

ASSITEJ Information

Newsletter 47
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www.assitej.org

From the General Secretariat

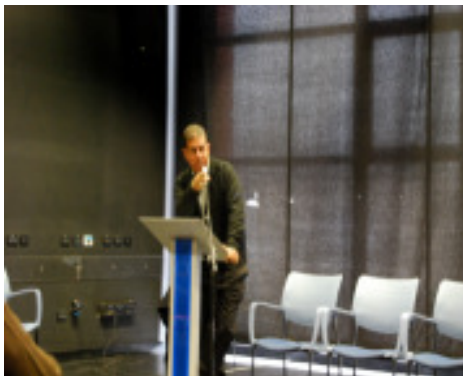
Summarized report from the ASSITEJ International Executive Committee Meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel, January 29 – February 4, 2008

This is a short summary of things discussed in the last ASSITEJ International EC-meeting. The full minutes will be posted on the ASSITEJ International web-site : www.assitej.org.

Present EC-members:

Wolfgang Schneider, Niclas Malmcrona, Klaus Eggert, Yuriko Kobayashi, Cheela Chilala, Tony Mack, María Inés Falconi, Stephan Rabl, Ivica Simic, Katariina Metsälampi, Razi Amitai, Young Ai Choi, Tülin Saglam, Kim Peter Kovac, Paul Harman (deputy), Eckhard Mittelstädt (Counsellor), Claudia Mayer (Executive Assistant).

The EC-meeting in Tel Aviv dealt mainly with the preparations of the World Congress in Adelaide.



Razi Amitai introducing the symposium

President Wolfgang Schneider and Secretary General Niclas Malmcrona reported on their activities since the last EC-meeting in Bursa.

No new membership application had been received.

Treasurer Klaus Eggert reported on the budget and the preliminary

outcome of the accounts up to the General Assembly. Klaus Eggert also reported on the payment rate of the membership fees and the current number of centers with the right to vote in the General Assembly.



At the Israeli Puppet Theatre and Museum

Tony Mack reported on the preparations of the World Congress and various issues were discussed; the festival program, Congress events, registration, travels and accommodations, the Next Generation project and the ITYARN symposium.

The working groups had their last meetings and the work of the past three years will be reported to the General Assembly.

The agenda and schedule of the General assembly were also prepared and discussed.

Two symposiums were organized by ASSITEJ Israel and the Executive Committee at the Mediateque in Holon during the week of the meeting on "Theatre and the Children's Cultural Environment".



Participants in the symposium "Theatre and the Children's Cultural Environment"

The next EC-meeting will take place on May 11th, prior to the General Assembly in Adelaide.

Niclas Malmcrona, Secretary General, February 17th, 2008.



International World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People, March 20th, 2008

Introduction

Toward Globalization for the Theatre for Children and Young People
by Kim Woo Ok

Do it well, but do it differently!
by Prof. Wolfgang Schneider

Introduction

On March 20th, every year since 2001, the World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People has been celebrated all over the world by the international community of theatre practitioners for children and young people.

The main purpose of the World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People is to attract attention of a wider public to the art of theatre for children and young people.

Events during the World Day may be special performances, open rehearsals, lectures, exhibitions, articles in newspapers and magazines etc, etc. Events are primarily organized by national ASSITEJ centers or by theatre companies or theatre organizations.

National centers have full freedom to organize the national events, but make sure to include general information on children and young people's theatre, its history and importance to society and, of course, on ASSITEJ as an international organization.

It is important to inform the press and general media, as well as authorities and governmental bodies about your events.

The following package contains the World Day Message 'Toward Globalization for the Theatre for Children and Young People' written by Kim Woo Ok as well as the letter 'Do it well, but do it differently!' by the president of ASSITEJ International Wolfgang Schneider.

*The information is also available on the ASSITEJ website,
www.assitej.org.*

Please, send information and photos of your planned activities in order to post it on the ASSITEJ International web-site.

Thanks to ASSITEJ Bangladesh who sent us this picture of their World Day Event 2006.

Message for the ASSITEJ World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People March 20th 2008

Toward Globalization for the Theatre for Children and Young People

The Webster's English Dictionary defines globalization as, among others, "greater international cultural exchange". What I intend to stress by quoting the term globalization here is that we should have more active exchange of the theatre for children and young people among nations and regions of the world to lift the theatre movement out of its current state of affairs.

An exchange is premised on the assumption that partners involved have something of more or less equal value to offer. Regrettably, the development of the theatre for children and young people is deplorably uneven from country to country, region to region. Theatre activities are largely concentrated in one or two areas, precluding any plausible attempt to launch a serious program of global exchange.

The situation does not bode well at all for the future of the theatre for children and young people. We must find a way to remedy this imbalance. Only then we will be able to launch a truly global exchange program in the theatre for children and young people.

I hope that the currently less active countries lead the way in this effort. They have a rich field as yet little explored. They could create their own idiosyncratic theatres that would enrich the diversity of the world theatre.

The countries currently more active will equally benefit from the advent of such a rich, diverse theatre. They ought to support the effort in more consistent and systematic ways.

When we reach the goals of global theatre, the greatest beneficiary will be the children and young people of the world. They will be better prepared to deal with the complexity of the world of 21st century thanks to their exposure to the diversity of world cultures. This is globalization in the truest sense of the word for the theatre for children and young people.

