

ASSITEJ INFORMATION



Newsletter 36
May 2004

www.assitej.org

This Newsletter is also posted on <www.assitej.org>
All ASSITEJ centres are free to copy this guide at will

FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

○ The next Executive Committee Meeting will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, September 2 - 7. If your centre wants to put an item on the agenda, please contact the General Secretariat.

○ The minutes from the last EC-meeting in Amman, Jordan, will shortly be sent to all ASSITEJ centres and they will also be posted on <www.assitej.org>.

○ During the EC-meeting in Cape Town a seminar on "*The transforming of books for children and young readers into theatre*" will be organised in cooperation with IBBY (International Board of Books for Young People) as IBBY holds its Congress in Cape Town in the same time.

○ A regional African ASSITEJ-meeting with participants from Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Botswana, South Africa, Mauritius and Namibia will also be held in connection with the EC-meeting in Cape Town.

○ Information about the ASSITEJ Congress in Montréal, Canada, next September can be found on <www.montreal-2005.com>.

○ The General Secretariat will partly be closed from July 6 to August 22 due to summer vacations in Sweden.

○ Help for Iraq
On behalf of the Executive Committee of ASSITEJ, the General Secretariat invites all to join in a very meaningful international effort.

In late September of 2003, the ASSITEJ Executive Committee discussed the situation in Iraq.

The committee discussed our strong feeling that we as an organization needed to do something, and the suggestion was made that there was a wonderful gesture we could make in the meantime - **collect money for for future benefit of children and children ´s theatre in Iraq**. The EC enthusiastically embraced this idea, and we are proceeding.

ASSITEJ International will collect money to be used in two areas:

- 1. Providing Arabic language books and art supplies to the children of Iraq.**
- 2. Equipment and workshops and such for the theatre artists in Iraq.**

In April the Executive Committee met in Amman and also discussed this matter. A committee was set up with Niclas Malmcrona (Sweden), Kim Peter Kovac (USA), Jeremy Turner (United Kingdom) and Lina Attel (Jordan) to handle the efforts to help Iraq.

Once the monies are collected, they will be used in cooperation with head of ASSITEJ Jordan, Lina Attel, who will supervise the project. ASSITEJ Jordan has contacts with UNESCO and other relief agencies working in Iraq but with offices in Amman, and will arrange for books and equipment to be shipped and distributed

Additionally, the General Secretariat has opened a bank account for these funds, separate from ASSITEJ International, and has arranged for an auditor.

We want to invite all national centres to join in this worthy endeavor, and we ask that this request be forwarded on to the individual members in your countries.

Even what may seem to be a small gift will, when combined with the efforts of colleagues all over the world, mean a great deal to the many children who will benefit from this effort.

All contributions - both individual and

organizational - will be recognized and honored in a special section on the ASSITEJ web site.

So far contributions have been received from Denmark, Korea and Sweden.

Additional information about the Help for Iraq project can be found on www.assitej.org where you also will find information about bank account and fill-in-forms to facilitate the payment.

○ The *World Cultural Forum* is organised in Sao Paulo, June 27 - July 4, by Rede Brazil in cooperation with the city of Sao Paulo, the Cultural Ministry of Brazil and others. Many topics will be discussed during the Forum:

- Culture and Social development
- Identity and Autonomy
- Cultural diversity
- Culture and economy

The *World Cultural Forum* has decided to set aside special day for theatre for children and young people. The day will be organised by ASSITEJ International in cooperation with the *World Cultural Forum*. ASSITEJ International has invited theatre practitioners from mainly Latinamerica to the *Forum*. The *Forum* will cover costs of hotel and accomodation.

The *World Cultural Forum* gives an ideal possibility to discuss matters important to us - theatre for children and young people, the development of ASSITEJ in Latinamerica as well as more general cultural matters.

New ASSITEJ International Annual 2002/2003

The new ASSITEJ International Annual 2002/2003, can be purchased through the ASSITEJ web-site: www.assitej.org.

For a full address-list to all ASSITEJ centres, visit www.assitej.org

Designation of "ASSITEJ International Project"



"Welcome to the European Union"
A Network for Children's and Young People's Theatre at The Children's and Young People's Theatre Festival "Triangel".
From 10 to 13 June 2004 in Konstanz, Germany
More information: assitej@kjtz.de

Designation of "ASSITEJ International Festival"



Bank of Scotland Children's International Theatre Festival, Scotland, May 25th - June 2nd, 2004.

