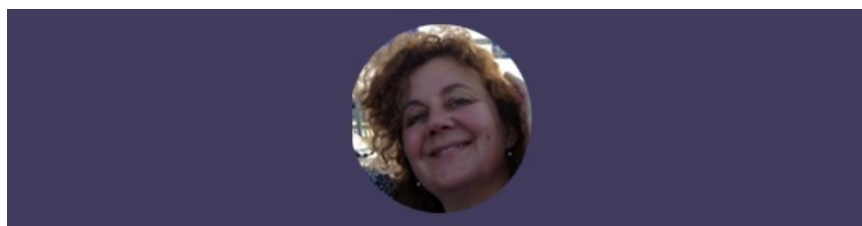




ASSITEJ

International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People

ASSITEJ Newsletter N°72, February 2016



Introduction

A Few Days in the Child Drama Archives.

By Manon van der Water

Last month, I spent a few days in the Child Drama Archives at Arizona State University, arguably the largest archives in the field, certainly in terms of material from US researchers and practitioners in the field of theatre and drama with, by, and for children:
<http://libguides.asu.edu/childdramacoll>.

I was looking for archival material on Natalia Sats: correspondence, notes, mentions about her and her work. Katherine Krzys, the curator, had pulled three carts of boxes with, among other materials, correspondence from Gerald Tyler, Nat Eek, and Ann Shaw. And although I knew these names of course, two worlds collided: my narrow focus on Natalia Sats's life and work and the history of ASSITEJ, from its founding in 1965 until the mid 1990s.

The documents tell a story of cold war rhetoric, of intrigues, and of firm opinions on the aesthetics and the humanitarian mission of ASSITEJ. A story of fixed elections, "shenanigans," politics behind the a-political nature of ASSITEJ. A story of ASSITEJ World Festival audiences behaving as tourists versus professionals. A story of the big controversy at the Moscow Congress and Festival in 1984. All this, documented on paper, filed away.

As I was going through the materials, I realized again how important the role of the historiographer is and how much the narrative she or he constructs depends on archived material, on what exactly is preserved and what not, and on what the motivation, ideological position, and notions of change of the historian are. The ASSITEJ books are clearly written from a specific US perspective. But what is the contra-narrative? Could the archives in Berlin and Frankfurt shed light on this? Do we need another history?

Another realization was that we will not have the same kind of documentation in the next 50 years of ASSITEJ. Not because there will be no intrigues, controversies, and behind closed doors conversations, but because it is less likely to be preserved in the same way, except for the minutes. Emails do not live long and are generally not archived. Personal notebooks, and diaries are getting rare. We communicate through messages and images, they pop up, we react, they disappear. We do not need written correspondence that could take weeks to arrive because we can instantly talk to the other side of the world through facetime and skype. How, then, will we document our history? And what does this do to the narrative?

This brings me to ITYARN, the International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network. This year is an anniversary for ITYARN, its 10th year anniversary. When we came together in Kristiansand in October 2006, seven research-practitioners from six different countries we merely explored, what is the status of research in the field of TYA in our respective countries and do we need research in the field? "Yes" we decided and ten years later ITYARN has become an integral part of ASSITEJ with representation at the yearly meetings and beyond, with publications and with ASSITEJ EC board representation. ITYARN cares about historical research and much more: ITYARN "... contributes to culture and knowledge by providing new insights and perspectives on the history, theory, practice, and perception of theatre and performance for children and youth, from theatre for babies to theatre for young adults" (ityarn.org).

Our history is important and we need to cherish it. Our history is interwoven with who we are now and what we will be in the future. Years ago, one of my students shared this Ghanaian proverb with me: "Our ancestors hold us on their shoulders so that we can see into the future--we dare not look down on them for their lack of foresight." The Child Drama Archive at Arizona State University, the ASSITEJ archives in Berlin and Frankfurt attest to where we came from and where we are going. Our practice is by nature ephemeral. But the documentation will stay and live to tell the story.

ASSITEJ NEWS



In recent years, ASSITEJ has been working on becoming a more open and inclusive association. From this perspective and underpinning the work of IIAN, we join the commemoration of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was adopted in 2006 at the United Nations, then opened for signature and support in 2007 and entered into force in 2008.

We would like to mark this year as an Inclusion Year by using the logo above.

ASSITEJ encourages all its members to consider how to make their work more inclusive of all artists and all audiences.

