



ASSITEJ

International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People

ASSITEJ Newsletter N°75, May 2016



Introduction

By Stefan Fischer-Fels

Getting ready to be "On the Edge"...

When our colleagues from the UK and Ireland invented "On the Edge" as a motto for the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering in Birmingham, their idea was to create openness, initiate experiments, inspire new approaches and question the things we may feel quite sure about. In just a few weeks' time, we'll have the opportunity to experience a programme full of ideas that are presented on stages and podiums, in talks and workshops and we are looking forward to it.

At the same time millions of people all over the world are fleeing from war and hunger, right wing politics have - again - become popular all over Europe, anonymous capitalism seems to reign in economics ..., and "On the Edge" may have become much more than just a festival motto stimulating artistic exchange across borders. Today, people in Europe feel much closer to the edges of the world they used to know and they experience that Eurocentrism needs to be questioned in many ways.

Theater artists in Germany and elsewhere are asked to take a position. At the same time people, audience and artists alike, may have a feeling of not knowing where to start, what is important, what is secondary and how can we work together to create a world where human rights and democracy, tolerance and respect are possible, where wealth is shared and freedom of speech valued and defended? Let us share ideas! Let us talk about serious issues in the inspiring atmosphere of our "encounters"!

This is not the time for simple answers. It is a time full of complicated discussions about complex issues and the arts and artists cannot withdraw themselves. It is in the arts and in theatre where utopia can flourish, where complexity can become inspiration, where perspectives can be changed, where new world orders can be staged and tested. It is our task to encourage and enable people to ask questions, work together and to dare to give new answers. Being "On the Edge" is an opportunity, but also a responsibility. In TYA we can learn from each other and we can learn from others who have been "On the Edge" before, who have found new ways not only to create theatre, but also to create society. Worldwide.

ASSITEJ NEWS





MOVEMENTS - The exhibition on the history of ASSITEJ now on the Web

The exhibition on the 50th anniversary of the World Association of Theatres for Children and Young People was presented in different places during the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2015 in Berlin.

Now the enlarged edition of the exhibition on the website www.jugendtheater.net pictures the international diversity of the repertoire with a video of posters and photographs from the collection of the Children's and Youth Theatre Centre. A substantial choice of citations describes the development of the discourse during the ASSITEJ World Congresses since 1966 together with illustrations from the past. A passage of the scenic reading reflects the history in the perspective of today's students.

And also voices from the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2015 join in the conversation between history and future.

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Lern more about the ASSITEJ International Archives:

<http://www.kjtz.de/sammlungen/assitej/>

Read the complete text of the press release [HERE](#)

Goodbye for now my beloved friend!

By Dionne Russell

ANN MARIE SHAW known as "Mimi" to her family, Ann passed away at her home in Santa Fe, New Mexico on April 7, 2016 after a long and fulfilling life. Ann was born June 26, 1930 to Clifford M. and Helen Dryden Shaw in Wilsonville, NE. Ann was dedicated to teaching and enriching the lives of children by introducing them to theater. She distinguished herself as a writer, speaker, researcher, consultant, program developer, college and university professor. Her particular interest was in creative or improvisational drama; she consulted with the Institute for Development Studies in Harlem where she trained teachers to use creative drama to help children with special needs, she spent her life as a champion for them.

[Read more.](#)



you on board!

ASSITEJ would like to give a warm welcome to our new members from Bulgaria, **Drama Theatre Targovishte**. It is a pleasure to have

ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2016

ON THE EDGE links hundreds of school children with theatre

As well as welcoming audiences and delegates from around the world, ON THE EDGE is working with thousands of school children from Birmingham and the West Midlands to give them the full flavour of an international theatre festival.

Secondary students from Shenley Academy and Small Heath Schools in Birmingham are coming together to create their own piece of drama inspired by the themes of tolerance and extremism found in **Pim & Theo**.

South Korean company **Brush** are spending time with Year 5 pupils at the Robin Hood Academy to make a curtain-raiser performance at ON THE EDGE, and Peter's Hill Primary School are working with the **Seydou Boro Theatre Company** to explore the ideas found in **Why do hyenas have shorter back legs than front legs and why do monkeys have bare bottoms?** Monkeyshine Theatre are also spending time in Birmingham schools, whilst Theatre Lovett are taking part in online hangouts with a class of pupils before hosting a special meet-and-greet for them on the set of their show during the Festival.

