On the first day the participants explored the square and its possibilities through different games and exercises initiated by the crew. The theme of placemaking was supposed to serve mainly as an inspiration, the only requirement being that the presentation would take place on the square.

On the second and third day the tutors was focusing on getting the participants to come up with a main idea and trying to connect the theme of placemaking into the performing arts context and background of the participants. This segment was constituted by many hours of group discussions, exercises and an historical exposé of performing arts in public spaces.
Feedback from participants
After the residency the participants received an evaluation form of the residency. All the answers are to be found in a separate (Excel-)document. Summarily the participants enjoyed the festival, the residency and the connections they made with each other but had some critique and suggestions for improvements.

Presentation
They suggestions particularly regard the task of the presentation. Some of them would prefer to not create a presentation but rather spend time and energy to get to know each other and each other’s work more deeply, or to only make this part range for 2-3 days. There was some frustration aimed towards the task, meaning that the result was “amateuristic” or not connected to the theme of placemaking. Some expressed clearer information about the task in forehand so that they could start coming up with ideas to bring. One of the alumnis suggested for the future to tell the participants to prepare a 15 min presentation of their own work for the group (free form: Powerpoint, verbally etc.).

Preparations
Some wished for a longer period of preparations, and some would have liked to receive a list of participants with names, countries and workspace.

Performances
Some expressed a wish to see more performances from the host country, even though they would not be able to understand the verbal part of it. The possibility to translate with subtitles or headphones was also brought up.

Other
Some also asked for a more “proper” introduction between the ASSITEJ Int. and the participants. Some thought that the walking distances between the venues was too long, not being accessible enough. There was also suggestions for the host country to do a budget to provide pocket money for those who can’t afford to do “hang outs” off schedule. There were also opinions not to book double rooms in the hostel for the future.

Evaluation from crew

Concept and communication
The biggest issue that was expressed was regarding the presentation. Some wished not to do a presentation at all. From the crew (including ASSITEJ Sweden) point of view; the concept of having a presentation isn’t necessarily bad, but rather that the communication regarding the presentation as well as the goals and concepts of the residency could be improved.

Another expressed issue, that is connected to the matter of communication, is the language barriers. Some of the participants didn’t really master to communicate in English. Some has manifested the need of interpreters.

Schedule and disposition
There were some opinions about the schedule being too busy. Some wanted to have more performances. From the crew perspective it’s hard to meet everyone’s wishes regarding this. When we met the alumni from 2021 they expressed the need for more structure and
not being "left alone" to work too freely. Therefore the crew made sure that there would be a lot of time for workshops with the crew and also providing the ability to see performances. We recommend future residency hosts to be even clearer when giving information about the host countries/place.

Alumnis
The crew suggest as alumnis for the next residency:

Polina Struzhkova (Russia*)
Tebandeke Joseph, (Uganda)
Sergio Andrés Rincón Jiménez* (Colombia)
Giano Ray C. Potes (Philippines)
Schedule Next Generation Residency
Bibu & ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering May 16 - 22 2022

Blue = Main group work
Green = workshop in groups with tutors
Red = Performance
Yellow = Seminar/other

DAY 1 - Monday 16th of May
All day: Arrivals
19.00 Drop in get together with food

Place:
Dream Luxury Hostel

DAY 2 - Tuesday 17th
09.00-09.30 “Check in”
Rehearsal room (Folkets hus)
09.30 - 11.30 Workshop on the ground, “Place game”
Gustav Adolfs torg
11.30 - 12.30 Lunch
Linnea & Basilika
12.30 - 14.30 Work in pair: “Connecting to the place”
Gustav Adolfs torg
15.00- 15.30 Check out
Gustav Adolfs torg
16.00 -17.00 Opening of the festival
Konserthuset, Stora salen
17.00 - 18.00 Dinner
Redimat
18.00 - 18.50 Ett frö i rymden
Stadsteatern, Stora salen
19.30 - 20.05 Mantis and the bee
Stadsteatern, Lilla salen

DAY 3 - Wednesday 18th
09.30-10.30 Performing Green
Arenan, Gerda
11.00- 12.00 Tutor workshop on the ground/working in groups
Gustav Adolfs torg
Lunch 12.30
Arenan
14.00-16.00 Main work session
Gustav Adolfs torg/rehearsal room
16.00 - 16.30 Check out  Rehearsal room
17.00-18.00 Next Generation: A way to move forward  Arenan, Gerda
18.30- 19.20 Saltbush  Arenan, B-hallen
19.45 - 20.30 Dinner  Redimat

**DAY 4 - Thursday 19th**

09.00-09.15 Check in  Rehearsal room
09.15-09.45 Workshop - “knock around”  Rehearsal room
09.30 -11.30 Artistic Encounter ASSITEJ International  Konserthuset, Lilla Salen
12.00 - 13.30 Lunch  Arenan
13.30 -18.00 Main work session  Gustav Adolfs torg/rehearsal room
18.00 -18.15 Saajva The Other World  Sta Maria Kyrka
18.15 - 19.00 Dinner  Redimat
19.00 -20.00 Shel we  Stadsteatern, Stora salen
20.00 - Check out  (if needed/optional)  Rehearsal room

**DAY 5 - Friday 20th**

10.00 - 10.35  Arenan, B-hallen
 Group A: Snö  Rehearsal room
 Group B: Knock around
11.00 - 12.45 Lunch  Arenan
Snö 12.45 - 13.20  Rehearsal room
 Group A: Knock around  Arenan, B-hallen
 Group B: Snö
13.30 - 17.30 Main work session  Gustav Adolfs torg/rehearsal room
17.30 - 18.00 Check out - Final “knock around”  Gustav Adolfs torg/rehearsal room
18.00-19.00 Dinner  Redimat
**DAY 6 - Saturday 21st**

09.00 -09.20 Check in/Pep talk with tutors  
Gustav Adolfs torg

09.20 - 11.00 Main work/ Rehearse for their performance  
Gustav Adolfs torg

12.00- 14.00 Make room for the Next Generation... Presentation of work  
Gustav Adolfs torg

(Lunch is catered to the square)

14.30 - 15.30 Discussion with Nordic Baltic Youth  
Gustav Adolfs torg

15.30 - 16.30 Summarize & Debriefing  
Gustav Adolfs torg

17.00 - 18.00 Dinner  
Redimat

18.00 - 19.00 Moln  
Stadsteatern, Storan

20.00 - late. Festival party!  
Tivoli

**DAY 7 - Sunday 22nd**

11.00 - 11.45 Mistatim  
Stadsteatern, Lilla salen

Farewell