

2nd Next Generation Program 2019

2nd Next Generation Program (8th April to 14th April, 2019) was designed and conducted to support artistic and cultural networking, exchange and collaboration between artists within not only Assitej network but open for all those who are working in the field of Theatre for young audience. .

It was organized by Assitej Pakistan in collaboration with Maas Foundation, The Little Art, Chota Mota Theatre & Harsukh.

Nine Young and emerging theatre practitioners from 08 different countries including (Germany, USA, Srilanka, South Africa, Montenegro, South Korea, Romania & Philippine) with 08 young theatre makers from Pakistan, collaborated in this cross-cultural workshop. The residency was held at Institute for Art & Culture Lahore and these 17 young performers performed three showcase performances on 14th April 2019 during last day of 2nd Tamasha festival 2019 by Assitej Pakistan.

Next Generation Residency is a program basically designed by Assitej international about ten years before for Young people with an interest for and/or experience in TYA so that they can have the opportunity to learn and work with artists in a country different to their own and can create a little theatrical piece at the end of residency. Assitej Pakistan conducted second session of this residency after completion of first edition back in 2018.

Keeping the true spirit behind this residency program along with financial crisis, Assitej Pakistan has to work hard for the whole process of conducting the second session of this residency. This year it was a difficult phase to repeat such residency with international participation as Assitej Pakistan was suffering from financial crisis and there was no support shown by any Government cultural institution along with cooperate sector. So committed Core team of Assitej Pakistan decided to find potential collaborators and soon Institute for Art & Culture showed their hand in support for this wonderful idea along with Kinnaird Collage for Woman Lahore. Soon after an open call was initiated by Assitej Pakistan for international applications for residency and also this call was sent to all the assitej chapters worldwide.

Side by Side, Assitej Team started to take applications from local young theatre practitioners for residency. The response from international and local was wonderful. More than 100 applications were there to sort out. International participants were selected according to rules fixed by Assitej Pakistan including assessment of their CVs, Their motivational letter and their interest and commitment for residency and local participants were selected after short listing from CVs and then short interviews were conducted with each individual. According to the commitment by Assitej Pakistan to promote and encourage TYA in young females, this year Assitej Pakistan also announced few scholarship seats for deserving female young theatre practitioners from Pakistan. Three Scholarships were given to potential female participants.

Programming for this residency was designed including elements of providing residence, food and transport for a whole week to all the international and local participants, theatre training, discussions on different topics, workshops, sessions with prominent theatre icons of Pakistan, Rehearsals for the final showcasing, observing different performances of 2nd Tamasha Festival 2019, working in groups, final showcase performances along with city tour.

Most of the international participants arrived in Lahore by the 7th of April. They were received by the host team and escorted to Hostel of KC Lahore. During the introduction round, all participants

introduced themselves with a 20 slides presentation of their theatrical work along with the status of theatre in their city or country. Every day began with breakfast followed by transportation of participants from Kc Hostel to IAC NG Hall, where warm-up or ice-breaking sessions were conducted daily. After which general discussions regarding different theatre topics were conducted each day. Until noon, every day, participants would work on their final performance for the showcase. From 12th till 14th April, Participants were also seeing different performances of 2nd Tamasha Festival 2019.

During Residency, Several prominent Theatre figures conducted sessions of two hrs with participants including veteran writer and Teacher Mr. Asghar Nadeem Syed on “Theatre Taboos & Censorship” with his statement “Art has to make its way, there is no other choice and only theatre has that immense power to talk about that might be forbidden. Director Ajoka Theatre and prominent writer Mr. Shahid Nadeem on “Theatre For Social Change” & Prominent theatre director Ms Huma Safdar on “What is your art and how you make it” in which she shared how being contemporary we are connected with our roots that goes back generation with her expression that “Life is a play, a dance and we just need love to celebrate life and create art” along with a workshop by Ms Bina Jawwad on “ Introduction to dance”.

Participants also participated in Lahore International Conference on Culture hosted by KC Lahore and attended a session named “Integration of Culture”

During the residency, the programme planned city tour for the participants to the eminent monuments of Lahore. via the sight seeing bus trip to the walled city of Lahore followed by dinner at Qaddafi Stadium, Lahore. The participants were also invited to the official dinner hosted by Assitej, Pakistan at it’s office.

Three performance showcases by three groups of NG Participants were held on the last day of 2nd Tamasha Festival 2019. A massive audience witnessed all three shows. First Show was all about relationships among families and it was ended with Pakistani folk dances from international and local participants. Second performance was very instance and its all about dreams and how u can fulfill them with all the restrictions from society and third performance was about friendship and diversity. All three shows enthralled the audience and got marvelous response.

The Residency Project, despite all hurdles faced was a huge success. There was an open exchange of ideas and reviews, which added to everyone’s knowledge and exposure as here are few statements from the international participants

Hyejin Yun from South Korea said “I am very happy to feel some emotional link with other participants through N.G program. We have different backgrounds, interests and nationalities but it doesn’t any matter. We made a great performance together in Pakistan and it’s beyond my imagination”

Marija Backović from Montenegro said about program “Next Generation is one of the best devised programs for artists. The experience was fantastic. Communication with the organizers was excellent from the very beginning.

Judith Claudia Gorgass from Germany said “I love NGP! When we got the schedule before, I felt this is going to be a tight program - but I can’t wait to join in. So many interesting workshops, from singing to dancing, our rehearsals, games and group discussions with artists from Pakistan. I just love it”

The management team included Aamir Nawaz, Shoaib Iqbal, Umair Mushtaq, Mobeen Ejaz and Ms Bina Jawwad.