Pupils and teachers at Mayfield Special School are enjoying private performances of **Bliss**, a sensory performance made especially for children and young people with profound and multiple learning disabilities.

A group of young people from all corners of the UK and Ireland are being trained as theatre reviewers ahead of ON THE EDGE, and will present an award to their favourite show at the end of the Festival.

To keep abreast of the latest ON THE EDGE news, visit www.ontheedge2016.com or follow us on Twitter at @OnTheEdge2016



ASSITEJ Networks

International Inclusive Arts Network

In order to follow our programme during *On The Edge* in Birmingham 3 - 9 July and to celebrate **ASSITEJ Inclusivity Year 2016** here's an **Invitation from IIAN** to come and join us at our workshops, discussions and celebrations.



1.- Monday 4th 11.30 - 13.30 **Pop-Up: From the Edge On to the Centre**, an opportunity to share time on a one-to-one basis with a disabled artist, to ask questions and seek information, and from this spend time reflecting on how you can turn this intimate conversation into an art piece which will then form part of the IIAN pop-up exhibition.

We will also discuss ideas for an **IIAN Declaration**. Let's come together to create a bold mission statement about an inclusive future for ASSITEJ, that we can share with the world. Challenging and exciting!

2.- Tuesday 5th 15.00 - 16.30 **Nuts and Bolts** - a training session by a disabled practitioner exploring making arts spaces (be they classes or productions) more accessible to all.

3.- Wednesday 6th 20.00 - 20.45 **A Square World** scratch performance by Daryl

Beeton designed to create debate and analysis about network and international partnership.

4.- Friday 8th 9.00 - 10.15 **Play-writing** from Theatre-in-Education to the present day, with emphasis on plays which are inclusive. What have we learnt from the past? Where are we taking our writing?

5.- Saturday 9th 19.30 **IIAN Declaration** is launched!!

We really look forward to seeing you in Birmingham in July.

Until then,

The IIAN team

www.inclusiveartsnetwork.com

National Centers

ASSITEJ Azerbaijan

ASSITEJ Azerbaijan will take part in four international theater festivals this year



The first festival will be in Trabzon city of Turkey on 2-15th of May.

The next festival will be held on May 21-29, in the Lobnya, Moscow region. We would like to point out that the main purpose of the festival, which has been conducted since 1995, is to enhance the interest of a young audience to rich heritage of classical Russian literature, music and choreography, including the Russian theater art, and use new theater methods in the way of children's upbringing and development.

The third festival which is called "Seating Yard" will be held from May 27 until June 2. A number of theater groups from different countries will participate during the festival which will be held on the eve of the 160 year anniversary of the Orenburg State Drama Theatre named after M. Gorky. The main mission of the festival is to restore and strengthen cooperation in international and regional theaters.

The fourth and last festival will be held in the UK. The invitation was given by UMUD LTD Company.



ASSITEJ Canada

Suzanne Lebeau
2016 GGPAA for Lifetime Artistic
Achievement - Theatre





Suzanne Lebeau, playwright and co-artistic director of Le Carrousel, compagnie de théâtre, is the recipient of the GGPA for Lifetime Artistic Achievement – Theatre, the highest distinction awarded in the performing arts in Canada. The names of the 2016 recipients were revealed this morning (April 14th) by the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation during an event held at Centre Phi in Montréal. Alongside Ms. Lebeau, four other artists received Lifetime Artistic Achievement

Awards in their respective disciplines: Susan Aglukark (Popular Music), Marie Chouinard (Dance), Ben Heppner (Classical Music), Robert Lantos (Film).

Each year, the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards recognize a group of artists and arts volunteers for their outstanding lifetime contribution to Canada's cultural life. The 2016 recipients will be honoured at various events taking place in Ottawa in June, culminating with the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Gala presented at the National Arts Centre on Saturday.