ASSITEJ World Day of Theatre for Children March 20th 2016

TOOL KIT

ASSITEJ World Day of Theatre for Children is an [ASSITEJ](#) campaign, promoted and celebrated through the message **'Take a Child to the Theatre Today'**.

This focus enables National Centres, individual members, companies, arts organisations, academics, teachers, artists, practitioners and others interested in theatre for young audiences to connect with the idea of World Day and 'make the case' for children's entitlement to theatre and the arts.

All ASSITEJ members are invited to promote special World Day messages written every year, share the ASSITEJ film and consider additional activity - large or small. Each year ASSITEJ Centres around the globe deliver activities ranging from conferences, performances, workshops and special media events. This tool-kit aims to help you plan for World Day 2016, which happens on March 20th.

Activity

The message **'Take a child to the theatre - today'** can be promoted as a message and as a call to action, it can promote regional activity and theatre events and by linking to other information, illustrate **why** it is important to take a child to the theatre.

World Day is a global campaign. ASSITEJ has more than 80 National Centres as well as Networks with affiliates across 100 countries, which means there is unlimited possibility for profile, visibility and advocacy.

[Read more.](#)

TAKE A CHILD
TO THE THEATRE





Call for Performances 2017 in Cape Town

Opportunity

ASSITEJ South Africa reminds all theatre practitioners of the opportunity to have their performances presented during the 19th ASSITEJ World Congress of the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People from 17-27 May 2017 in Cape Town, under the over-arching theme "Cradle of Creativity".

The World Congress is the most important meeting of all members of ASSITEJ (International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People), which takes place once every three years. It is the culmination of the working life of the association for that three-year period, reflecting on the last three years of activity and creating a vision collectively with its members for the future.

The Performing Arts festival will encompass a diverse and rich range of theatre productions from across the globe during the last few years, with a special focus on Africa as the "Cradle of Creativity". It will give a snapshot of theatre for young audiences as it exists at this point in history, and as represented by performances from a wide variety of countries and continents. This is the first time that the Congress and Festival will be held on African soil.

The Festival comprises several platforms, including the International, African and Collaborative Platforms.

The call for participation in the Conference, Symposium, Workshop and Forum section will be announced in the next newsletter.

Deadline April 30 2016.

- [Submissions to the International Platform \(FROM ALL CONTINENTS APART FROM AFRICA\)](#)
- [Submissions to the African Platform \(FROM ALL FIVE REGIONS OF THE CONTINENT, INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA\)](#)
- [Submissions to the Collaborative Platform \(FROM AN AFRICAN COUNTRY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY\)](#)

[Main ASSITEJ SA web](#)

Call for Advertisements ASSITEJ Magazine 2016

ASSITEJ has begun work on the 2016 ASSITEJ Magazine that will be launched at our next Artistic Gathering in Birmingham, UK:

On the Edge: Interdisciplinary Exchange

We are glad to offer you an **opportunity for exposure in our magazine** that will help in making your work more visible to the global community!

Possibilities for: Full page, half a page, a quarter of a page and inside back cover.

The deadline for booking an advertisement in

the ASSITEJ Magazine 2016 and for receiving artwork is February 29, 2016.

[Read more.](#)



ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2016



Delegate Packages ON SALE NOW!

We look forward to welcoming you to Birmingham, UK for ON THE EDGE, the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2016, from 2nd - 9th July.

Our new-look website is now live, the full Performance Programme has been announced, and Delegate Packages are ON SALE! Click here for details of the full performance programme

Delegate package holders will not only have access to a **fantastic selection of shows**, but also to the hugely exciting **Symposium** programme which will explore the cutting edge of TYA practice, the **ASSITEJ Artistic Encounters**, the **Opening** and/or **Closing Ceremonies** and a brilliant calendar of **social events and activities**.

We have a GOLD Package that covers the whole week and RED and BLUE packages for the half-week festival experience. ASSITEJ Members receive a discount on the Full Price, with Students and members from Africa, Asia and South America receiving a further discount. And we also have an EARLY BIRD rate: **book before 31st March for an additional 10% off your Delegate Package!**

Click here for further information on our [Delegate Packages](#)

ON THE EDGE 2016 is presented by TYA-UK and TYA-Ireland.

T: [@OnTheEdge2016](#)

F: [Facebook.com/OnTheEdge2016](#)

www.ontheedge2016.com

National Centers



ASSITEJ Bosnia Herzegovina

Festival of International Student Theatre Kestenburg, Banja Luka
July 27 - August 07, 2017.

APPLY

How to apply?