Imagine a day when troupes from all corners of the world tour the world, delighting and amazing children and young people everywhere they go with their rich, diverse creations. A distant dream, perhaps, but hardly just a dream.

ASSITEJ celebrates the 43rd anniversary today. I extend my hearty congratulation on its long list of contributions and on its still longer list of achievements to come.

Kim Woo Ok, Performance Director

Kim Woo OK was President of ASSITEJ Korea and founding artistic director of Seoul Performing Arts Festival for Young Audiences. He was Dean, School of Drama, the Korean National University of Arts. He served as an E.C. Member of ASSITEJ International for 14 years from 1991 to 2005 and he is also an awardee of the ASSITEJ International Honorary President's Award.

The President's Letter for the World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People

Do it well, but do it differently!

That sounds interesting, I wonder... According to Theatre for Children and Young People, it's possible to tackle things in a different way.

And now, I ask myself, what could possibly be different? Theatre for young spectators is per se different. It defines itself by its target group, an audience that demands to be taken account of in the artistic process, in the production, distribution and reception.

The themes it tackles don't have to be different from the usual ones seen in theatre for adults. You also don't need to create new theatre forms. And in no way should you be childish or infantile: or even try to do justice to what you think children might like. In other words, you shouldn't regard challenges as being different simply because you're playing to a special audience. So tackling things differently must be meant in another way. Perhaps in the sense of the dictionary I always love to consult when I want to express myself precisely, when individual words are meant to say something, when I need an interpretation about what others might have meant or not. The first thing I read is the following definition: "abandoning an earlier individual characteristic and becoming fundamentally different." But that couldn't have been what was meant by changing things, could it? Doing something in another way than was previously planned or introduced, shaping it in another way, is a further variation of the discourse. Such an action would be remarkable, particularly in our

case where planning plays a very important role, and is even postulated as being programmatic.

Perhaps it has more to do with the variety of meanings inherent in the concept. We should think in a different way! Not produce theatre from a literary basis, not make theatre dependent on the school curriculum, not reduce theatre to plays with a cast of one!

Or maybe we should present our shows in another form of language? Theatre shot through with breathtaking choreography, theatre as a complex system of codes, or even inspirational theatre from abroad! Or should we make "being different" the basis for our work? Theatre based on article 1 of the Declaration of Human Rights: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" – does this hold true for all people in the first, second and third world?! Theatre about intercultural dialogues, about national core cultures, about the things we have in common, about differences and how we master these challenges in our everyday life – or not?! Theatre that understands itself as society in dialogue with itself, and therefore talks about finding identities in a period of globalisation. How much different do we have to be? When we are confronted by people who think and believe in different ways, when we meet other people with different characteristics, who are the reverse of what we are, or have completely different opinions.

Cultural diversity is the theme being discussed at the moment by UNESCO. The Convention on the "Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions" came into power almost exactly one year ago, on the 18th of March 2007: it must however be lived out, it has to get to people and, for this reason be reflected in the theatre.

Children and young people know exactly what "tackling things in a different way" means. They have set out on their path through life and this will certainly not be straight ahead non-stop. They'll be forced to find their way out of dead ends, clear hurdles and make detours. Time and time again they will have to think and try out alternatives. Doing things another way could become a principle in life. The theatre can show that, the theatre can en-courage its audiences to be open to that, everything can be done differently in the theatre. In this sense, on the occasion of World Children's Theatre Day 2008, I should like to leave you all – artists, children and not least cultural politicians – with the following wish. Do it well, but do it differently!

Professor Dr. Wolfgang Schneider, President of the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People

Friends of ASSITEJ



This initiative is about making a personal commitment to assisting the work of ASSITEJ International and ensuring its future. □□ We all know that the world is changing. Sources of funding are becoming harder to find and we can no longer count on the major financial backing that we have relied upon for decades. ASSITEJ urgently needs to find new ways of gaining financial support in order to survive. □□ Because the strength of ASSITEJ lies with its practitioners, we have decided that our first fundraising initiative should be with individuals. Becoming a Friend of ASSITEJ is a practical and tangible way of showing your support for the organization that has brought so much to so many artists, children and young people all over the world. □□ As a Friend of ASSITEJ you will be part of an international community of theatre practitioners for children and young people. □□ As a Friend of ASSITEJ you will receive:

- information about the ASSITEJ International activities
- a copy of the ASSITEJ Book (published bi-annually)
- a unique ASSITEJ Friend's pin (bronze, silver or gold)
- listing on the ASSITEJ web-site as a "Friend of ASSITEJ"
- an invitation to attend an ASSITEJ Friend's event at ASSITEJ World Congresses □

Most importantly, you will become a key player in helping this vital organisation to continue. □□ To become a Friend of ASSITEJ, your annual contribution will be USD 100 (bronze), or the equivalent in other currencies. Other options are USD 250 (silver) for three years, or USD 500 (gold) for life. □□ Please apply to the ASSITEJ General Secretariat and you will be contacted. □

The current list of Friends of ASSITEJ holds the following names:

Gold (life)

Niclas Malmcrona	Sweden
Harold R Oaks	USA
Vicky Ireland	United Kingdom
Marina Guo	China
Michael Ramløse	Denmark
Wolfgang Schneider	Germany
Stephan Rabl	Austria
Peter Manscher	Denmark
Nat Eek	USA
Ann Shaw	USA
Yuriko Kobayashi	Japan

Silver (3 years)

Bronze (1 year)

Katariina Metsälampi	Finland
Tony Mack	Australia
Kim Peter Kovac	USA
Claudia Mayer	Sweden
Klaus Eggert	Denmark
Anette Eggert	Denmark
Felicia Moritz Malmcrona	Sweden
Philip Hardy	Ireland

The Friends of ASSITEJ will be invited to a special Friend lunch during the World Congress in Adelaide on Sunday, May 11th.

