

21st ASSITEJ World Congress

“Voices of a New World”

Havana, Cuba

24 May – 1 June 2024

The ASSITEJ World Congress is calling for:

- **Productions / Performances** for, with and by children and young people. All performing arts genres and artistic expressions are welcomed. A special focus will be on participation, breadth of art form and a celebration of community impact. The festival of the World Congress is an opportunity to invite practitioners who work in public space, in non-traditional forms, in participation, in immersive and sensory installations. Online productions are also encouraged to apply. Read more [link].
- **Professional Exchange Programme Sessions** including workshops, seminars, lectures, roundtables, meetings, networking sessions, film screenings, exhibitions, social events, and other formats related to performing arts for young audiences (sessions may be presented ‘On the Ground’, ‘Online’, or a ‘Hybrid’ of both). Read more [link].
- **Conference Papers** focused on the theme “Voices of a New World: Legacy and Innovation in TYA.” Papers may take a variety of perspectives, such as history and cultural contexts, intangible cultural heritage, decolonisation, media, aesthetics and art forms, social interventions through art, psychology, theoretical concepts of child and childhood, social and economic conditions, sustainability, race and ethnicity, gender, accessibility, ability, and sexual orientation. The conference is held by ITYARN (International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network). Read more [link].

Voices of a New World – a greeting from Cuba

ASSITEJ Cuba and ASSITEJ International, with the support of the Ministry of Culture and the National Council for the Performing Arts in Cuba invite you to the 21st ASSITEJ World Congress and performing arts festival in Cuba - the most important global moment in the field of performing arts for young audiences with participation from all around the world.

It is essential to think of the world and art as the communion of different voices full of nuance. The children and youth of the world are increasingly demanding more spaces for poetic expression, where they can make the art they practise a tool for real transformation. It is up to artists to hear the emerging voices and give them the space they need. Our congress seeks to empower their points of view through performances, dialogues, panels and interdisciplinary encounters.

We must think of our geographies, physical and theatrical, as full of love and hope. With our arms open to the Caribbean Sea, we await the arrival of companies and artists from different parts of the world. Languages will not be a barrier, neither will accents; only unity and the desire to be better in ourselves and with the planet that gives us a home.

We need new voices for a new world; let us make them heard!

Call for performances

Focus

Linked to the theme of “Voices of a New World” a special focus in the selection of performances will be on participation, breadth of art form and a celebration of community impact.

The beautiful outdoor spaces of Havana provide an opportunity to invite practitioners who work in public space, in non-traditional forms, in participation, in immersive and sensory installations. It’s a chance to look at the sort of theatre that has the capacity to reach audiences anywhere. It’s a chance to see how flexible and innovative we can be when communicating with our audiences.

Performances in indoor venues and black boxes will also be programmed.

Invited to apply are:

- Productions for and with all age groups from babies up to and including young adults.
- All performing arts genres including circus, clown, comedy, dance, digital performance, immersive theatre, installation, mime, opera, puppet/object theatre, spoken word, storytellers, digital theatre, installation, site specific.
- Performances with children/young people as performers.
- Online performances. The festival will have an online section addressing the practitioners who are not travelling to Cuba. This will be a specific programmed event.
- Performances created partially or fully to suit disabled or D/deaf audiences.
- Performances in all languages. If the production is text based, please consider in your application how you make sure to communicate with local audiences that speak Spanish.
- Productions with simple technical requirements and moderate amounts of cargo volume. It is recommend to avoid freight where possible.
- Performances with D/deaf or disabled performers, technicians, or other team members. Access needs can be indicated in the application form. Further dialogue on what the organisers are able to provide in the Cuban context will be established with selected productions.

Restrictions:

- Performances produced before 2018 cannot apply. Companies from Cuba are exempt from this rule.
- No company should apply with more than 1 production. Companies from Cuba are exempt from this rule.
- No company that has been selected for ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2022 or 2023 or the ASSITEJ World Congress 2021 can apply to this call. This will not apply if your production is an international co-production and only one of your companies appeared in an ASSITEJ International event in the past 3 years.

'On the Ground' and Online

Online performances are invited to apply and will be presented via the *ASSITEJ Online* platform in a separate program. Performances selected to be presented 'On the Ground' in Cuba will be invited to share video footage of recordings, behind-the-scenes clips, trailers and/or the recording of the performance to be shared online with professionals.

Economic Conditions

ASSITEJ World Congress is a unique platform for gathering of members of ASSITEJ and all those passionate about the work that is done around the world for with and by children and young people. It does not operate as a market but

as a connection point and many hundreds of collaborations and opportunities have come from these gatherings. The economic conditions of participation in the world congress are dependent on the economy of the host.

For 21st ASSITEJ World Congress in Cuba the hosts will cover

- Accommodation and meals of the performers, technicians, and other essential team members during setup and performing days.
- Free registration and tickets to all performances and events during the Congress and festival.
- Local transport.

