



ASSITEJ Next Generation Programme 2022

Theatre & Performing Arts for Young Audiences:
Building Collective Resilience (TPAYABCR)

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Written by: ASSITEJ Sweden & ASSITEJ International

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assitej-international.org

www.assitej-international.org
info@assitej-international.org

Secretariat Address:
Nørregade 26, 1st Floor, 1165 Copenhagen, Denmark

Legally Registered Address:
16 Via Matteotti, 40129, Bologna, Italy



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Next Generation residency 2022 report Bibu festival in Helsingborg, Sweden

The Next Generation residency program is an ASSITEJ initiative, designed to support artistic and cultural exchange and collaboration between international artists aged 36 years or below, interested in performing arts for young audiences.



Participants

For the 2022 edition ASSITEJ Sweden and Bibu invited 16 artists, critics, producers, researchers etc. from around the world to attend the Next Generation residency program at the Bibu festival in Helsingborg. Due to difficulties of receiving VISAs, covid 19 related issues and personal matters only 13 participants were able to participate. 3 of them were invited only a few weeks before the festival to substitute the "original" participants not being able to make it. In addition to the 13 participants, 2 alumnis from the former edition in Kristiansand participated. The total amount of participants, alumnis included, was 15.

Crew

The residency crew was constituted by two producers - Linnea Lidberg, ASSITEJ Sweden and Niclas Malmcrona, ASSITEJ Sweden - planning the setup and facilitation. Maja Kihlberg, trainee at Bibu & ASSITEJ Sweden also had a producing role. In addition to them two tutors were hired to provide artistic- and thematic guidance and inspiration. Bengt Andersson, theatre director and board member of ASSITEJ Sweden served as artistic tutor. Vivian Doumpa, Placemaker at STIPO & Placemaking Europé served as a tutor of placemaking. The artistic dance director Lisa Spets was also supposed to join as an artistic tutor but cancelled due to illness.

Themes: Placemaking & Sustainability

For the 2022 Bibu Next Generation Residency the participants worked with Placemaking as a theme. Placemaking is a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of public spaces. Placemaking capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and well-being. During the residency we researched what this can mean to and how it relates to our work within performing arts for children and youth.

The Next Generation theme of placemaking was connected to the overall theme of the festival: sustainability.

Content & task

On behalf of the ASSITEJ International the Next generation participants are assigned a task of creating an artistic presentation for the festival guests in the end of the residency. During the week the participants collaborated to create content to the presentation with guidance from the tutors and inspiration from their assigned workshops and festival performances and seminars. The participants spent approximately 20 hours for this work and 2 hours for their presentation. They experienced 8 performances and 4 festival seminars/activities within their schedule. The entire schedule is to be found in a separate document.

The crew planned for the participants to be divided into four different groups to do four different presentations. In the end, the participants preferred working as one in a big group, doing one presentation divided into 15 different parts/fragments from all the participants. The result was a performance stressing inequalities in society, such as war and the inability for some to receive Visas to join the residency. The public performances were ranging between manifesto, dance, storytelling, exercises, visiting the church doing a "quiet minute" for war victims and planting cardboard flowers in the soil.

Preparations

As hosts of the Next Generation residency program 2022 ASSITEJ Sweden started the communication with the participants (chosen by ASSITEJ International) through mail correspondence in February 2022. ASSITEJ Sweden set up two online meetings with the participants on the 23rd of march & 27th of April, 1 and 2 months before the residency. During the online meetings (~~Google meet~~) the topics was to get to know each other, to give information about the residency and give some time for questions. On the second meeting Vivian Doumpa held a lecture about the theme of placemaking.

Artistic work, workshops and presentation

During the week the participants took part in different workshops led by the tutors. On the first official day of the residency the workshops were mainly focusing on the theme of placemaking and to get to know each other. The crew had chosen the square *Gustav Adolfs torg* as the place to work on, within the theme of placemaking, in advance. On the first day the participants explored the square and its possibilities through different games and exercises initiated by the crew. The theme of placemaking was supposed to serve mainly as an inspiration, the only requirement being that the presentation would take place on the square.

On the second and third day the tutors was focusing on getting the participants to come up with a main idea and trying to connect the theme of placemaking into the performing arts context and background of the participants. This segment was constituted by many hours of group discussions, exercises and an historical exposé of performing arts in public spaces.

Feedback from participants

After the residency the participants received an evaluation form of the residency. All the answers are to be found in a separate (Excel-)document. Summarily the participants enjoyed the festival, the residency and the connections they made with each other but had some critique and suggestions for improvements.

Presentation

Their suggestions particularly regard the task of the presentation. Some of them would prefer to not create a presentation but rather spend time and energy to get to know each other and each other's work more deeply, or to only make this part range for 2-3 days. There was some frustration aimed towards the task, meaning that the result was "amateuristic" or not connected to the theme of placemaking. Some expressed clearer information about the task in forehand so that they could start coming up with ideas to bring. One of the alumnis suggested for the future to tell the participants to prepare a 15 min presentation of their own work for the group (free form: Powerpoint, verbally etc.).

Preparations

Some wished for a longer period of preparations, and some would have liked to receive a list of participants with names, countries and workspace.