Invitations will be sent personally to all listed Friends by the time of the Congress.

ASSITEJ International Festival Designations

Visiono di Futuro – Visioni de Teatro. Festival di Teatro e Cultura per la prima Infanzia, Bologna, Italy, March 3rd - 9th, 2008. More information: www.testoniragazzi.it

International Children's Theatre Festival CARAVANEN, touring festival in West Zealand, Denmark, August 28 – September 11, 2008. More information: Michael Ramløse - michael@fairplay.dk

Belfast Children 's Festival, Belfast, Northern Ireland, May 23 – June 1, 2008.

More information: www.belfastchildrensfestival.com

Bursa Çocuk ve Gençlik Tiyatrolari Festivali (Bursa International Theatre Festival for Children and Young People), Bursa, Turkey, October 13 - 18, 2008. More Information: assitejturkiye@yahoo.com

Advertisement Website

After the big success of the Advertisement in the ASSITEJ Book 2006/2007 the Secretariat wants to open the website of ASSITEJ International for advertisement.

This is the chance for you to have a greater and visual presence of your centre, festival or event for theatre for children and young people on our website. Your advertisement will be online for 2 months.

We can offer four different sizes:

Whole Ad 600 US \$

Half Ad 400 US \$

Quarter Ad 250 US \$

Eighth Ad 125 US \$

If you are interested please contact the General Secretariat:

Sec.gen@assitej.org

Theatre for Children and Young People Festival Guide 2008

The Secretariat is going to update the Festival Guide. The fill-in-form is available on <http://www.assitej.org/contactg.htm>. The information will be printed in the 2008 edition of ASSITEJ Festival Guide in March 2008 and updated frequently so you can download the latest version online all the time.

Catalogue of Scripts

The Secretariat is going to update also the Catalogue of Scripts. If you want to submit information please get in contact with the General Secretariat:

Sec.gen@assitej.org.

FROM THE CENTERS

ARMENIA

Festivals:

HIGH FEST International Performing Arts Festival (in the framework of HIGH FEST there is International Children and Puppet Festival) 2-12 October, Yerevan, Armenia

BELGIUM

Other things of interest:

World day: Public Reading (the 8 scripts of the assitej web catalogue) and presentation of the new volumes of our collection 'Theater for Young people': "Tête à claques" de Jean Lambert et "Où est passé Mozart?" d'Ariane Buhbinder. Le 20 mars 2008 Théâtre de la Montagne magique info@ctej.be

CROATIA

Festivals:

Theatre Epicentre Playwrights Forum will take place in Zagreb, Croatia, and Mostar, Bosnia and Hercegovina, April 22-27, 2008, in the occasion, and as a part of the celebration of the 55th anniversary of Puppet Theatre Mostar in organization of Theatre Epicentre, Göthe Institute Zagreb, Göthe Institute Sarajevo and Puppet Theatre Mostar.

After very successful meeting and the Conference on regional cooperation in Cakovec, Croatia, October 2007, Playwrights Forum will be the first independent event organized by Theatre Epicentre outside Croatia, and separated from any other projects and festivals. This important project will be also the real opportunity to gather together all the theater makers from the region again and complete the process of establishing the Network of theatres and artists that we started Cakovec.

PROGRAM PLAYWRIGHTS FORUM Zagreb 22.04/Mostar 23-27 of April

The program of the Forum will have four parts:

1. Promotion of the book of translations of some German plays for children and young people, presentation of the authors and their work, with the tribune (round table) on contemporary German playwrights and theatre for young audiences. (The names of the authors will be announced later)

2. Presentation of playwrights (5-6) from the region of Southeastern Europe (to be announced as well. If you have a proposal for the playwright that you would like to suggest for the Forum, do not hesitate to do it!!!)
3. Symposium "The conflict is over! What now?!" - Theatre for young audiences in the post war time. What might be the role of theatre for young audiences in the region now?*
4. Constitutional Assembly of Theatre Epicentre Network

All the questions regarding the event, letters of interest, as well as your registration to the Forum please send to Ivica Simic: isimi@inet.hr or to the office of Epicentre info@theatre-epicentre.org

Seminars, workshops:

September 2007:

National survey about activities of companies in artistic training and artistic education at school.

Newsletter ATEJ:

Depending on the news, publication of electronic newsletters.

Regional meetings of companies:

Regional meetings proposed to companies' managers.

February / March 2008:

General Assembly and professional symposium.

Other things of interest:

Index: "Théâtre en France pour jeunes spectateurs" . Published in 1957, this index will be available for companies on the web site www.atej.net in its new version in January 2008

DENMARK

Festival:

More than 130 Danish productions (and 2 international), a total of more than 500 presentations during the period April 6-13 in Naestved. Tickets free of charge. Platform meeting on the subject "Next Generation". A delegate package can be obtained at www.festival2008.dk



Other things of interest:

Collaboration project Denmark/Burkina Faso

A new collaboration project between ASSITEJ Denmark and Burkina Faso is being established. In 2007 a Danish company played in the streets of Ouagadougou and a workshop for children was carried through. In 2008 an ASSITEJ centre will be established and an exchange program will be planned: Visits to the Danish festival, workshops in BF and Denmark - and a story-teller festival in Denmark in 2009.