[Read more](#) - [Leer en español](#) - [Lire en français](#)

Ottawa Children's Festival May 10 -15

This year's [Ottawa Children's Festival](#) returns to LeBreton Flats Park and the Canadian War Museum with a diverse lineup of live performances for young people, including the stunning theatrical installation [dotMaze: Get Lost!](#) and live songs and stories by "[Mr. Eric](#)" [Litwin](#), author of the first four *New York Times* Bestselling *Pete the Cat* books. Taking place May 10 - 15, the 31st annual Children's Festival is the only event of its kind within a 500km radius, and offers parents a rare opportunity to share the power and wonder of live performing arts with their little ones.



For more information and tickets please visit ottawachildrensfestival.ca or contact:

[Read more.](#)



The WeeFestival of Theatre and Culture May 16 - 23

Theatre Direct, a leading creator and innovator in theatre for young audiences, has announced the programming for the 2016 WeeFestival. This theatre and culture festival entirely dedicated to engaging children 0 - 5 years will take place May 16-23, 2016 in venues across Toronto, including the Theatre Centre, Tarragon Theatre, and the Artscape Wychwood Barns. Additional free family activities will animate the festival, including the highly anticipated Family Day events on Monday May 23.

Performances at the WeeFestival will feature productions by acclaimed companies specializing in theatre for the very young from Belgium, Scotland, Italy, Germany, Québec, Manitoba and Ontario. Whether for babies and toddlers, preschoolers, or kindergarteners, each show has been created with the emotional and social developmental needs and interests of young children and the shows are presented in intimate venues to ensure every child is close to the action and fully immersed in the experience.

[Read more.](#)





Northern Winds

25-29 May in Hamburg

The Northern German biennial "Hart am Wind" takes place in Hamburg at the Deutsches Schauspielhaus which hosted the International Directors' Seminar in 2008.

The festival celebrates ASSITEJ Germany's 50th anniversary by highlighting the necessity of creating an awareness of TYA at universities and other institutions educating actors, pedagogues, dramaturgs, composers etc.

http://www.schauspielhaus.de/de_DE/hartamwind

Bright View 2016, here we come!

4-12 June 2016 in Stuttgart

Nine ensembles from Europe and Africa, together with nine children and youth theatres from Baden-Württemberg will be coming to Stuttgart to present and discuss their artistic work between the 4th and 12th of June 2016. Enjoy the sun, coffee or even an ice cream and get one of the last festival packages, before the tickets are sold out!

Talks and discussions are set with guests like Ulrich Khuon, Yvette Hardie and Wolfgang Schneider. ASSITEJ members in Germany and elsewhere are asked to send their personal answers to the question "What do we need ASSITEJ for?" to the festival team. These answers will be the basis for an international discussion on how national and international networks can contribute to creating a strong and diverse theatre landscape.

Get more information on the festival and the packages here: www.jes-stuttgart.de



INTERNATIONALER KONGRESS

Happy New Ears - International Congress. Music Theatre for Young Audiences.

20th-22nd November, Mannheim, Germany

What is contemporary music theatre for young audiences? Where do opportunities arise to experiment with the inclusion of listening in a production? Which fruitful interactions with other art forms arise in these opportunities? How can the development of experimental work methods and new performance approaches be nurtured for the future?

All practicing artists active in, and students of, the following fields are invited: composition, libretti, music, singing, direction, dramaturgy, visual art. Equally, colleagues and students of teaching, research, arts communication and promotion who are interested in the development of contemporary music theatre for children are most welcome.

HAPPY NEW EARS - Music Theatre for Young Audiences is an event organised by the National Theatre Mannheim (the European festival) and The Children's and Young People's Theatre Centre in the Federal Republic of Germany (the international congress) and is supported by The German Federal Cultural Foundation (*Kulturstiftung des Bundes*).

Register between 1st July & 10th October 2016

www.happynewears-congress.de



Storytelling. In partnership with the Korean Cultural Centre India, ASSITEJ India has developed three fairy tales from Korea, in collaboration with Korean artists. Delhi-based members of ASSITEJ India are taking these stories to schools in the National Capital Region and are planning to take the stories to other cities as well.

