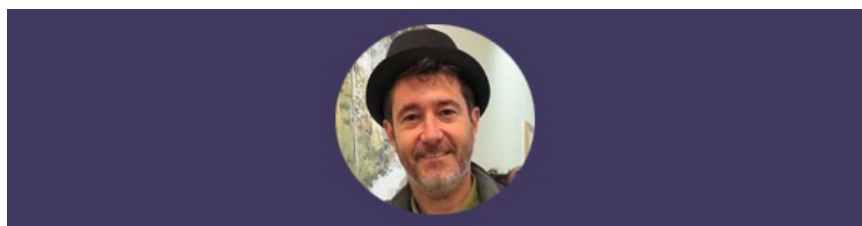




ASSITEJ

International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People

ASSITEJ Newsletter N°65, July 2015



Introduction

by Daniel Fernández

Seeds that sprout

A new International Festival for Young Audiences is born in the region. This fact, which could be read as an isolated incident, or like a lost letter in an incomplete alphabet, is itself the result of the exchange and the encounter between the makers of Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) led by ASSITEJ in its effort to promote it.

Independent Theatre is a particular movement in Argentina. Its epicenter is in the city of Buenos Aires. The movement was born in the '40s and it has the particularity that its work is done without the government's economic support, and it offers an autonomous artistic work, a theatrical proposal far from the commercial theatre circuit. This movement provides theatres with an infrequent quantity of different poetics.

TYA emerges from the Independent Theatre movement as a specialization. It starts as a creator, and becomes a renovator of the creative imagination of TYA, thanks to the work of directors such as Hugo Midón, Carlos de Urquiza, Héctor Presa, Manuel González Gil, Andrés Bazalo and many others, that since the '80s have been proposing a different way of understanding TYA.

ATINA (*Asociación de Teatristas Independientes para Niños y Adolescentes*) was created as an initiative of people within this group, and then the association became a member of ASSITEJ. Since its foundation, ATINA's work has been the creation of networks; first, amongst the founders of TYA, and between the emerging experiences; afterwards in a regional level; and last, but not least, in an international level. ATINA has always looked for the exchange with other regions, with other aesthetics, other systems of production, giving and receiving art, to make our TYA grow.

Within this framework, The XXI Encounter of Theatre, Puppets and Stories is born, organized by the UPeBe (*Universidad Popular de Belgrano*), and sponsored by ATINA. This 1st International Festival will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from July 18th to 22nd, with the presence of casts from Italy, Chile, Uruguay and Mexico.

This new festival has the imprint of the region and was born from the depths of Argentinean independent theatre, and it has the strength and charm of a seed that sprouts.

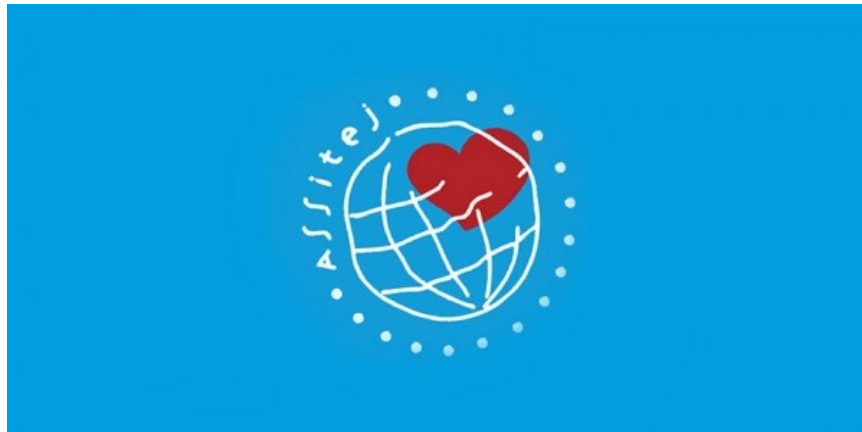
ASSITEJ NEWS

ASSITEJ Magazine 2015

The ASSITEJ 50th Anniversary Special Edition Magazine

is now available online!

[View complete magazine here](#)



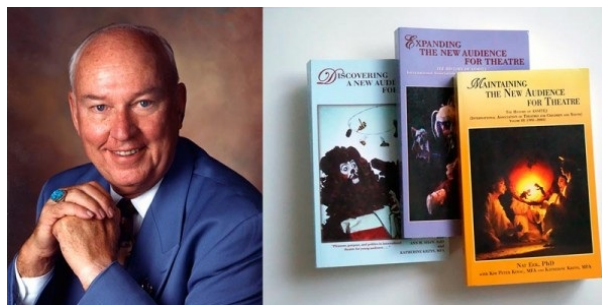
FRIENDS OF ASSITEJ

We would like to honor the memory of Nat Eek, who passed away this April.