FINLAND

Festivals:

Bravo! International Theatre Festival for Children and Young People, March 9 - 16, 2008, Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Finland.

The Bravo! Festival - arranged for the fifth time this year - continues the introduction to international theater provision for children and the young in Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa. The six famous international theater groups in the repertoire in 2008 come from Quebec, Hungary, Germany, France and Denmark, and offer altogether 39 performances; wordless, yet rich in figurative expression. The themes of the presentations focus on friendship, shared memories and experiences.

The main performance is given by the Quebecois-French-Italian group Cargo. This sea-scented performance that combines puppet, shadow and object theater with live music is targeted at the entire family. Story of the Girl in a Blue Dress by the Hungarian Ciróka Bábszínház Theater leads the audience to the fascinating world of Picasso's paintings. From Germany come two performances for the smaller children: Earth, Stick and Stone by Helios Theater and What Does Red Do on Thursday? by Thalías Kompagnons. Those - especially teenagers and adults - who are fans of action and the nutty should definitely see Diva by the Danish Sofie Krog. The French Théâtre d'Illusia brings a delicacy seldom seen in Finland: water puppet theater. The Small Story About Boats is told from a water tank, weighing almost 500 kilos, where the puppets are moved on top of bamboo sticks in the water. The method is traditional, technically demanding, and originates in Vietnam.

As in previous years, the Bravo! Festival is produced by Finnish Assitej Centre in cooperation with the culture departments of Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa. This year the following parties are also involved, to

strengthen the cooperation: the French Cultural Centre, Goethe-Institut Finland, Hungarian Cultural and Scientific Centre Helsinki, Quebec Government Office, London, as well as the Embassy of Canada.

The festival celebrates the EU theme year of inter-cultural dialog with the help of cooperation between children's theaters. Program: www.bravofinland.org, Further information: www.bravofinland.org

Lotta Nevalainen-Tomášek
Festival Director 2008
e-mail: lotta.nevalainen@assitejfi.org
tel. +358 44 086 6355

FRANCE

Festival:

A great number of festivals will take place in France in 2008. A list of French festivals is available by E-mail (contact@atej.net)

Seminars, workshops:

Newsletter ATEJ (available on our web site):

Depending on the news, publication of electronic newsletters.

January 2008

Findings of the national survey about activities of companies in artistic training and artistic education at school.

February 2008

Findings of the study about the place of theatre in cultural programming for young audiences.

Regional meetings of companies:

Regional meetings proposed to companies' managers.

February / March 2008:

General Assembly and professional symposium.

Other things of interest:

Index: "Théâtre en France pour jeunes spectateurs"

Published since 1957, this index will be available for companies on the web site www.atej.net in its new version in July 2008

GERMANY

Festival:

Panoptikum

13. – 18. February 2008 Children's theatre from Bavaria and Europe Again, Festival Panoptikum has invited guests from all over the world to come to Nürnberg and enjoy plurality and internationality in productions, audience and discussions. This year, a congress about drama and pedagogy is part of the festival.

www.festival-panoptikum.de

Hart am Wind

1. Norddeutsches Kinder- und Jugendtheater Festival

23. February - 1. March 2008

For the first time, everyone interested in theatre for young audiences is invited to come to Northern Germany and check out what there is on offer!

www.staatstheater.oldenburg.de

KAAS & KAPPES

10. Niederländisch-Deutsches Kinder- und Jugendtheaterfestival

5. - 9. March 2008 in Duisburg

Already for the 10th time Kaas & Kappes will celebrate Dutch-German friendship and foster exchange among all involved in theatre for children and young people.

www.kaasundkappes

Starke Stücke 2008

International Festival of Children's and Youth Theatre in the Rhein-Main region around Frankfurt

23. - 30. April 2008 im Rhein-Main Gebiet

www.starke-stuecke.net

Schöne Aussicht

31. May - 8. June 2008 in Stuttgart

Once again, the world is invited to come to Stuttgart and meet in the delightful atmosphere of „Schöne Aussicht“.

www.jes-stuttgart.de

Other things of interest:

Wolfgang Schneider: "School and theatre are a dream team", but support is needed to develop and improve structures and models, enhance dialogue and exchange

From January 17 to 18 ASSITEJ Germany invited to a congress to discuss developments and perspectives of "Theatre and School". Existing co-operations and programs were just as important as cultural policies, financial support, questions of structure and visions for the

future. Around 160 guests and participants were joined in lively discussion with representatives of all political parties and experts from various fields, from drama to teacher training and media research. Guests from the Netherlands added an international perspective and contributed ideas and experiences from the neighboring country. The project "Theater und Schule " continues throughout 2008 and keeps striving towards a better integration and reciprocal inspiration of both institutions.

www.theaterundschule.net
theaterundschule@kjtz.de

Exchange: Premières Rencontres – International Expert Exchange - Paris, France, March 30- April 4, 2008

A group of experts from Germany will have the chance to visit Paris and meet their French counterparts in theatre for very small children from the age of two. More information can be found here:
www.theatervonanfangen.de

IRAN

Festivals:

The 26th International Fajr Theater Festival was hold from 6th to 16th of February , 2008. Some groups from Iran & other countries participated in different sections. Because of the subject of the International section of this year festival (East Theater – Traditional plays) , a few countries from this area of the world were been invited as excellent guests for example China , Indonesia , Vietnam and Singapore . An International seminar on " The Contemporary theater- the contemporary criticism " a hold , in which the president of " The Global theater critics Institute " from England and the vice president of this institute branch in France gave a lecture. A well known theater group from Berlin had a performance named ' Brave Mother & Her Children " lthe university students practical & theoretical capacities potentially and actually . These activities will be printed and issued in a newsletter .