Playwriting Competition. The call for submission of scripts has been issued in collaboration and partnership with the Korean Cultural Centre India. This is another attempt in developing original TYA plays on Indo-Korean connection and producing them.

Master Class by Roberto Frabetti. Inspired by Roberto's works at Bologna's La Baracca, ASSITEJ India wanted him to conduct master classes on Early Years Theatre. We are grateful that he enthusiastically responded to our call. He will conduct two master classes in Kolkata and Mumbai.



ASSITEJ Italy



SEGNALI - Children's Theater Festival 4th - 6th May

This year, with the artistic direction of *Renata Coluccini* and *Stefano Braschi*, *Teatro del Buratto* and *Elsinor* present a new edition of **SEGNALI - Children's Theater Festival**, that will take place from May 4th - May 6th.

Festival Segnali - now at its twenty-seventh edition - is one of the most important and historical events of Italian Youth Theater and it represents a moment of meeting and dialoguing among Production and Distribution Companies in our country.

In the last years *Segnali* has been accomplished and supported by *Teatro del Buratto* and *Elsinor*, thanks to the generous contribution of selected companies.

Information and reservations:

<http://www.teatrodelburatto.it/festivalsegnali>

[Read more.](#)



Once upon a time tomorrow! - Il était une fois demain! Project Italy - France, 4 April - 8 May

Bottega degli Apocrifi was born in 2001 in Bologna. With the political goal of *cultivating the desert*, in May 2004 the company transferred to Manfredonia, and here today hosts international artists.

From Niozelle, a village in the south east of France, to Manfredonia, a town in the south east of Italy. Let's imagine a bridge that shortens the distances.

In a world full of words but increasingly less meaningful, we attempt to restore meaning in things, a sense that goes beyond frontiers, a sense capable of telling a story which holds for everyone, of longing for a future.

Fundamental stages of the project will be:

- Meeting with migrants living in Puglia;
- 3,4,5 May. Workshop for artists and non-artists on the elaboration of a dramaturgy of the experiences;
- 5 -7 May. Presentation of two international plays within the School Theatre Festival "Con gli Occhi Aperti. Anno 12" (With Open Eyes. Year 12): the acting company d'A is delighted to present "Le contes de la chevre" - targeted to families, "Tutti Santi! Tutti Pagani" targeted at adults.

www.bottegadegliapocrifi.it

[Read more.](#)

ASSITEJ Korea

The First Theatre only for children



Jongno Children's Theatre (hereinafter called the Theatre) is the first municipal theatre designed only for children, which is located near Daehak-ro, the theatre district, in Seoul. The theatre features a natural and convenient environment for children with a large lobby and 250 child-sized seats in the venue. The Theatre opened on April 30th.

Mayor of Jongno District nominated Dr. KIM Sookhee, President of ASSITEJ Korea, as Artistic Director of the Theatre to manage the venue and programs with good quality for children. As an opening performance "A Story about Rainbow Island" was presented, which was awarded Playwright Prize in Korea in January, 2016. From the opening performance, KiwooPiwoo Puppetry Festival and the 24th ASSITEJ Korea International Summer Festival will be continued at the Theatre until the end of July.

We believe that the Theatre will function like the New Victory Theatre (New York), Polka Theatre and Unicorn Theatre (London) in Korea by presenting quality pieces all throughout the year.



The 24th ASSITEJ Korea International Summer Festival Delegate package is now open. Save the date!

The 24th ASSITEJ Korea International Summer Festival will be held from July 20-31, 2016. This year, 15 pieces from 10 different countries are scheduled to perform in Daehak-ro for about 20,000 audiences.

The theme of this year's Summer Festival is: "Fear changed into courage!"

The Summer Festival has been focusing on highlighting one country in order to encourage

Korean children to understand various cultures through the performances.

This year, the Festival focuses on France to celebrate 130 years of diplomatic relations between these two countries. The Summer Festival is organized with 4 French performances including "The Cloud", a Korean-French collaborative project, and other activities inspired by French culture.