He was president of ASSITEJ from 1972-1975 and became Honorary President in 1984.

Nat Eek was one of the best Friends of ASSITEJ, not only because of his contributions to the ASSITEJ award, but also for having compiled the history of ASSITEJ in these three volumes: *Discovering a New Audience for Theatre* (1965-1975), *Expanding the New Audience for Theatre* (1976-1990), *Maintaining The New Audience for Theatre* (1991-2005).

[Nat Eek's Obituary](#)



Friends of ASSITEJ are not only those who have given a financial contribution.

The Friends of ASSITEJ are people who have remained in contact with our association and its activities, people who have never stopped collaborating and being a part of ASSITEJ.

If you want to meet the Friends of ASSITEJ, [click here!](#)

Friends of ASSITEJ is looking to become a continuous campaign and is linked directly to support the Next Generation Program.

There is a great future ahead for this Next Generation Program, but we still need your help to support emerging artists.

Thank you to all those who have been a Friend of ASSITEJ throughout the years!

National Centers

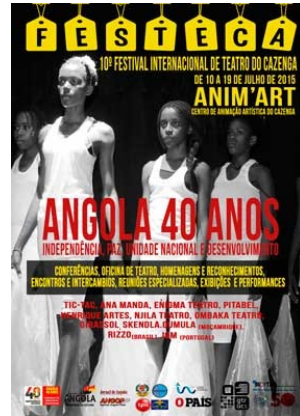
ASSITEJ Angola **FESTECA - International Theatre Festival of Cazenga**

The 10th edition of FESTECA is held from July 10-19, an exhibition of open expression, facing Theatre Exchange.

For this edition, 16 groups and theatre companies from Angola, Brazil, Mozambique and Portugal are involved. In addition to the theatre performances, there will also be conferences, meetings, training workshops, and homages to the theatre precursors in Angola.

This Festival is organized by ANIM'ART - Arts Recreation Center of Cazenga in partnership with ASSITEJ ANGOLA, and must move about 200 actors and theatre lovers, as well as provide an audience of over 1000 people.

[View complete program here](#)



ASSITEJ Belgium **Welcome back**

Back in the 80s ASSITEJ Belgium represented the Dutch speaking part of the country, in the 90s the French speaking community. Some time ago it all went silent and Belgium, although it has a lively art scene for young audiences, was no longer an ASSITEJ member; that changed when the Krokusfestival in Hasselt invited Yvette Hardie in 2014. To cut a long story short, ASSITEJ Belgium was accepted as a new member in Berlin 2015, now representing all three communities of our country, both in the board as well as in our activities.

[Read more.](#)



ASSITEJ BELGIUM

ASSITEJ China **The 5th China Children's Theatre Festival is coming.**

Approved by the Ministry of Culture, jointly hosted by China National Theatre for Children, together with Dongcheng District Committee and Government and ASSITEJ China, the 5th China Children's Theatre Festival will be held from July 10th to August 26th, 2015.



On the theme of "Light Children's Heart and Shape the Future-Colorful Chinese Dream", the festival is trying to show various kinds of culture and art from different countries, helping Chinese audience to learn more about the world. It aims to promote the development of world children drama and strengthen international exchanges and cooperation.

[Read more.](#)

ASSITEJ Cuba



New Executive Committee was elected for ASSITEJ Cuba

During the assembly that took place on the morning of May 12, the new Executive Committee for ASSITEJ Cuba was elected for 2015 until 2019:

President - Esther Suárez Durán

Vice-president - Armando Morales and Erduyn Maza

Board members - Arneldy Cejas and Juan González Fiffe

Teatro Papalote turned 53

The theatre group "Papalote" from the Cuban city of Matanzas turned 53, and celebrates with a wonderful Puppetry Party which will last until the end of the summer.

Papalote has managed to position itself among the avant-garde puppeteering community of Cuba throughout its work of over half a century, always holding a refreshing vision and being attentive to its community, children and contemporary art.

Teatro La Proa is back after a successful tour through Mexico.