The 12 Tehran International Puppet Show Festival " Mobarak "

will be hold in August 2008 . the topic is free but the works on the national culture of countries would have been preferred. The main sections of the festival are stage theater and open plays .In order to promote puppet plays , identify talents and encourage writers , a play writing competition will be hold during the festival. There is no limitation to present a few texts but just one work of every director would be performed other texts can attend in playwrighting competition in case of the writers' agreement. The International

section of the festival is emulously, and the successful performances in this section will be supported. The selected plays in playwrighting competition will be printed and financially supported. Deadline is February 2008 and CD + DVD sending deadline is March 2008.

The 11th National and International University Theater Festival will be held in two different dates (National section in the early of January 2008 & International one from 26th of April to 3rd of May 2008). The organizer is the Ministry of sciences, researches & Information Technology. Reading play text competition will be held in 3 sections and make an opportunity for the winner to produce his / her work for the public performance .

The 5th Razavi National Theater Festival was held on different aspects of the life and methods of Imam Reza (peace be upon him) in 11-16 of Nov. 2007 in 2 provinces of Iran. The Festival had 3 sections, stage- play texts and Tázieh (a religious & ritual play of Iran)

The 14th International Children Theater Festival was held from 28 to 31st of October 2007, in Isfahan.

118 productions from Iran and abroad participated in competition section the play "The Cow" the Theater Center of KANOON won 3 awards. Alongside, Davood Kianian, The Children Theater writer and director was been appreciated and dedicated the Festival Image and a photo collection of the some plays from Switzerland, India, England, The Netherlands, Italy were been presented.

The 3rd Biannual International The Disabled Children Theater Festival, "Mehraaein" was held in 11-15 December 2007, in Tehran. The organizer is The State Welfare Organization in Cooperation with KANOON.

There were some performances from Uganda, Sweden, Armenia, Poland and Iraq.

The 4th National (Theater Festival "Theater Mah" was held in two sections Stage & Street Theater) in December 2007. For the first time a foreign referee Mr. Granz attended as a member of the board of juries in order to make the stranger critics familiar with this festival and make it International in future.

The 6th National Children Theater Festival was held by KANOON from Nov. 22nd to Dec. 1st 2007, with the aim of finding theater youth talents, and helping people to solve their parish-pump difficulties not world problems. This kind of theater tries all people to cooperate to

solve their small difficulties such as shortage of school and welfare requirements etc..

The 10th International University Students Puppet Show Festival was held in December 7-15, 2007. Some theater groups from Russia, England, Italy, China & Indonesia. Alongside, there was an exhibition of Traditional play puppets from throughout the world among them 50 puppets from Indonesia were been shown.

Other News of Interest:

The plays "Aleker" and "Romeo & Juliet" selected plays in Sinaia Romania. The International University Theater Festival Sinaia in an announcement had notified every director throughout the world can produce the above mentioned plays based on their own ritual and traditional play customs and attend at the festival.

Kiumars Moradi the director of these two plays took part at the festival in which they were been selected.

The 5th Holly defense Theater Assembly was held in 3 workshop forms: play wrighting, directing & acting, research and theater criticism in December 2007 in which 90 theater artists took part.

A performance in India "The Girl & The Soldier" play was performed in the 8th International Children Theater Festival, 2007, India The distinction reason for being selected this play was because of its creation in scene and Stage designing. This play had been selected in the last international children theater festival. "The Girl & The Soldier" play would have been formally invited to attend in the next year festival.

3 plays in the 5th International Festival in Kosovo, Serbia. The play "The Last Royal Smile of the Moon" directing by Roozbeh Naseri, The play "The Situation" by Payam Azizi (selected plays in 10th University International Theater Festival of Iran) and The play "Escape to the Moon" from Bandarabbas University attended. Payam Azizi won the best directing award for his work "The Situation".

IRELAND

Festival:

ASSITEJ Ireland is planning its first 'gathering' of Theatre for Children & Young People in Oct 2008.

Showcase – TYA will provide a unique opportunity to bring together producers and presenters of Theatre for Children & Young People to

share work, examine practice and methodologies and challenge/develop the best theatre work for children and young people throughout Ireland. For further information contact Philip Hardy assitej.ireland@barnstorm.ie

Other things of interest:

Barnstorm Theatre Company presents National Tour of *THE BUS* by Maeve Ingholsby & Philip Hardy A play for children aged 7+ and their families:

"The social world of a child is a minefield of shifting allegiances, uncertain loyalties, sudden hostilities, unspoken rules, pranks and casual cruelties. Fitting in is a challenge, especially when you're just ten years old and starting at a new school."

This is a high-energy, physical ensemble piece with seven actors playing multiple roles. As always with Barnstorm, although the play specifically reflects the child's world, its universal theme makes it relevant to all ages. Barnstorm Theatre Company, Church Lane, Kilkenny, Ireland, Phone/Fax: +353 56 7751266 e-mail: info@barnstorm.ie web: www.barnstorm.ie

TEAM Educational Theatre Company presents *Jumping On My Shadow* By Peter Rumney, A story of exile, refugee, family ties & finding a place in the world

TEAM Educational Company is delighted to present Peter Rumney's award winning play to 70 Primary schools around the country (from Feb – June). As Ireland's longest established Theatre-in-Education Company TEAM has earned national acclaim over the last thirty-two years working within the primary and post primary system.