ASSITEJ International is aiming to

- Support the international travel of companies coming from low-income countries¹.

Details will be further specified upon selection.

If applicants are able to finance any of these costs in other ways, we invite you to indicate this in the application form under “any other information”.

Post congress activities

The organisers of the congress are working on creating activities between Cuban and international artists in the week following the congress (2-9 June). This can take the form of a visit to a local company, presenting a production or running a workshop with the intention of stimulating professional exchange. This is a chance to make the best out of the long trip that many international visitors will make to attend the World Congress, by working not only in Havana but also in the rest of the country.

The organisers will work to make the connection between local artists and the international visitor but are not able to cover any expenses related to the post

¹Companies from the these countries can be supported: Afghanistan - Albania - Algeria - American Samoa - Angola - Arab Rep. Egypt - Argentina - Armenia - Azerbaijan - Bangladesh - Belarus - Belize - Benin - Bhutan - Bolivia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Botswana - Brazil - Bulgaria - Burkina Faso - Burundi - Cabo Verde - Cambodia - Cameroon - Central African Republic - Chad - Colombia - Comoros - Congo, Republic of - Costa Rica - Côte d'Ivoire - Democratic Republic of Congo - Djibouti - Dominica - Dominican Republic - Ecuador - El Salvador - Equatorial Guinea - Eritrea - Eswatini - Ethiopia - Fed Sts of Micronesia - Fiji - Gabon - Gambia, The - Georgia - Ghana - Grenada - Guatemala - Guinea - Guinea-Bissau - Guyana - Haiti - Honduras - India - Indonesia - Iran, Islamic Rep. - Iraq - Islamic Rep. - Jamaica - Jordan - Kazakhstan - Kenya - Kiribati - Korea Dem People's Republic - Kosovo - Kyrgyz Republic - Lao PDR - Lebanon - Lesotho - Liberia - Libya - Madagascar - Malawi - Malaysia - Maldives - Mali - Marshall Islands - Mauritania - Mauritius - Mexico - Micronesia, Fed Sts - Moldova - Mongolia - Montenegro - Morocco - Mozambique - Myanmar - Namibia - Nauru - Nepal - Nicaragua - Niger - Nigeria - North Macedonia - Pakistan - Papua New Guinea - Paraguay - Peru - Philippines - Russian Federation - Rwanda - Samoa - São Tomé and Príncipe - Senegal - Serbia - Sierra Leone - Solomon Islands - Somalia - South Africa - South Sudan - Sri Lanka - St. Lucia - St. Vincent and the Grenadines - Sudan - Suriname - Syrian Arab Republic - Tajikistan - Tanzania - Thailand - The Gambia - Timor-Leste - Togo - Tonga - Tunisia - Turkey - Turkmenistan - Tuvalu - Uganda - Ukraine - Uruguay - Uzbekistan - Vanuatu - Venezuela, RB - Vietnam - West Bank and Gaza - Yemen, Republic of - Zambia - Zimbabwe

congress activities. Local transport, accommodation, and meals must be covered by you.

If post congress activities interest you please indicate this in the application form.

Accessibility

Contributors with access needs are encouraged to apply and are asked to indicate their needs in the application form. After the selection, the organisers will communicate with relevant applicants to support their participation within the economic capabilities.

Deadline

The deadline for applications of the call for performances is 21 August 2023.

How To Apply?

All applicants are asked to submit their applications through our online application platform. [Please follow this link to apply with a performance.](#)

Questions

Questions related to the application can be sent to Marissa Garay at marissa@assitej-international.org

Voices of a New World – a greeting from Cuba

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Professional Exchange Program

The days of the Congress will be full of debates, questions and impulses that motivate friendship and artistic exchange.

The professional exchange programme of the 21st ASSITEJ World Congress is a diverse platform for exchange related to performing arts for and with young audiences and we are particularly encouraging proposals that are related to the festival theme of Voices of a New World.

What can you bring as a professional in your own expertise, to open up our practice together, exchange ideas and impulses and create synergies together around this concept? What can we learn from each other about the young voices in our midst and their role in the work we create?

Specific topics could be

- The participation of children and young people in process and performance,
- multi-disciplinary arts in theatre and performance,
- the practice of site specific or outdoor performance.
- Performing arts and community. Why is it important and what form can it take?

- What is the relation between performing arts and education?
- Sustainable development in the performing arts.
- Methodologies in increasing or developing greater access
- Approaches to making work for marginalised voices and/or audiences

Applications in line with the strategies and priorities of ASSITEJ International Networks are also welcomed. The ASSITEJ networks are [International Inclusive Arts Network](#), [International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network \(ITYARN\)](#), [Small Size Network](#), [Write Local. Play Global. \(WLPG\)](#), and [Young Dance Network](#).