Download the Application on our web page: www.kestenburg.com
Please send your application form to email: kestenburg@gmail.com
The selection results will be announced by e-mail November 17, 2016.
The deadline is October 17, 2016.

Opportunity

ASSITEJ Denmark



Join us at the Aprilfestival 2016!
10 - 17 of April

A theatre adventure

The Danish *Aprilfestival* is approaching. This year it will be held from the 10th to the 17th of April in Frederiksberg, Copenhagen.

As always, the festival will contain an enormous amount and variation of theatre for young audiences. There will be around 130 professional theatre companies presenting 200 different performances, amounting to almost 800 shows.



The *Aprilfestival* gives all of us a unique opportunity to go on a theatre adventure. Remember *Aprilfestival* has no curators – the freedom is yours to choose for yourselves and explore the unexpected!

An international meeting place

The entire Danish TYA environment will be present, and the festival is normally visited by at least 100 international guests from all parts of the world. This year it won't be less because the festival this year takes place in Copenhagen.

As something new, the major conference of the festival will be in English. This year the theme is "Audience development", and will be investigated intellectually in talks as well as physically and sensorially in "walks" and practical

examples.

www.info.aprilfestival.dk (English web site)

www.aprilfestival.dk (Danish web site)

Freedom Prison

Invitation to European ensembles of young actors, dancers, artists, musicians etc. in the age of 18 to 30 years* to participate in the project FREEDOM PRISON in Horsens, Denmark in May 2017

The deadline for application is 1st of March 2016

The project is connected to Aarhus European Capital of Culture in 2017

Programme

2016 - Each ensemble makes a small show based on its own free interpretation of the words 'Freedom Prison'

2017 - January – April The shows are presented in the respective countries

11 - 21. May - All ensembles participate in the project in Denmark

Freedom Prison takes place in a former state prison. The approximately 130 participants from different European countries live and work inside the prison for 10 days, showing their own productions and participate in creating the big show called the Freedom Prison Show. This show will be presented over the last two days.

Freedom Prison focuses on freedom and restriction – in terms of politics, art, humanity and history. Sustainability and diversity is integrated in all aspects.

[See full programme and application form at this link >](#)



Opportunity

ASSITEJ France

Want to play? Playwright!

For the 3rd year, ASSITEJ France has the pleasure to invite you to take part in its instant playwriting game, **"1 day, 1 play"**, **organised to celebrate the World Day of Theater for Children (WDT)**, on March 20th.

As for the last editions, we chose the simplest rules, to ensure anyone interested in playwriting and TYA can participate. All you have to do is to select a date, from March 1st to 15th, and to register [here](#). On the D-day, you will be sent the subject, and then you will have 24 hours to write and send your short play (500 to 700 words), in your own personal style and language. Plays will be translated into French, and released on 1 day 1 play's website, as in [2014](#) and [2015](#), at the occasion of the WDT.

After Karin Serres, inventor of the game, we have the pleasure to welcome Catherine Verlaquet as the associate playwright for 2016.

1d1p is just for fun! Enjoy it! [Register before February 29th.](#)



International Festival Schöne Aussicht /
Bright View in Stuttgart
4-12.June 2016

The Selection for the 10th issue of the international Festival Schöne Aussicht/Bright View is done! Possibly nine ensembles from Europe and Africa, together with nine children and youth theatres from Baden-Württemberg will be coming to Stuttgart and present and discuss their artistic work between the 4th and 12th of June 2016.



The selection process for the international guests had a different approach than in the years before, a more political one. That is because our world has changed and became another one in the last months. Well not changed completely. The world has changed mainly from a Center European perspective, because the destiny of the refugees coming from African countries and from the Middle East got closer to us, very close. It has changed because the terror that makes people flee their homes is hitting us as well. At least it has come closer to our consciousness.

Many of the groups refer to recent political and social circumstances and changes in our world. The world of adults, but also the world of children and youth, here, like in other parts of the world. They are not necessarily telling concrete stories of

refugees, poverty or war, but their performances are taking strong positions towards such topics, or use them as a base, and try to respond aesthetically and in many moments are surprisingly amusing.

Get in touch and come to Stuttgart - Delegates Packages are available soon!

Contact: [festival\(at\)jes-stuttgart.de](mailto:festival(at)jes-stuttgart.de), [info\(at\)jes-stuttgart.de](mailto:info(at)jes-stuttgart.de)
<http://www.jes-stuttgart.de/schoene-aussicht-2016.html>

[Read more.](#)

FRATZ International Berlin March 10 - 15, 2017

The date for the next **FRATZ International** is set: from **March 10 to 15, 2017** we will meet in Berlin once more to experience productions, performances and installations for the very young and have an exchange on the latest developments in this field.