Teatro La Proa's puppet show Burrerías, traveled the Mexican state of Yucatan for one month, thanks to an invitation made by the Creating and Puppeteering Civil Association (CREATI) and UNIMA Mexico.

The tour included presentations and donations of puppet texts where Burrerías was presented. A replica of Teatro La Proa's symbolic character Mowgli, was donated by its creator Arneldy Cejas to the house of puppets Fábula, where it now represents the puppets from our island.

[View complete articles in Spanish](#)



ASSITEJ Germany International Directors' Seminar 2015

6 - 11 July 2015 in Mannheim / Germany

In the Jubilee section of this year's ASSITEJ Magazine, Shaili Sathyu from India writes about her "Journey of Discovery" into the world of ASSITEJ. This journey starts with a trip to Hamburg, Germany, in 2009 when Shaili took part in ASSITEJ Germany's International Directors' Seminar. Her conclusion that "one week literally changed my life" is a great compliment. Thank you, Shaili!

ASSITEJ Germany's International Directors' Seminar takes place every other year and it invites directors from all over the world to work together for one week. So far, 452 directors from over 70 countries have taken part in the seminar since 1976. You can find a list of all former participants here (http://www.assitej.de/fileadmin/assitej/pdf/Regieseminar/Directors_Seminar_1976-2013.pdf) and you will be surprised how many of them are active in ASSITEJ!

[Read more.](#)

ASSITEJ India ASSITEJ India will host ASSITEJ Asia Meeting at Chennai.



July 4 - 7

Chennai aims to strengthen the Asian network by organizing region-specific projects, exchanges and festivals.



The Little Theatre organizes its International TYA Festival

July 2-12

Apart from hosting the festival, "The Little Festival" is going to host teams from Iran and South Korea.



ASSITEJ Iran

**"The Last Leaf" theater, directed by
Mohammad Boroumand, sets out to India to
participate in The Little Festival, Chennai,**

India:

The sixth edition of Chennai International Festival promotes peace, understanding and empathy through dramatic arts this year. Simorgh theater group will have three performances in this festival.

"The Last Leaf" by Simorgh International Group is a combination of theater and media and is non-verbal. With a fantasy and fiction structure, it deals with the consequences of the quarrels, domestic fights and international wars.

The audiences will accompany us in performing this play and they will try to reach "peace and friendship for all".

"The Last Leaf" theater was produced in 2014 with actors from Iran, USA, Afghanistan and Canada and was staged in Tehran and war areas; then it was performed in Sarajevo International Peace Festival in Bosnia and Herzegovina and was welcomed by this country's people and media.

Iranian traditional theater workshop in India:

Mohammad Boroumand also added that Chennai International Festival has arranged two workshops for him to introduce Iranian dramatic arts to the artists of different countries at this festival, and familiarize them with Iranian puppet theater techniques. He will also teach construction of the marionettes in another workshop for children.



Iranian Children as World Peace Propagators:

Mohammad Boroumand as the designer, writer and director of "The Last Leaf" has used 8 year-old children this year to perform this show in the international festivals; those fluent in Persian, English and French will perform this show for the other children.

Simorgh group manager believes that theater by children for children is not taken seriously in Iran.

Mohammad Boroumand also informed that some international children festivals have invited the artist children of Simorgh group for performing "The Last Leaf."



ASSITEJ Israel

Haifa Theatre announced the call for performances to be presented during The Haifa International Children's Theater Festival 2016 from 24-26 April 2016.

Haifa Theatre, on behalf of Haifa International Children's Theater Festival, hosts annually a rich range of performances - indoor and outdoor - from across the globe. Each play is carefully chosen by a committee of experts.

This exposure enables the Israeli public to get a close look at some of the best performers from the entire world.

Close ties are made between the Israeli and foreign Companies, thus leading to exchange programs and invitations to appear in International Festivals abroad.

This year, in addition to plays and open-air performances, Haifa Theatre is looking for the festival opening performance!

The show, which'll be presented on the main theatre stage (indoor) several times during the opening day, must be universal, unique & spectacular!

Guideline for Applicants:

- * The festival will cover the staying cost (accommodation and food expenses only).
- * The festival will provide the pass to see all the performances.
- * Applicants should try to apply for local funding to cover the international airfare. If it is not possible, Applicants who can apply for funding or cover the airfare on their own expense will be considered as a priority.
- * Applicants must be able to stay for the whole period.

Deadline: August 25, 2015.