Jumping on My Shadow, with a multicultural cast, explores the experiences of the exile and refugee and deals with family ties, personal growth and finding a place in the world, encouraging children, teachers and parents to discuss and explore these themes and issues.

Get Real, By Carmel Winters in collaboration with TEAM; Interactive Web-Based Drama In The Development Of Safe On-Line Profiling For Young People - Autumn 2008

Get Real is an interactive drama using web-based technology for post primary students aged 15 – 18yrs. *Get Real* will be presented in a series of 5 x 10 minute episodes in class and students will complete exercises related to the drama in an on-line environment. The

objective of this program is to guide young people in the creation of their own **safe on-line profile**.

TEAM Educational Theatre Company, 4 Marlborough Place, Dublin 1, Ireland, T: +353 1 878 6108 F: +353 1 874 8989, E: generalmanager@teamtheatre.ie W: www.teamtheatre.ie

The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children

Already underway at The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children is the world premiere of *Beware of the Storybook Wolves*, adapted for stage by Tom Swift from the book by Lauren Child.

This stage version has all the mischievous charm of the original book as director Jo Mangan brings her exuberant and playful style to this energetic and funny show which will delight fans of Lauren Child's wonderful story. Until Sunday 16 March. Ages 6+

Coming up in April The Ark will take part in Dublin Dance Festival with two exciting international pieces - *Überraschung (Surprise)* from Vienna for children ages 3+ and *Droomschetsen (Dreamsketch)* from Amsterdam for children ages 8+, as well as Glitterbird, a seminar focusing on art for the very young.

For more information please see www.ark.ie / call +353 1 6707788 / The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children, 11a Eustace Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2.

ITALY

Festival:

GIOCCATEATRO TORINO, 4-21 April

"GIOCCATEATRO Torino", the theater event born in Turin – the cradle of theatrical animation – is by now an inevitable appointment for adults and young people, for teachers and cultural operators from throughout Italy and abroad.

The international theater Festival for new generations, "GIOCCATEATRO Torino", is an initiative promoted and organized by Fondazione Teatro Ragazzi e Giovani onlus and by the Theater Companies of the Teatro Ragazzi e Giovani Piemonte Project, with the collaboration of Turin and its Culture Center – Centro Studi Teatro Ragazzi "G.R. Morteo". The Festival is supported by the Piedmont Regional Authority and by the City of Turin, with the help of Sistema Teatro Torino.

Compared to the past, with edition 2008 "GIOCCATEATRO Torino" is expanding further in terms of the length and supply of a qualified choice of plays from Italy and abroad.

CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

CASA DEL TEATRO RAGAZZI E GIOVANI – LARGE HALL

Fri. 4, Sat. 5 April – at 9.00 p.m.; Sun. 6 April – at 4.30 p.m.
Tues. 8, Wed. 9, Thurs. 10, Mon. 14, Tues. 15 April – 10.00 a.m.
Fri. 11, Sat. 12 April – at 9.00 p.m.; Sun. 13 April – at 4.30 p.m.
Wed. 16 April – at 9.00 p.m.
GRUND – *National première*
Fondazione TRG onlus

CASA DEL TEATRO RAGAZZI E GIOVANI – SMALL HALL

Fri. 11, Sat. 12 April – at 9.00 p.m.; Sun. 13 April – at 3.00 p.m. and
4.30 p.m.
Wed. 16 April – at 2.30 p.m. and 7.15 p.m.
LOUPIOTES
Balabik Troupe

CASA DEL TEATRO RAGAZZI E GIOVANI – SMALL HALL

Mon. 14, Tues. 15 April – 10.30 a.m.
Thurs. 17 April – at 7.15 p.m.
Fri. 18, Sat. 19 April – at 9.00 p.m.; Sun. 20 April – at 4.30 p.m.
FAVOLOSOFIA
Fondazione TRG onlus

TEATRO AGNELLI

Wed. 16 April – at 10.30 a.m.
L'ALBERO DI ANNA
Assemblea Teatro

CASA DEL TEATRO RAGAZZI E GIOVANI – WORKSHOPS

Wed. 16 April – at 2.30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Thurs. 17 April – 11.30 a.m., 6.30 p.m., 7.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.
MORTE DI MINOTAURO
ReplicanteTeatro

TEATRO AGNELLI

Wed. 16 April – at 4.00 p.m.
ALI' BABA'
Teatrino dell'Erba Matta

TEATRO ARALDO

Wed. 16 April – at 5.30 p.m.
UNA STRADA NEL BOSCO

ScarlattineTeatro

CASA DEL TEATRO RAGAZZI E GIOVANI – SMALL HALL

Thurs. 17 April – at 9.30 a.m and 11.30 a.m.

LE FIABE ILLUMINATE

Envers Teatro

CASA DEL TEATRO RAGAZZI E GIOVANI – LARGE HALL

Thurs. 17 April – at 10.15 a.m.

CIBI FANTASTICI

Stilema/Unoteatro

CAVALL. MANICA CORTA

Thurs. 17 April – at 3.00 p.m.