Everybody can take pleasure in the Summer Festival regardless of age and nationality. It could be also a platform where various international artists and producers meet to build networks and collaborations. The international delegate package is now open. You can check it on the website:

<http://assitejkorea.org/english/info.php>

Please join us and enjoy our Summer Festival in Seoul from July 20 - 31.

ASSITEJ Mexico

A Bridge that Crosses Borders THT's Binational Audience School



To go and see theater in another city may not be "the plan" every Sunday; now, imagine going to see theater in another country. The odds are fewer. However, in the Mexico-United States border of Tijuana-San Diego, a new project has begun that makes this a possibility; even, a reality. This border, known for being one of the most visited in the world, shares territory, economy, customs and now, THEATER.

Tijuana Hace Teatro (THT *Tijuana Does Theatre*) is a Company that integrates programs where new audiences come closer to theater; one of them is *THT's Audience School*, in which a group of 20 people go to the theater for free during a year, and see approximately 50 shows: musicals, drama plays and dance shows targeted to young and older audiences, produced by local, national and international performing arts companies.

Since 2014, after participating in the annual Theatre Communications Group conference in San Diego, five theater companies became a part of Audience School; adding a bi-national phase to the project. This has allowed people and creators from both sides of the border, to get to know the theater that is being made in their neighbor city, better and up closer.

www.tijuanahaceteatro.org

[Read more](#) - [Leer en español](#)

ASSITEJ Netherlands



DUTCH Showcase 1 - 4 September, Amsterdam

Children's theatre in search of new audiences. The city in all its diversity. From September 1-4 ASSITEJ NL organises, in collaboration with Dutch Performing Arts and in the context of TF Jong, a professionals' programme about performing arts for young audiences in all its diversity.

SAVE THE DATE!

Please save 1-4 September 2016 to attend our professionals' programme. We will soon send you more information and a registration form. We hope to welcome you in September in Amsterdam!

CONTACT

If you have any questions about the programme or registration, please contact Kees Blijleven: kees@assitej.nl.

[Read more.](#)



ASSITEJ New Zealand - PAYPA

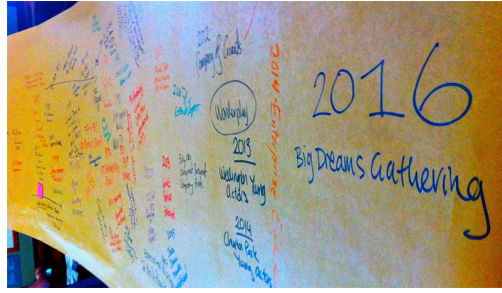


Big Dreams Gathering

PAYPA (Performing Arts and Young People Aotearoa).

This March, thirty-one performing arts practitioners working for children and young people in New Zealand gathered to share some big dreams. We looked back over the story of performing arts and young people in New Zealand so far, and forward to the future - what we most want for young people and our sector of the arts. Together we dreamed of diversity, inclusivity, participation, collaboration, accessibility, a creative world, performing arts valued and well-funded, young people's voices integral and respected, international connections, a

unified sector vision, annual sector gatherings and more.



As a result of the Big Dreams Gathering, our network has fresh momentum, a commitment to work together for change and a new name: **PAYPA - Performing Arts and Young People Aotearoa.**

Please come and visit our website <https://assitejnz.wordpress.com> or, better still, stop by in person. (We're not really so very far away!)

ASSITEJ Norway

SAND Festival Interdisciplinarity in PYA

In the 2016 edition of the SAND Festival we invite you to join us in exploring **Interdisciplinarity in performing arts for young people**. With interdisciplinarity we refer to artistic expressions that explore and experiment with form, space, scenography, movement, technological and medial elements. We want to look into performing arts that challenge genre structures and experiment with multiple artistic forms of expression.

The artistic programme for SAND 2016 will consist of innovative artists and performances which in ground-breaking ways open up the understanding of what performing arts for young people can be and become. Thus providing room for new experiences.

The festival will as usual offer a broad professional programme suitable for international delegates. A wide range of workshops, seminars and talks to engage and include professionals in the field will be on offer. The programme will address issues in the field of interdisciplinary performing arts, and offer in-depth meetings with artists and experts. Participants will be able to actively explore and discuss the subjects at hand, and the professional programme will be relevant for both artists, researchers and students of arts and pedagogy.