In next year's **Symposium** we will focus on music theater for very young audiences and will cooperate with Deutsche Oper Berlin. There will be workshops offered for visiting professionals dealing with „perception“, „voice“ and „listening“.

FRATZ Reflections

A collection of essays and lectures on FRATZ 2015 „The small child as counterpart“ can be downloaded from our website <http://www.fratz-festival.de/en/> in both German and English language. The German version can be ordered at the theater for a small fee. Please contact us at:info@theater-on.com.

FRATZ Evaluation

Under the following link you can download an extensive research paper on FRATZ 2015. It was conducted by Juliane Steinmann on behalf of Kulturprojekte Berlin:

<http://www.kubinaut.de/de/magazin/news/2016/1/15/evaluation-zu-fratz-international-2015-begegnungen-symposium-festival-fur-sehr-junge-zuschauer-veroeffentlicht/>



New production of the Theater Center of KANOON (The Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young People)



Design and Implement: Farideh Shirjian Goal: Provide educational concepts in the project "Theatre - School"

This workshop is composed of two main parts:

- **Object Theatre:** The motion of ordinary objects into art-historical objects
- **Conceptual Theater:** Consists of a series of conceptual art with ancient

History

On the occasion of National Child Week in collaboration with the National Museum of Iran, the first edition of this workshop was held with the attendance of the general audience. The second section with the elementary students performed at the National Museum of Iran.

Then eight other courses was held in the libraries of KANOON (The Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young People) in Tehran and performed to the members of that libraries.

Method: At first the children discussed the four historical periods (Median, Achaemenid, Parthian, Sassanid) that form the content of their history books in the school and primary school curriculum, and discuss about the most important features of each. This book was for reading and learning in school, but now is for seeing and understanding in libraries and...

After this workshop she said: "I'm very glad that I could teach concepts of school books and art history with showing two thousand images of ancient art to children. Using conceptual art is very interesting for children and so we invite artists that use this method.

[Read more.](#)



ASSITEJ Italy



KIRANA project: International Artistic Residence from Malta to Puglia

La lunanelletto company/ Trail dire e il fare Cultural Association will host at the Ruvo di Puglia Town Theatre an ambitious project of international artistic residence, which will take place in two parts in 2016: from 14 to 21 of February (digital animation) and from 10 to 17 of April (multidisciplinary workshop).

The Apulia Region, within the FSC 2007-2013 - APQ reinforced Cohesion and Development Found named "Cultural goods and activities", entrusted to the TeatroPubblico Pugliese (Apulian Public Theatre) the management of the action "Internationalization of the theatre and choral dance research 2016" for the development and modernization of the production chain of live theatre and dance regional performance, as well as for the improvement of the touristic attractiveness.

Specifically the action fulfills a series of activities in order to: support "contamination" experiences between Apulian and international artists; increase international performances scheduling inside Apulian theatres with the aim to enlarge the cultural offer of the territory and to affect the overall attractiveness of the "Apulia system"; favour the meeting between Apulian productive entities and international direction, choreography, drama and playing excellences, by encouraging the professional and productive growing of the former and their broader competitiveness in the national and international market.

[Read more.](#)



The Immaterial Art

International workshops on shadow and shadow theatre

May 16 - June 4, 2016; May 15 - June 3, 2017; May 14 - June 2, 2018

The whole training program "The immaterial art" will be held in Piacenza, in the show floors of Teatro Gioco Vita. Each workshop will last 18 days, for a total of 120 hours, and will be led by Fabrizio Montecchi, Nicoletta Garioni and Federica Ferrari, featuring artists and experts of other disciplines.



For information about content, programs and application procedures, please visit our website www.teatrogiocovita.it or write to us at workshop@teatrogiocovita.it.

ASSITEJ Korea



The 24th Seoul Children's Theatre Awards

"A Bird Story" produced by Play BST made a clean sweep of the awards in the 24th Seoul Children's Theatre Awards; Best Play/Director/Actress Award and Audiences Award. It's a collaborative creation by Play BST's actors which reinterprets Bongjangchui, a branch of Korean traditional music with a witty story about birds in the late period of the Joseon Dynasty. Play BST made the story unique by playing traditional musical instruments and using familiar objects such as a broom, dustpan, duster and so on. The jury of the Awards praised this piece: "using various instruments like a musical, great ensemble acting and interweaving the story and the style of the traditional performance brilliantly".

