

## **Letter of Fortaleza**

6th National Gathering of TYA Practitioners took place in Fortaleza (Ceará)

May 2025

Culture is still building its post-pandemic comeback, at least as far as theatre-makers for children are concerned. We have few productions, runs, fewer projects on the schedules of cultural centres, etc., demonstrating the absence of a public policy that stimulates theatre made for children and young people. Our work as groups in a continued form is increasingly under threat.

With this Letter from Fortaleza, we reiterate the importance of establishing relations between the theatre and the city, building a relevant and socially relevant work with strong social support that highlights our society. We realise that in order to do this, we need to create links, enter into dialogue with small producers and individual artists, consolidating forces that can build State cultural policies, supported by programmes established by law and with their own budgets. We need to build bridges that facilitate our communication, without losing sight of the theatrical work of groups for children, because it reaffirms our option for a non-mercantilist ART.

Faced with this discouraging scenario, the Pavilhão da Magnólia Group (Ceará) promoted the VI Gathering of TYA Practitioners, between May 6th and 10th, in the city of Fortaleza, with the representation of groups, artists, critics, researchers and language specialists from four regions of the country (Ceará - Pernambuco - Bahia - Goiás - Mato Grosso - São Paulo - Santa Catarina); as well as CBTIJ/ASSITEJ Brasil. The gathering offered performances, round table discussions and a Super Seminar, the concrete result of which was the drafting of this letter.

The Gathering of TYA Practitioners is a cultural initiative devised and organised by the group Pavilhão da Magnólia, which since 2011 has been bringing together TYA theatre-makers, with the aim of being a booster of other possibilities for thinking about art for children.

An initiative with training activities and the articulation of theatre making for young audiences, which has made a strong contribution to building audiences, as well as gathering information, figures and data for the improvement of the theatre scene for children.

In its 6th edition, we broke boundaries by organising a national showcase with shows from other regions of the country, with performances open to the general audiences and/or for public schools in the capital and metropolitan region. The event took place in this new cycle (post-pandemic), in which we realised a fusion of groups and artists from the capital, the interior of Ceará, as well as other regions of the country, with the aim of strengthening the gathering of knowledge about making theatre for children, in which exchanges are strengthened and feedback into each other.

In order to really propose a revival and improvements for Theatre for Young Audiences, the 6th Gathering discussed a number of issues guided by the challenges and urgencies of making theatre in Ceará, in the present time. How to strengthen and articulate a TYA network which is representative of our country's diverse scenic manifestations, and be able to take the specific demands of its components to the federal instances? How can CBTIJ/ASSITEJ Brazil be strengthened in the struggle for public policies for access to this theatre? In this sense, and following the collective discussions resulting from this Gathering, we are launching the following proposals:

- \* Strengthening theatre for children in Networks (Pavio and CBTIJ/ASSITEJ Brasil);
- \* Creation of Regional Centres to expand CBTIJ/ASSITEJ Brasil's activities (carrying out mapping and continued actions);
- \* Active participation of the groups in local, regional and national forums putting theatre-making for children on the agenda;
- \* Articulation with our sector's Festival Networks (FIBRA - NETWORK OF INTERNATIONAL BRAZILIAN FESTIVALS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG AUDIENCES), as well as other events in the area;
- \* Creation of study groups linked to the research of teachers/students at higher education institutions;
- \* Encourage the promotion of specific funding calls for TYA, at the same time as highlighting the fact that theatre for children is practically invisible in the scene in the curatorship of major Brazilian theatre festivals and important Brazilian theatre awards. These are some of the demands that merit ongoing debate in the construction of the relevance and significant permanence of a scene for children in our country today.

Culture is the uniting element of a people, providing them with dignity and a sense of nationhood, and is therefore as fundamental as public safety, transport and education; it is the work and identity of a people that strengthens the critical exercise of citizenship

in the construction of a democratic society. The Letter from Fortaleza therefore reinforces the cry of many of many artists, groups and cultural associations who constantly denounce the omissions on the part of the public authorities, which makes the calls policy the only funding action. This option is aggravated by the lack of regularity in their launching, jeopardising the minimum support for the production of theatre for young audiences in Brazil. With this letter, we call on the groups and artists who create the scene for children and young people to mobilise in favour of a comeback with quality and repercussions worthy of our relevant history.

Hail to Ilo Krugli and the Vento Forte Group!

Letter signed by:

1. Grupo Pavilhão da Magnólia (CBTIJ/ASSITEJ Brasil Regional Centre - Ceará)
2. Cia Prisma de Artes (CBTIJ/ASSITEJ Brasil Regional Centre - Ceará)
3. Teatro Máquina (Ceará)
4. Trupe Motim (Ceará)
5. Comédia Cearense (Ceará)
6. Cia Ortaet (Ceará)
7. Grupo TECA (CBTIJ/ASSITEJ Brasil Regional Centre - Bahia)
8. Cia Circo de Bonecos (São Paulo)
9. Ateliê do Gesto (Goiás)
10. Edneia Quinto-Tutti (IFCE/Ceará)
11. Wanderson Lana / Teatro Faces (Mato Grosso)
12. Grupo Primitivos (Mato Grosso)
13. Grupo Faces Jovem (Mato Grosso)
14. Vicente Concilio (UDESC/Santa Catarina - Performing Arts Pedagogy Working Group / ABRACE)
15. Dib Carneiro Neto (São Paulo)
16. Leidson Ferraz (Pernambuco)
17. CBTIJ/ASSITEJ Brasil
18. Casa Absurda (CBTIJ/ASSITEJ Brasil Regional Centre - Ceará)
19. EPA - Espaço Popular de Artes (CBTIJ/ASSITEJ Brasil Regional Centre - Ceará)
20. Cia. Vento Minuano (CBTIJ/ASSITEJ Brasil Regional Centre - Rio Grande do Sul)
21. Companhia Arteira (CBTIJ/ASSITEJ Brasil Regional Centre - Nova Friburgo/Rio de Janeiro)

- 22. Buia Teatro Company (Amazonas)
- 23. Cia. Paideia Teatro (CBTIJ/ASSITEJ Brasil Regional Centre - São Paulo)
- 24. Insensata Cia. de Teatro (CBTIJ/ASSITEJ Brasil Regional Centre - Minas Gerais)
- 25. Espetacular - Mostra Internacional para Crianças (CBTIJ/ASSITEJ Brasil Regional Centre - Paraná)