Format

We encourage workshops, seminars, lectures, roundtables, meetings, networking sessions, film screenings, exhibitions, social events, and other formats that explore the theme of the congress.

Proposals from any institutions, organisations, or individuals from any country are welcomed.

Translation

We urge people to think about and plan for translation as part of their applications. Spanish is the first language of most people in Cuba and we cannot commit to providing translators for every session, therefore we ask: how inventive can you be? How can you provide text or images for your audiences? Can you run your workshop with very few words? Can you translate your workshop into Spanish? Can you bring a bilingual friend to your session?

On the ground and online

We welcome contributions presented 'On the Ground' in Cuba as well as for the Online festival. The online event will be separately curated but we are planning for recordings of sessions if practitioners wish to share their work with the online community.

Please note that workshops are not recommended to be 'Hybrid' - they should be fully 'On The Ground' or fully 'Online'.

Accessibility

Contributors with access needs are encouraged to apply and are asked to indicate their needs in the application form. After the selection, the organisers will communicate with relevant applicants to support their participation within the economic capabilities.

Economic Conditions

ASSITEJ World Congress is a unique platform for gathering of members of ASSITEJ and all those passionate about the work that is done around the world for with and by children and young people. It does not operate as a market but as a connection point and many hundreds of collaborations and opportunities have come from these gatherings. The economic conditions of participation in the world congress are dependent on the economy of the host.

In this circumstance, no expenses will be covered for the contributors of the professional exchange programme and no fees will be paid.

Post congress activities

The organisers of the congress are working on creating activities between Cuban and international artists in the week following the Congress (2-9 June). This can take the form of a visit to a local company, presenting a production or running a workshop with the intention of stimulating professional exchange. This is a chance to make the best out of the long trip that many international visitors will make to attend the World Congress, by working not only in Havana but also in the rest of the country.

The organisers will work to make the connection between local artists and the international visitor but are not able to cover any expenses related to the post congress activities. Local transport, accommodation, and meals must be covered by you.

Deadline

The deadline for applications of the call for the Professional Exchange Programme is 15 September 2023.

How To Apply?

All applicants are asked to submit their applications through our online application platform. Please follow this link to apply for the professional exchange programme.

Questions

Questions related to the application can be sent to Marissa Garay at marissa@assitej-international.org

Conference

Voices of a New World: Legacy and Innovation in TYA

ITYARN, the International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network, is calling for proposals for the ITYARN event at the 21st ASSITEJ International World Congress & Performing Arts Festival for Children & Young People in Havana, Cuba, May 24th to June 1st, 2024. The overall theme of the Congress and Festival is “Voices of a New World”.

ITYARN aims to advance critical inquiry in the field of Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) through the exchange and discussion of papers from scholars in and outside of the field of TYA. We intend to bridge the gap in scholarship between theatre for young people and theatre for adults, and between theory and practice, by discussing the field of TYA from multiple historiographical and theoretical perspectives related to the practice and the shifting material circumstances (social, cultural, economic, ideological, and political) under which TYA is generated and perceived.

The ITYARN Conference will take place over the course of one day during the Congress (date to be confirmed). The conference will consist of a keynote and a plenary session in the morning, followed by 2-4 working groups in the afternoon. Papers should focus on the theme of the conference: **Voices of a New World: Legacy and Innovation in TYA**. Papers may take a variety of perspectives, such as history and cultural contexts, intangible cultural heritage, decolonisation, media, aesthetics and art forms, social interventions through art, psychology, theoretical concepts of child and childhood, social and economic conditions, sustainability, race and ethnicity, gender, accessibility, ability, and sexual orientation. The languages of the conference are English, Spanish, and/or Portuguese. The morning session will be simultaneously translated, the afternoon workshops will be in either Spanish /Portuguese, or English.

Accessibility

Contributors with access needs are encouraged to apply and are asked to indicate their needs in the application form. After the selection, the organisers will communicate with relevant applicants to support their participation within the economic capabilities.

How To Apply?

Researchers should submit a 500-word proposal, sample bibliography, and 150-word biography in English, Spanish or Portuguese by email in MSWord.doc or MSWord.docx. Proposals should include name, affiliation, and email address in the upper left corner. For more information on ITYARN and to join the network go to ityarn.org

Select papers will be considered for publication in the Ti-Uai-Ei Journal (UNIRIO, ASSITEJ Brazil project), published in 3 languages (the language of the author).

Please email proposals to ityarncuba@gmail.com

Deadline

The deadline for applications of the call for papers is **13 October 2023**

Proposals will be peer reviewed by the ITYARN board and notifications of decisions will go out by **20 November 2023**.

Questions

Questions related to the application can be sent to Paulo Merisio at merisio1965@yahoo.com.br, with the subject: Ityarn 2024 - question.