[Apply here](#)

Opportunity

HAIFA INTERNATIONAL
CHILDREN'S THEATRE
FESTIVAL



ASSITEJ Japan The Next Generation Programme in Asia Tokyo, Japan 2015

We are looking for young emerging theatre practitioners in Asia who'd like to collaborate and make artistic exchanges internationally in order to create a theatre work for children and young audiences in 5 days in Tokyo, Japan.

What is the Next Generation Programme?

It is a programme created in 2008 in order to ease the access of young artists to ASSITEJ, International Association of Theatre for Children and Young Audiences. Since then up-and-coming artists from all over the world have been gathering at the annual meeting of the international association. The programme offers them a platform in which to exchange their experiences in the context of their own cultural background. Using this as a starting point the participants can then develop new ideas and visions for theatre for young audiences and their own work. Such encounters often result in international friendships and artistic cooperation. A network of people working in theatre has thus arisen from former and present participants of the programme, that actively influences the work of ASSITEJ and theatre for young audiences all over the world.

Who can apply?

[Read more.](#)



International Theater Festival Okinawa for Young Audience

This festival is an annual performing arts festival for children and young people which takes place in Okinawa and Tokyo. The festival celebrated its 10th anniversary last year.

This year the festival has launched a new logo and nickname: **ricca ricca*festa**. *ricca ricca* means 'let's go' in Okinawan dialect.

ricca ricca*festa 2015 presents 38 productions from 17 countries over 9 days. The festival also hosts several international collaborative productions, symposiums and related events. Please visit the website for full programme.

Sat 25 - Sun 26 July

Mon 27 July - Sun 2 August

www.nuchigusui-fest.com

www.facebook.com/nuchigusuifest



**ASSITEJ Japan has now launched the new bilingual website.
Please stop by and visit us!**

<http://assitej-japan.jp>

ASSITEJ Korea



아시테지 한국본부

The 22nd ASSITEJ Korea



International Summer Festival Evaluated as “Very Excellent”

The 22nd ASSITEJ Korea International Summer Festival was evaluated as “very excellent” grade by the Arts Council Korea.

The evaluation was made for all programs of arts and culture financially supported by the Arts Council Korea last year. The 22nd ASSITEJ Korea International Summer Festival

in 2014 was rated top as the one and only performing arts festival, and chosen as 1 of the 3 most excellent arts and cultural activities in Korea.

The evaluation was made in the categories of 5 areas, and the Festival was highly ranked, over 90%, especially in artistic contribution, programming, and management of festival organization.

9 Korean and 1 international quality theatre pieces for children will be presented in 14 local towns

“Art Dream Theatre Festival for Local Young Audiences 2015” marks its 6th edition after more than 40 times in 14 local towns, the biggest in terms of geographical scale since its establishment.



Unlike 2 other festivals organized by ASSITEJ Korea, this Festival does not take place in Seoul, but in local cities and small towns where cultural activities are rare and children are culturally isolated. Moreover, for the first time, an international piece will be presented to local young audiences and their parents, and “Overture” by Teatergruppen Batida from Denmark was chosen to be presented at 3 venues.

14 towns, 9 across the Korean Peninsula, are new to the program of the Festival. Supported by Hyundai Motor Group, a world-renowned motor company in Korea, the Festival will begin on October 5 and continue till October 28, 2015.

Over the past 5 years, approximately 12,000 local audiences have benefitted by this arts and culture program.

[Read more.](#)



ASSITEJ Mexico

PURO TEATRO Children’s National Theatre Festival 2015.

Puro Teatro is an annual Children’s Theatre Festival which takes place every summer in Mexico, from July 20-26 presenting the most representative professional theatre companies throughout theatres in the country.

This festival has been happening for 17 years now, is completely free for the general public and offers children’s theatre workshops. Organized by the theatre company La Troupe, the Mexican Social Security Institute(IMSS), and the National Arts and Culture Council (CONACULTA), through their program “Alas y Raíces a los Niños”.



Looking Back on Next Generation in Linz 2013

In June, 2013 I had the opportunity to attend the Next Generation Program of ASSITEJ in Linz, Austria as the only representative of Mexico; I was fortunate to meet with creators for young audiences

from all over the world; I returned full of dreams to accomplish, one of them to work for early childhood; I also returned willing to replicate the dialogue and to build the necessary networks in order to bring the best possible theatre for young audiences; with the impulse of my experience in Austria, two years later in June of 2015 I premiere the show "Where is Isabela?" for children from 0 to 3 years, the



second or third show for babies in the country and the first in the western region; the children's response to the experience has been beautiful, strong and enriching; families were enchanted by this integrating project of an early childhood that has been long forgotten in this country of ours.