NON DIRLO A NESSUNO

Teatrodistinto

TEATRO ARALDO

Thurs. 17 April – at 4.30 p.m.

NELLA CENERE

I Teatrini

PIAZZA OLIMPICA

Thurs. 17 April – at 6.00 p.m.

SCALETTE MOBILI

T.Urbano - Onda Teatro

CASA DEL TEATRO RAGAZZI E GIOVANI – LARGE HALL

Thurs. 21 April – at 9.00 p.m.

GRANDE FINALE

Batida

CASA DEL TEATRO RAGAZZI E GIOVANI – LARGE HALL

Fri. 18 April – at 9.00 p.m.

Fri. 18, Sat. 19 April – Ore 9.00 p.m.; Sun. 20 April – at 4.30 p.m.

BIANCANEVE

Teatro del Carretto

CASA DEL TEATRO RAGAZZI E GIOVANI – OUTDOORS ARENA

Thurs. 21 April – at 9.00 p.m.

GRANDE FINALE

Batida

KOREA

Festival:

AssiFe 2008 (The 16th Seoul Performing Arts Festival for Young Audiences) July 26- August 3, 2008/ Seoul. The AssiFe (former "Seoul Performing Arts Festival for Young Audiences") has been held annually since 1993. This festival offers high quality productions both domestically and internationally. 3~4 productions from abroad and 4 productions awarded at The Seoul Children's Theatre Awards will be presented this year.

Other things of interest:

International Residence Program, October 1- December 28, 2008/ Gyeonggi-do province

With the grant supported by The Arts Council Korea, ASSITEJ Korea will organize the International Residence Program in Gyeonggi-do province. The participants will be invited from various Asian countries, and collaborate to create a new theatre piece with the theme of "Dragon," which is the common literary subject in many Asian countries. During three months, they will have meaningful opportunity to experience various Korean traditional performing arts and Asian cultures as well. The collaborative piece will be presented at The 5th ASSITEJ Korea Winter Festival. Afterwards, additional domestic and international tours will be fully encouraged.

MEXICO

Festival:

1ST Intercontinental Theatre Festival for Children and Young People for the Identity and Cultural Rescue
20 – 27 March 2009 Mexico City, MEXICO

Seminars, Workshops:

2nd International Colloquium of Theatre for Children and young People, 28 of March 2008. National University of Mexico, Mexico City, MEXICO

SOUTH AFRICA

Festivals:

Ikhwezi Theatre Festival – **Cape Town (Baxter Theatre), March 2008 – The Ikhwezi Theatre Festival will be celebrating 10 years of existence in a three-week bumper, national festival, with nine plays coming from outside of the Western Cape. The festival focuses on community and youth theatre groups. The International Day of Theatre for Children and Young People will**

be celebrated on March 20th as a feature of this festival.

National Arts Festival - Grahamstown, June/July 2008 - The National Arts festival hosts a Children's festival annually, as well as inviting extensive national and international participation.

Out the Box festival - Cape Town, September 2008 - an international festival of puppets, masks and visual performance developed by Unima South Africa, a partner of Assitej SA, which promotes the art of puppetry and its use in professional, outreach, educational and childrens' theatre.

For more information on these and other Assitej-related projects, contact Yvette Hardie, at yvette@hardie.co.za

SRI LANKA

Festivals:

Colombo Theatre Festival For Young Audiences, August 2008

Colombo Theatre Festival For Young Audiences was started in 2006 April to mark the 25th anniversary of LCYTF. It was a two-day theatre festival. Kaushalya Fernando's "*Sanda Langa Maranaya*" (the Sinhala version of Garcia Lorca's *Blood Wedding*) and three original short plays were presented to the festival. One of the short plays is an outcome of the script writing workshop conducted by LCYTF in 2005. The festival was expanded to four days in 2007 and plans are underway to make the festival an annual event. The theme of the festival is theatre for education and reconciliation. The main objective is to provide young theatre directors a recognized platform to showcase their productions. In 2007 four youth plays (two originals and two translations); "*Vikurthi*" (*Distortion*) by Somalatha Subasinghe, "*Sanda Langa Maranaya*" (*Blood Wedding*) by Kaushalya Fernando, "*Asinamali*" (*Nothing to Lose*) by Pujitha de Mel and "*Me Heeneta Namak Denna*" (*Name This Dream*) by Priyantha Kaluaarachchi; were staged for the festival. All these productions are national award winning pieces with deep-insights into the socio-cultural issues. Plans are already under way to make this festival the most looked forward to in August in the future by adding a few new categories such as theatre for children, short plays by young directors and plays from the South Asian Region. This in turn will make Colombo a significant location for showcasing high quality theatre productions with meaningful entertainment in the South Asian region.

In August 2008 the festival will be held for six days. There will be plays for children and youth and short plays by young theatre directors.

Children's Theatre Festival

The children theatre festival is the annual theatre festival exclusively for children organized by LCYTF during school vacation in December. Plans are under way to host a three day theatre festival and theatre productions of LCYTF will be staged during the festival.

Seminars and workshops:

Creative Activities for Children Program (CAC-Prog). Workshops for primary school teachers to use creative activities in teaching. Workshop for school teachers to produce children's theatre in Schools. Actor's training workshop

Description:

Children from ages four to fourteen can take part in the CAC_Prog. The prime objective of the program is to develop child's mental and physical aspects and to enhance artistic taste, cheerfulness and playful sense of the child through aesthetic experiences. Therefore this program can be considered as an extracurricular learning that supplements the formal education the child obtains in school. The program gives the child the opportunity to learn the basics of enjoying and appreciating music, free movement, dance and rhythmic movement, acting and language, art, singing, puppetry and handwork. The duration of the program is nine months and each year in June program commences.