More information: www.imaginate.org.uk

Seoul Performing Arts Festival for Young Audiences including The Asian Theatre Festival for Young Audiences, Seoul, Korea, July 17th - 25th, 2004.
More inf: assitej@unitel.co.kr

See also www.assitej.org for more information.

FROM THE CENTRES

BENIN

Festival FUTEJ / ZOGBODO, 15 au 20 Decembre 2004 au Centre Culturel Français de Cotonou.

Seminars, workshops:
Conférence débat sur le thème "Quel théâtre pour les enfants", 18 Décembre 2004 au Quartier Général de FUTEJ / ZOGBODO (Carré 21 centre chaslie-théâtre).

BRASIL

8º Festival Nacional de Teatro Infantil de Blumenau (8º National Festival of Theatre for Children), 19 a 27 Agosto de 2004 / Blumenau - SC - Brasil

Brasil, cont.



Brasil, cont:

Seminars, workshops:

3º Seminário Nacional de Teatro para Infância e Juventude - Tema: "Teatro: para que serve?" (3º Nacional Seminar of Theatre for Children and Young People, with the thema: "Theatre: for what?"), May 2005 / Rio de Janeiro

More info: <cbtij@cbtij.org.br> or <www.cbtij.org.br>.

CAMEROON

Festival Africain de Théâtre pour l'Énfance et la Jeunesse - African Theatre festival for Children and Young People, November 9 - 14, Yaoundé

"Puppets" by Théâtre de la Poubriere, Switzerland, "The Actor" by Ueli Bischel, Switzerland, "New plays and dramaturgy in children's theatre" by Jutta Stark, artistic director of Junges Theater, Kontanz, Germany.

Discussions: "Theatre and school: in harmony or contradiction", "Theatre in Africa: luxury or necessity".

All this during the festival!

More info: <theatrechoco@comic.com>

DENMARK

Horsens Children's Theatre Festival, September 17-19, 2004, Horsens Community.

ASSITEJ Denmark has pre-booked a couple of hotel-rooms and tickets for international guests. Please make a quick reservation as the number of rooms and tickets are limited.

More info: <www.boerneteteaterfestival.horsens.dk> (in Danish) or for assistance: ASSITEJ Denmark: <info@assitej.dk> or Horsens Community: <kulw@horsens.dk>.

Other things of interest:

The Danish Children's Theatre festival in April has become a true meeting-place for international observers and festival organisers (this year nearly 100 observers from 26 countries and regions). This often results in a strong network and a lot of international tours for the Danish theatre companies.

In order to prove a strong international engagement to the Danish government (and thus hope for better support), ASSITEJ Denmark has made a statistics in relation to international tours during the period 1999-2003.

It shows that more than 30 Danish children theatre companies have visited more than 40 different countries and self-governing regions and presented more than 900 shows (50 different performances) at more than 70 tours abroad.

For full information, take a look at www.assitej.dk

FINLAND

International Puppet Theatre Festival, May 10 - 15, Tampere

International Children's Theatre Festival, May 11 - 16, Kuusankoski, Finland

Seminar:
Adulthood role models in Art and Education for Children, May 11 in Kuusankoski.

More info: info@assitejfi.org.fi

GERMANY

Spurensuche 7, June 10-15, Marienbad

More info: Theater im Marienbad, info@marienbad.org

Triangel 2004 - 4. Internationales Kinder- und Jugendtheaterfestival in der Bodenseeregion - International Children and Young People's Theatre Festival in the Bodensee region

More info: junges-theater@stadt.konstanz.

Schoenes Aussicht ("Bright Views"), June 18 - 27, Stuttgart

22 performances from children's and youth theatre companies from Belgium, Czech, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland and from the German State of Baden-Wuerttemberg, social events to meet colleagues, fringe program researching and discussing methods and means of producing theatre for young audiences.

More info: festival@jes-stuttgart.de or www.jes-stuttgart.de .

Conference:
"Welcome to the European Union" - A Network for Children's and Young People's Theatre

ASSITEJ INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

From 10 to 13 June 2004, Konstanz

The European Union is growing and from now on many countries belong to it, which already have an ASSITEJ Center and a wide landscape of Children's and Young People's Theatre. Also we co-operated in the past already, the membership in the European Union is a new step in our field including new tasks, new possibilities and new challenges.

At this conference is the space to discuss future co-operations and perspectives of a European network within the worldwide framework of ASSITEJ International. It is a possibility to share experiences of past co-operation and talk about structural possibilities for the development of the European Children's and Young People's Theatre.