We look forward to inviting both audiences and professionals to Kristiansand in September!

sand
kristiansand
15-17 september
2016

assitejnorge

**The complete programme will be
launched in June - stay tuned!**

www.sandfestival.no

[Read more.](#)

ASSITEJ Sweden

ASSITEJ SWEDEN
SCENKONST FÖR BARN OCH UNGA



Bibu

The Performing Arts Biennial for Youth and Swedstage

This year, we give you at least two reasons to visit Sweden in 2016: Bibu - the Performing Arts Biennial for Youth and Swedstage!

Bibu is the largest children and young people festival in the country and gives an excellent overview of the performing arts landscape for youth in Sweden. Bibu takes place in Helsingborg on the western coast of Skåne and right next to its Danish neighbour Helsingør. The presented shows, selected by a jury, together with a range of seminars and forums for discussion, makes Bibu a natural place for analysis and reflection on the quality, status and possibilities of the art forms.

More information: www.bibu.se

[Read more.](#)



Articles Section. Knowledge - Experiences - Reflections.

Inter-disciplinary Arts for Babies and Young Children

By Koleka Putuma

One of the challenges of creating inter-disciplinary work for young audiences is a) how to foreground the language and instrument of the body in a way that is accessible and understandable for the baby and/or young audience, b) finding ways of incorporating that instrument without isolating the young audience member's reception of the work. Another challenge is how to create a cohesive product that fuses sound, materials and the physical landscape in a way that will engage the child without overwhelming or overstimulating them. In other words, for example, how do you baby-whisper at just the right volume and tempo, and with the suitable materials to keep the baby seated and focused for twenty to forty minutes.

These are the kind of questions that were asked repeatedly during the creation process for the following works: ***Ekhaya***, aimed at 3-7 year olds, ***KNOCK!***, aimed at 3-7 year olds and ***SCOOP: Kitchen Play for Moms and Babes***, aimed at 2 week-12 month old babies and their carers.

In 2015 Magnet Theatre, based in Cape Town, South Africa, sought to create new original works for children under seven. The year's repertoire included of ***Ekhaya***, and ***SCOOP: Kitchen Play for Moms and Babes***. Each production underwent a two-week incubation process facilitated by international children's theatre experts, who were sourced through ASSITEJ SA. This was followed by a four-week creation process, and the productions then went on to tour for four weeks. The first two productions: ***Ekhaya***, toured for two weeks in Cape Town and two weeks outside of Cape Town, more specifically Clanwilliam (***Ekhaya***). ***SCOOP***, being the first production made for babies under twelve months in South Africa, only toured locally for four weeks, so as to first establish solid relationships with nearby children's institutions.

Ekhaya, incubated under mentorship from Gabi Dan Droste, explores the notions of home and how children understand their relationship with home. It delves into their understanding of what it means to be at home in various contexts. It utilises appropriate language, song, and imagery constructed by the body and waste boxes. ***Ekhaya*** crafts a whimsical world, where water bubbles appear from boxes and chalk makes the invisible visible through simple drawing. The narrative follows a child who is without a box, which is symbolic for a home, and desires nothing more than to own one. In the end through the help of her friends and through a series of discoveries, her wish is granted. We then follow her relationship with this box (home) and the various activities that take place in and around it. The audience witnesses the protagonist sleeping in her home, doing chores in her home and having friends over in her home. At the end the audience is invited to draw their home. The production is performed in three languages: Isixhosa, Afrikaans and English, to accommodate the range of audiences that it aims to reach.

INCUBATIONS:



Ekhaya

Company orientation into Early Childhood Development Theatre, with Gabi Dan Droste, made possible with support from ASSITEJ SA.

KNOCK!

Created with the input of Barbara Kölling, artistic director of Helios Theatre Company in Germany. With the support of the Goethe-Institut.



SCOOP: Kitchen Play For Moms And Babes

Created with the input of Anna Newell, artistic director of Replay Theater Company in Belfast, Northern Ireland. With the support of the SA-UK Seasons 2014&2015.

Photographer: Mark Wessels

[Read more.](#)