The objective of the Workshops for primary school teachers is to provide primary school teachers with the opportunity to experiment creative methods of teaching with a view to make to both teaching and learning a joyful exercise. The program is a residential one and the duration is four days during December school vacation. The program is conducted once a year.

The objective of the Workshop for school teachers is to provide school teachers with an opportunity to learn and experiment to do theatre with school children. The program is a residential one and the duration is four days during August and December school vacation. The program is conducted twice a year.

The Actor's training workshop entails all round training such as acting, script writing, directing, movement and vocal training, as well as

training with practical application in designing stage sets and props, costume designing, designing stage lighting, training in stage management and sound effects. Over 25 years LCYTF has produced numerous talented and experienced professional artistes who are at present engaged in the work of both theatre and film industry.

Other things of interest:

Short plays on women issues by LCYTF
LCYTO becomes LCYTF

Description:

From 2005 LCYTF has initiated work to write and produce short plays on women issues in Sri Lanka in Collaboration with NGOs which are working to uplift the condition of women. So far LCYTF has produced two short plays on women issues and the third one is on the way. It will be staged in March 2008. LCYTF has initiated the momentum in this regard and many organizations have shown their interest to actively join hands with LCYTF to educate women through creative work.

Lanka Children's and Youth Theatre Organization (LCYTO) or better known as Play House-Kotte was first established in 1981 as a voluntary organization by Mrs. Somalatha Subasinghe, the veteran playwright and theatre director, under the laws of Sri Lanka with a view to further the cause of children's theatre in Sri Lanka. It was also meant to fill the vacuum of the necessity of a drama institution in the country. LCYTO recruits young men and women with high school qualifications solely on the strength of their commitment to theatre. They are sent through a systematic course of training in drama and theatre arts along with training in the traditional drama and dance forms of Sri Lanka.

Over the years LCYTO has become the only one of its kind in Sri Lanka, which produces mainly musical plays for children and youth, with professional actors, and it has also emerged as one of the leading sources of training centers for performing artistes particularly in children's theatre. The high standards set and maintained by LCYTO in their productions has opened avenues for the professional theatre group to perform and participate in many international children's and youth theatre Festivals and conferences in many different parts of the world. LCYTO was conferred the "Bunka Award" presented by the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka for the Best achievement in Performing Arts in 1997.

LCYTO was incorporated in the Parliament of Sri Lanka under Lanka Children's and Youth Theatre Foundation Act no. 3 of 2007 on 29th January 2007. Thus LCYTO became LCYTF.

SWEDEN

Festival:

Bibu.se - National Performing Arts, May 21 - 24, Lund, Sweden (Biennial) This National and International Performing Arts Festival will showcase about 25 productions from Sweden and from Denmark, Austria, France, Poland, South Africa, Rwanda and Holland. More information available on: www.bibu.se or ASSITEJ Sweden

Seminars, Workshops: About 30 seminars, discussion, master classes and workshops are organized during the festival.

UNITED STATES

Festival:

NEW VISIONS/NEW VOICES 2008: The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announces its tenth New Visions/New Voices festival to be held Friday, April 25 - Sunday, April 27, 2008 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. The biennial festival is an intensive workshop that presents rehearsed readings of plays and musicals to theater professionals, educators and others interested in the field.

After first opening its doors internationally in 2006, the upcoming event will include three theater companies from outside the United States. The 2008 festival will feature theater companies specializing in theater for young audiences from Bloomington, IN; Cambridge, MA; Chicago, IL; San Francisco, CA; Adelaide, Australia; London, England; and Toronto, Canada. Following each of the rehearsed readings, there will be half-hour long discussions open to festival participants led by a moderator.

Including this year, the festival will have assisted in the development of 73 new plays from 51 theater companies in 29 states, with five international companies from three other countries, from 63 playwrights, 32 composers and 67 directors. For more information on the New Visions/New Voices 2008 festival, please email us at: kctya@kennedy-center.org

This season's festival will highlight readings of the following new works, listed alphabetically by playwright:

The Happiest Happiness Medicine Show will be presented by Patch Theatre Company from Adelaide, Australia. Directed by Dave Brown

Dani Girl, by playwright Christopher Dimond and composer Michael Kooman will be presented by American Conservatory Theatre from San Francisco, CA. Directed by John Carrafa

The Monster Under The Bed was written by Kevin Dyer and will be presented by London's Polka Theatre. Directed by Richard Shannon.

Nocturnal, by Ramon Esquivel, will be directed by Richard Perez in collaboration with Bloomington Playwrights Project from Bloomington IN.

The Judgment Of Bett, by playwright R.N. Sandberg, will be presented by American Repertory Theatre from Cambridge, MA and will be directed by Scott Zigler.

Katrina: The Girl Who Wanted Her Name Back was written by Jason Tremblay and will be presented by Adventure Stage Chicago from Chicago, IL. Directed by Tom Arvetis

Pobby And Dingan was written by playwright Paula Wing after the book by Ben Rice and will be presented by the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People from Toronto, Canada. Directed by Stewart Arnott.

Dead-line for submitting information for the Newsletter, no 48 is June 1st, 2008