This year, ASSITEJ Korea also starts to award the TYA playwright in order to expand its field and encourage the development of original plays.

[Read more.](#)



ASSITEJ Namibia

ChiNamibia will be celebrating the international mother language day.

This is celebrated annually and children perform poems, drama plays, songs in their mother tongue and do cultural dances and story telling.

With this event we collaborate with the Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre.

This is an international event initiated by UNESCO.



ASSITEJ Spain

FETEN will celebrate its 25th anniversary with 73 companies.
21 - 26 February



In the Asturian city of Gijón, the European Fair of Performing Arts for children celebrates a very special 25th edition. The fair brings together a large audience as well as accredited professionals during six intense days, with the staging of more than 150 presentations from 73 companies.

This year, nine new shows will be premiered during FETEN. Marcel Gros and Mons Dansa I Educació (Catalonia), La Canica and La Familia Scalofrini (Madrid), Teatro de Malta (Castilla - La Mancha), and La Carreta Teatro (Valencia) will be the protagonists of the premier section.

The 73 companies come from Argentina, France, Chile, Finland, Holland, Ireland and 15 autonomous communities from Spain. One more year where FETEN surpasses participation records, registering 618 received shows from 18 different countries, against 580 sent last year.

Consolidated as an encounter, an opportunity to meet and debate for the many programmers, distributors and creators that faithfully turn up every year, FETEN is a leader in the analysis of new creative trends, as well as in the impulse of the cultural market that, year after year, strengthens the sector to face the sustainability difficulties in the Performing Arts.



Organized by the Municipal Cultural and Education Foundation, Popular University and the Gijón City Hall, FETEN is sponsored, among others, by the National Institution for the Performing Arts, INAEM and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of Asturias.

Web: <http://feten.gijon.es/>

Spanish version click [here](#)

ASSITEJ Sweden



Interplay Europe, Festival of Young Playwrights 2016
Ljungskile, Gothenburg, Sweden, June 27 - July 2

For the 11th time, Interplay Festival will be arranged in Europe. For the first time it takes place in a Nordic country and for the first time in Interplay's history extra focus will be put on TYA - Theatre for young audiences. For some intense days, young playwrights and their tutors will be gathered in text development and cultural exchange, finding new aspects in the own writing, getting impulses and inspiration from others and finding new friends and contacts - perhaps for life.

Welcome to Interplay Europe - Festival of Young Playwrights 2016, and to Ljungskile on the west coast of Sweden!

Hosts of next year's Interplay are ASSITEJ Sweden - and Barnteaterakademin (Children's Theatre Academy, based in Gothenburg).



ASSITEJ USA

Registration now open for
New Visions / New Voices 2016

May 6-8th, 2016, at The John F. Kennedy Center
for the Performing Arts

Come join us for this special 25th Anniversary Celebration, featuring rehearsed readings of new works from 6 U.S. companies and 9 international playwrights, as well as inspiring conversations, formal and informal, that celebrate the past, present, and future of Theater for Young Audiences and explore our roles in navigating our fast-changing, interconnected world.



THE KENNEDY CENTER
NEW VISIONS
NEW VOICES

For event details, a preliminary
conference schedule, and our
registration form, visit
www.kennedy-center.org/NVNV16

**Early-Bird Registration Rate
through March 14th**



Articles Section. Knowledge - Experiences - Reflections.

Cuban theatre caravan La Cruzada Teatral on the road again.

Every year in the period of January 28 - March 3 the unique theatre caravan called La Cruzada Teatral presents performing arts for children and family audiences in the most remote areas of the eastern mountains of Cuba. This visit once a year - every time at the same date in the same village or school - creates a very special energy and communication between the performers and the audience.

La Cruzada is also a special platform for international exchange and cooperation, and the Cuban organizers and theatres are every year visited by several actors from abroad presenting their performances.

The 25th anniversary of La Cruzada took place last year, and in this context ASSITEJ Denmark and three Danish performances took part in the caravan. A journalist from Denmark also joined the caravan, and the resulting article was brought in a Danish newspaper. You can read an English translation of the article [right here](#).



Danish dogma theatre in the mountains of Guantánamo

Guantánamo is predominantly known as the location of the infamous American military base, but there are other, more positive sides to this south eastern province of Cuba. Since 1991 a Cuban performing arts caravan has delivered theatre to a region where art is considered a social necessity. In 2015 a number of Danish theatre troupes joined the tour.

By Torben Stig Hansen

[Read more.](#)