The conference will be chaired by ASSITEJ-President Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Schneider and hosted by the outstanding festival "Triangel" held by Junges Theater Konstanz directed by Jutta Staerk. Triangel is a co-operation between Konstanz in Germany, St. Gallen in Switzerland and Bregenz in Austria all situated around the beautiful "Bodensee" (Lake Konstanz).

The conference is open for people who are interested in the field and will be organized by ASSITEJ Germany. Participants will come from Austria, Cyprus, Estonia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland.

More info: Eckhard Mittelstädt (ASSITEJ Germany): <e.mittelstaedt@kjtz.de>

Other things of interest:

Next International Director's Seminar is going to be held in Stuttgart from June 21st to June 26th 2005. Further information is going to be send out in early autumn 2004.

ICELAND

Iceland has new e-mail address: <assitej@assitej.is> and a new web-site: <www.assitej.is>.

IRAN

Children and Young Adults Playwright Competition, May 2004, Tehran

Children's Cultural and Arts Festival, Spring 2004, Tehran

New plays:

- in Kanoon
- 1. Josef from Canaan
- 2. Pumpkin Daughter
- 3. The magic Pipes
- 4. The Florist Girl
- 5. The Hunter and the Bird
- in Eshragh Cultural Centre
- 1. A Jungle of Hopes
- 2. The Box of Puppets
- 3. The Kindness Fairy
- 4. Space Creatures

Workshops:

Performances of plays every day in Bam-Kerman in which a terrible earthquake ruined everything three months ago in order to decrease children's sadness and give them back happiness.

Performance of puppet plays every week.

Children's periodical theatre educational classes and courses.

More info: <theater@jamejam.net>

Iranian traditional games and children's theatre by *Chista Yasrebi*

The Iranian children's theatre has undergone a number of changes in the recent past.

One of the most important changes is using Iranian traditional games in theatreplays. The director of children's theatre creates a happy atmosphere through these games where children can practice the expected social manner and learn the necessary skills for social life.

These traditional games takes various forms depending on the geographical and cultural variety, however they have all something in common: that is they make use of the most common daily things to help children learn a deep meaning of life in its very representations.

Most of these games, focusing on the child's imagination, make use of such simple things, as a piece of cloth, string, elastic, pebbles, and so on... Although, in the past, myths and folkloric tales formed themes of children's plays, nowadays, these are the games which have the principal role in the active participation of the audience in the Iranian children's plays.

These games involve the child actively in the story and its conclusion. It is the essence of these games to entertain the child and in the same time to put him in a position to face the logical consequences of his own choice and to learn how to feel responsible for his acts.

In the street plays which are performed by children in various parts of Tehran, children play such games as "Hide and seek", "the Teacher-Student Game", "the Mother-Child Game", "the Wolf attacking the flock", through which they learn the rules of social life and the urban culture. These experiences are cheerful for them. For example, in the "Theatre-Student game", children practice educational rules in a symbolic way; in the "Mother-Child game", they are acquainted with the concept of a sound family and the relation between its members. In the game "Everybody minds

their own business” a child plays the role of the head of a group. The head, by using pantomime movement assigns a job to each of the children. Then he performs one of the jobs; everybody must imitate him; everybody but the one who must perform the head’s job and if he fails, for instance, does his own job instead, he loses and will be penal tied. All through the game, the head repeats ”Everybody minds his own business”. Through this game, children get acquainted with different social professions; they learn to be responsible and careful. It also prepares them for social life and choice of a suitable profession.

In the recent past, various theatre groups have performed these games in the parks with child audience.

The important point in such game based plays is the enthusiasm of the children to follow the theatre games. This way, the group can produce a positive effect on the children’s informal education. It can also produce a cheerful, entertaining atmosphere. This is the very definition for children’s theatre. An atmosphere which children feel and experience a happy life. Through this new experience, they add to their knowledge and skills necessary for their future lives.

NORWAY

Den Norske Barne- og Ungdomsteater-festivalen - The Norwegian Children and Young people’s Theatre Festival, 20 - 24.10, Kristiansand

More info: <info@assitej.no> or <www.assitej.no>.

MOÇAMBIQUE

Workshop:

A playwright workshop with Swedish playwrights Jonna Nordenskiöld and Marie Persson-Hedenius with participants from Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Botswana, South Africa, Mauritius and Namibia, June 1 - 7, Maputo.

Organised by ASSITEJ Moçambique, Sweden and the General Secretariat.

More info: <pepa@emilmoz.com> or <info@assitej.se.org>.