Performances

Some expressed a wish to see more performances from the host country, even though they would not be able to understand the verbal part of it. The possibility to translate with subtitles or headphones was also brought up.

Other

Some also asked for a more "proper" introduction between the ASSITEJ Int. and the participants. Some thought that the walking distances between the venues was too long, not being accessible enough. There were also suggestions for the host country to do a budget to provide pocket money for those who can't afford to do "hang outs" off schedule. There were also opinions not to book double rooms in the hostel for the future.

Evaluation from crew

Concept and communication

The biggest issue that was expressed was regarding the presentation. Some wished not to do a presentation at all. From the crew (including ASSITEJ Sweden) point of view; the concept of having a presentation isn't necessarily bad, but rather that the communication regarding the presentation as well as the goals and concepts of the residency could be improved.

Another expressed issue, that is connected to the matter of communication, is the language barriers. Some of the participants didn't really master to communicate in English. Some has manifested the need of interpreters.

Schedule and disposition

There were some opinions about the schedule being too busy. Some wanted to have more performances. From the crew perspective it's hard to meet everyone's wishes regarding this. When we met the alumnis from 2021 they expressed the need for more structure and

not being "left alone" to work too freely. Therefore the crew made sure that there would be a lot of time for workshops with the crew and also providing the ability to see performances. We recommend future residency hosts to be even clearer when giving information about the host countries/place.

Alumni

The crew suggest as alumni for the next residency:

Polina Struzhkova (Russia*)

Tebandeke Joseph, (Uganda)

Sergio Andrés Rincón Jiménez* (Colombia)

Giano Ray C. Potes (Philippines)

Schedule Next Generation Residency

Bibu & ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering May 16 - 22 2022

Blue = Main group work
Green = workshop in groups with tutors
Red = Performance
Yellow = Seminar/other

DAY 1 - Monday 16th of may

All day: Arrivals

Place:

19.00 Drop in get together with food

Dream Luxury Hostel

DAY 2 - Tuesday 17th

09.00-09.30 "Check in"

Rehearsal room (Folkets hus)

09.30 - 11.30 Workshop on the ground, "Place game"

Gustav Adolfs torg

11.30 - 12.30 Lunch

Linnea & Basilika

12.30 - 14.30 Work in pair: "Connecting to the place"

Gustav Adolfs torg

15.00- 15.30 Check out

Gustav Adolfs torg

16.00 -17.00 Opening of the festival

Konserthuset, Stora salen

17.00 - 18.00 Dinner

Redimat

18.00 - 18.50 *Ett frö i rymden*

Stadsteatern, Stora salen

19.30 - 20.05 *Mantis and the bee*

Stadsteatern, Lilla salen

DAY 3 - Wednesday 18th

09.30-10.30 Performing Green

Arenan, Gerda

11.00- 12.00 Tutor workshop on the ground/working in groups

Gustav Adolfs torg

Lunch 12.30

Arenan

14.00-16.00 Main work session

Gustav Adolfs torg/rehearsal room

16.00 - 16.30 Check out	Rehearsal room
17.00-18.00 Next Generation: A way to move forward	Arenan, Gerda
18.30- 19.20 <i>Saltbush</i>	Arenan, B-hallen
19.45 - 20.30 Dinner	Redimat

DAY 4 - Thursday 19th

09.00-09.15 Check in	Rehearsal room
09.15-09.45 Workshop - "knock around"	Rehearsal room
09.30 -11.30 Artistic Encounter ASSITEJ International	Konserthuset, Lilla Salen
12.00 - 13.30 Lunch	Arenan
13.30 -18.00 Main work session	Gustav Adolfs torg/rehearsal room
18.00 -18.15 <i>Saajva The Other World</i>	St:a Maria Kyrka
18.15 - 19.00 Dinner	Redimat
19.00 -20.00 <i>Shel we</i>	Stadsteatern, Stora salen
20.00 - Check out (if needed/optional)	Rehearsal room

DAY 5 - Friday 20th

10.00 - 10.35 Group A: <i>Snö</i> Group B: Knock around	Arenan, B-hallen Rehearsal room
11.00 - 12.45 Lunch	Arenan
Snö 12.45 - 13.20 Group A: Knock around Group B: <i>Snö</i>	Rehearsal room Arenan, B-hallen
13.30 - 17.30 Main work session	Gustav Adolfs torg/rehearsal room
17.30 - 18.00 Check out - Final "knock around"	Gustav Adolfs torg/rehearsal room
18.00-19.00 Dinner	Redimat

DAY 6 - Saturday 21st

09.00 -09.20 Check in/Pep talk with tutors

Gustav Adolfs torg

09.20 - 11.00 Main work/ Rehearse for their performance

Gustav Adolfs torg

12.00- 14.00 Make room for the Next Generation... Presentation of work

Gustav Adolfs torg

(Lunch is catered to the square)

14.30 - 15.30 Discussion with Nordic Baltic Youth

Gustav Adolfs torg

15.30 - 16.30 Summarize & Debriefing

Gustav Adolfs torg

17.00 - 18.00 Dinner

Redimat

18.00 - 19.00 *Moln*

Stadsteatern, Storan

20.00 - late. Festival party!

Tivoli

DAY 7 - Sunday 22nd

11.00 - 11.45 *Mistatim*

Stadsteatern, Lilla salen

Farewell