Additionally, I celebrate that this year one of the members of the "Where is Isabela?" team is now at the Next Generation meeting organized in the same city of Linz; accompanying all the activities from the Schaxpir Festival, building new dreams and dialogues; I'm sure that Oz Jiménez will also return with vital impulses that will lead us to build a more solid theatre for babies, children and young people, and based on our community, on our country.

Susana Romo

ASSITEJ Norway

SAND International Festival of Performing Arts for a Young Audience: Kristiansand October 6th to 19th

ASSITEJ Norway welcomes you to the 11th international performing arts festival for a young audience in Kristiansand on the 6th - 10th of October 2015. This time with a new name: SAND International Festival of Performing Arts for a Young Audience

As always, the festival gives you out-of-the-box, crazy, thought provoking, beautiful, heartbreaking, daring, challenging - and above all else - amazing performing arts. This year's theme is INTERPLAY, and we present a selection of Norwegian and international performances which, in different ways, explore INTERPLAY with the young audience.

The SAND festival 2015 challenges the traditional way of theatre and presents a variety of different expressions. There will be installations and happenings, performances and celebrations. At the SAND festival you are invited in as a co-creator, a discussion partner, and a playmate. Or you can just be a spectator.

[Read more.](#)



Theatre for Young People

ASSITEJ South Africa

AFRICAN YOUTH THEATRE AND DANCE FESTIVAL:

At this inaugural festival, ASSITEJ SA brought together youth and emerging artists from 9 African countries including Botswana, Cameroon, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe and of course South Africa. The group of around 75 young people aged 15-21 spent a week in workshops, play reading

rehearsals and watching performances, while the 15 writers and 15 directors had their own series of workshops and engagements as they worked to bring new pieces of theatre for young audiences to life. The next phase of this engagement will be the further development of 5 of the playwrights through the New Visions New Voices Festival at the Kennedy Centre in Washington, the possible production of several of the plays by Soweto theatre, and the possible selection of some of the emerging works for the 2017 World Congress. The festival was sponsored by the Department of Arts and Culture's Mzansi Golden Economy programme and several of the professional pieces were staged with the support of the National Arts Council of South Africa.

INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTIONS AT NATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL:



ASSITEJ SA is proud to welcome Theatre ZeBu from Denmark with their production "True Confusion" to the National Arts Festival ASSITEJ Family Fare Main stage platform. We are also delighted to be partnering with Speeltheater Holland Studio on the production "Red Earth Revisited" which premieres at the National Arts Festival Main Stage and then tours the Eastern Cape. There are also 12 local productions forming part of the 2015 Family Fare programme, ranging from works for very young children through to teens. For more information, go to <http://www.assitej.org.za/alt/4127/1>

CALL FOR 19th ASSITEJ WORLD CONGRESS OPEN:

Opportunity

This is a reminder that ASSITEJ South Africa is calling for performances for young audiences to be presented during the 19th ASSITEJ World Congress from 17-27 May 2017 in Cape Town. This Performing Arts festival showcases a diverse and rich range of theatre productions from across the globe, with a special focus on Africa as the "Cradle of Creativity". Go to www.assitej2017.org.za to apply to appear on this prestigious platform. Applications with accompanying DVDs/video links of work must be submitted before the end of April 2016.



ASSITEJ Sri Lanka Mrs. Somalatha Subasinghe, the campaigner for children's and youth theatre in Sri Lanka.

Mrs. Somalatha Subasinghe who has made outstanding contributions to the development of children's and youth theatre in Sri Lanka since late 1970s passed away on 30th May 2015. She started her career as a graduate teacher and held several positions in committees that initiated aesthetics and Drama and Theatre in the primary and secondary school curriculum since 1962. Until her demise, she held the position of the founding Director of Lanka Children's and Youth Theatre Foundation (LCYTF) Kotte and the President, ASSITEJ Sri Lanka centre.

Read More

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/74367/veteran-dramatist-somalatha-subasinghe-passes-away>

<http://www.sundaytimes.lk/150531/news/she-leaves-a-legacy-of-childrens-joy-and-laughter-151462.html>

http://www.sundaytimes.lk/111127/Plus/plus_02.html

Read more.