POLAND

VIII International Festival of Theatres for Children and Youth ”Korczak 2004”, 13 - 18 September 2004, Warsaw

”KORCZAK 2004” is the eighth International Festival of Theatres for Children and Young People organised in Warsaw (annually since the year 2000).

”KORCZAK 2004” is:

- spectacles of theatres from abroad,
- spectacles of Polish theatres awarded by the Attesting Chapter,
- spectacles of Warsaw theatres,
- spectacles of children and young people theatre groups,
- the Winners-Only National Competition for Young Playwrights ”Looking for the Polish Shakespeare”
- ceremony of giving the Jan Dorman Award to the best creator in the field of theatre for children and young people,
- conferring Attests on Polish theatres, Certificates of the Highest Quality and Artistic Standard for the most interesting spectacles.

The Festival is directed to children and young people, parents, teachers, pedagogues, drama specialists, journalists, critics, playwrights, the inhabitants of Warsaw and environs, foreign visitors.

Seminars, workshops:

The ”Looking for the Polish Shakespeare” - Contest for Young Playwrights

The Polish Centre of ASSITEJ is the main organizer of the Contest for Young Playwrights

”Looking for the Polish Shakespeare”. The Competition already has a long tradition, as it has been organized every two years since 1984. It is intended for children and

young people aged between 12 and 21. The winners of the Contest take part in drama camps and workshops conducted by outstanding playwrights, theatre directors or actors. Particularly important is the constant contact with the young laureates. Some of their plays were published in an art volume in 1997 and others appeared in the theatrical monthly "Dialog". Many of the distinguished playwrights also participate in the international drama workshops "Interplay". In 2004 has been lasting the X edition of the Competition. The deadline was 30th of March. At the moment the art scripts are being read by the jury. The result and handing awards will take place on 13-18 of September during The International Festival of Theatres for Children and Young People "KORCZAK 2004".

Other things of interest:
The "Young Translators" Competition, June, 2004, Warsaw

Polish Center of ASSITEJ came out with the new idea - first edition of "Young Translators" Competition, addressed to 16-21 - year old - teenagers, who are living permanently abroad and speak fluently Polish as well as language of country of living. The main task of this project is to create group - young translators of Polish literature who has Polish origin. We would like them to become promoters and translators of Polish modern dramaturgy, poetry and literature in near future. The objective of the competition is also to cooperate with young Polish who live in different countries, emphasizing European Union countries and countries of Eastern Europe.

Young translator is supposed to translate 2 episodes of literature - from Polish into language of country of living or - from the language of country of living into Polish. The deadline was 1st of May, the result of the competition will take place on 1st of June. So far we received 30 translations. The jury of the Competition is made up of

famous translators of Polish and foreign literacy as well as people of theatre and art. They are led by Maciej Wojtyszko, vice-president of Polish ASSITEJ. The patronage of the project is Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture and TV "Polonia".

RUSSIA

International Festival of Performances for Children and Young People - On the Threshold of Youth, April 17 - 23, Ryazan

The festival is organized on the basis of Ryazan State Theatre for Children and Youth, one of the oldest theatres in Russia founded in 1937. The objectives of the festival are to unite theatre and educational organizations efforts in order to bring up teenagers and show the most interesting theatre performances made for them, to find out the new tendencies at the theatres for children and youth - both esthetical and thematical and to help artists to realize them for the further development of the performing arts. This Year theatres from St. Petersburg, Minsk, Yaroslavl, Elista, Nizhni Novgorod, Oryol, Ulyanovsk, Vologda and others will present their latest productions at the festival.

More info: Ryazan State Theatre for Children and Youth, tel: +7 912 275237, fax: +7 912 275238.

The RAINBOW International Theatre Festival International Festival, May 1-7, St. Petersburg

A very rich program of the festival includes not only everyday performances on the large and small stages of the TJUZ, but also seminars of writers and directors, "round table" for theatre managers, daily discussions of performances by leading Moscow and St. Petersburg critics, regular publications of festival newspaper. Notwithstanding great differences between the works presented during the annual festival, performances are always

connected with each other by a common theme, "A Modern Teen-play". (Traditional backgrounds of the performances of the RAINBOW festival are plays of modern authors and adaptation of world classics).

What is the difference between a theatre for children and a theatre for adults. In what tongue should we talk to the teens - in a "teenage" tongue, which is close to them, or in "out-of-age" tongue of high classics? How can one catch attention of the audience - with the help of an up-to-date problem, recognizable modern types or by immersion into spheres of clear spirit, into the circle of emotions that are similar for adults and children? Should there be a special teen-repertoire and what is - a play for children? How does current theatre correlate with live, emotional and culture experience of a modern teenager?