ASSITEJ Switzerland

ASSITEJ Schweiz/Suisse/Svizzera/Svizra decided at the General Assembly in June, to launch a new member category «next generation»!

This new member category is meant for young theatre artists in education, who are interested in theatre for young audiences.

The aim is to promote young theatre producers and to provide them with an access to the network of ASSITEJ - to share experience, learn and work with other ASSITEJ members within the field of TYA.

More information follows this autumn.

www.assitej.ch



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



ASSITEJ Uruguay

VERDANZAR is a project that promotes circulation and accessibility to contemporary performing dance and theatre creations aimed at children and young people in an annual cycle

(May to October 2015) programming representations and permanent workshops, through the following format and public:

- Cycle School Extension Montevideo: Performances for schools. Audience: Children 4-12 years old and teachers. May to October in Verdi Auditorium, Solís Theatre and Spanish Cultural Center of Montevideo
- Performances for all Audiences. Auditoria and institutions associated with the project.
- Project: Formation of New Audiences for Dancing. Including workshops aimed at teachers and students. Workshops, lectures and meetings with children, young people and teachers participating as the audience of the cycle.

[Read more.](#)

Taboo topics workshop in theater for children:

In the context of VERDANZAR festival, a new workshop of taboo topics in theater for children was held. It was coordinated by María Inés Falconi-Playwright- and Carlos de Urquiza -Director- (Argentina). Artists and teachers from Uruguay and Brazil participated in that instance.



Coordinates: Florencia Delgado

Contact: verdanzar@gmail.com

Programming Cycle in: <http://verdanzar.blogspot.com/>

General information: cutdij.wordpress.com

Support: IBERESCENA, INAE MEC, ANEP PROARTE Program, CUTDIJ (Uruguayan Centre of Theatre and Dance for Childhood and Youth) Auditorium Verdi, Solís Theatre and Spanish Cultural Center.



TYA USA

TYA/USA Professional Development Presents:

TYA & Playwriting

Tuesday July 21, 2015 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM CENTRAL

This webinar will cover a handful of topics including: Conceptualization - Where do ideas come from, and what makes something TYA?; Creating young characters - Finding the "child voice" and the pitfalls to avoid; Capturing style, genre, and tone - What's the difference between clever and silly in comedic work (or is there one?); Rewriting and revision: how, why, and when (and who do you listen to)?

REGISTER NOW (Visa/MC):

Click: [TYA/USA MEMBERS - \\$5.75](#)

Click: [NON TYA/USA MEMBERS - \\$15.75](#)

Unsure of your membership status?
Please [CONTACT US](#).

After payment, you will be redirected to the event registration page. If you are not redirected, [CONTACT US](#), and we will send you the registration link.



[CLICK HERE](#) for further information on our Professional Development Webinars and to suggest topics and guests for future events.

[More info](#)



50th Anniversary Section

As part of the continuing celebrations of the ASSITEJ Jubilee, we will be including special contributions that speak about the history of our association and centers around the world.

On this occasion, we are sharing contributions on the history of ASSITEJ China and ASSITEJ Spain.



All for Kids--The Rising ASSITEJ China

Part 1: About ASSITEJ China

Founded on December 2nd, 1982, China Children's Drama Society (ASSITEJ China Centre), is a national level non-profit social organization, which consists of 26 member units and 69 council members. China's

Children's Drama Society has joined the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ) from September 1994.

Through advocating various kinds of drama creation and performances, organizing children's drama seminars and researching activities, promoting public-interest performances and encouraging international communications, ASSITEJ China now is trying to lead China children's drama to a brilliant future.

[Read more.](#)

New Generations in Children's Theatre in Spain

By Luis Matilla

With the start of the new century ASSITEJ-Spain underwent a marked change. The arrival of young professionals into children's theatre bringing with them innovative ideas and committed to the problems of the society in which they live, along with the development of our young audience, meant an obvious step forward in terms of quality and strictness for theatrical arts geared towards infants and young people.



Interaction between writers, performers and directors has its roots in the decade of the seventies with young people taking to the stage, thus allowing for the handling of topics forbidden during the dictatorial period of censorship with its imposition of rigid criteria. In a series of theatrical encounters held in the city of Granada, professionals working there reached the conclusion that there were no taboo topics for theatre aimed towards the youngest audience, rather that the development of conflicts was not properly handled, along with the lack of new contemporary methods in the majority of the productions.

[Read more.](#)