The questions are still staying open. The fifth festival RAINBOW will try to find the answers.

More info: <spb-tuz@mail.ru>

Seminars:

Seminars on Contemporary European Dramaturgy, April 22 - 24, Ekaterinburg

The seminars will be held in Ekaterinburg for the fourth time. The initiative of the event belongs to Ekaterinburg Theatre for Youth and Information Network "The Real Theatre". This year the Seminar will be held on April 22-24.

The annual Seminar aims to present the most recent plays from CIS, Baltic countries and Europe to Russian theatre professionals working in the regions. The Seminar attains to fill the gap that Russia experiences with information about European dramaturgy. In the same way very few contemporary foreign plays are now staged in Russian theatres especially in the regions. And the Seminar tries to resolve this problem by challenging Russian directors and inspiring them to work with contemporary plays. Therefore only the

most recent plays or ones that have just been translated and have not been previously staged in Russia are selected for the seminar.

In that respect the organizing committee of the seminar constantly seeks for collaboration with Cultural Centers in CIS, Baltic Countries and Europe.

More info: <tuz@mail.lacerta.ru>

Workshop for Young Directors "Young Directing and Professional Theatre, October , Ekaterinburg

"Young Directing and Professional Theatre" is a week Workshop for Young Directors initiated by Ekaterinburg Theatre for Youth and Information Network "The Real Theatre" The aim of this Workshop is not only to develop the skills of young directors but also to create an atmosphere where young directors and graduates can meet with directors of regional theatres in order to make contacts, start collaboration and therefore bring new directing into provincial theatres and solve the problem of young directors' unemployment. This year Workshops will be held in October. 10 graduates from Moscow GITIS will be invited to come to Ekaterinburg Theatre for Young Spectators where within a period of 4 days they will create a small work with actors from this theatre and then present this work to theatre directors. The presentation will be followed by discussions that will reveal aesthetic and unique style of the young directors as well as an interest of a particular regional theatre for their work.

More info: <tuz@mail.lacerta.ru>

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• To find out about the 2005
• World ASSITEJ Congress:
• Go to: <www.montreal-2005.com>
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SINGAPORE

**KIDSFEST, Singapore Arts Festival 2004,
May 29 to June 2, Singapore**

Jointly presented by National Arts Council & ACT 3 International. A special event for children ages 4 to 14 giving both visual and performing arts experiences and exposure from Singapore, Canada, Australia and USA.

More info:

<act3int@act3international.com.sg>

SRI LANKA

Annual Children's and Youth Theatre Festival, 6th, 7th, and 8th August 2004, Colombo

Seminars, workshops:

The Creative Activities for Children Programme (CAC-Prog) conducted by LCYTO commences its sessions for the year 2004/05 in May 2004. Applications are called and the response is very encouraging. The CAC-Prog is designed as a supplementary learning to the formal school education. In Sri Lanka formal school education system is more examination and result oriented and as a consequence children tend to acquire more technical skills. The attention on subjects that develop humane qualities in the child is little or none. The CAC-Prog's prime objective is to fill this gap through an array of aesthetic activities for children. The programme offers children meaningful entertainment with a view to impart them sense of caring, world awareness, experience in human relationship and socio-cultural values, a sense of basic art forms and more importantly confidence and dignity. The programme is conducted by Mrs. Somalatha Subasinghe, with her trained staff members such as Dr. Chandana Aluthge, Namal Jayasinghe, Prasanna Mahagamage, Wishwajith Gunasekera, Sanjaya Hettiarachchi, and Chamila Peries.

Commences on 15th May 2004 at Tamil Women Union Hall in Colombo.

Other things of interest:

(1) LCYTO presented its latest children's theatre production "Walas Pawula" (adaptation of Goldilocks and Three Bears) in December 2003. It was a huge success. Certain theatre critiques have reviewed the play as a landmark production in the recent history of Sri Lankan theatre. The play was written by Mrs. Somalatha Subasinghe, The President, ASSITEJ Sri Lanka, and the director/choreographer of the play is Dr. Chandana Aluthge, one of the senior theatre students groomed at Lanka Children's and Youth Theatre Organisation headed by Mrs. Somalatha Subasinghe.

After the premier performance in Colombo, there have been a number of performances in different parts of the country.

(2) Ms. Kaushalya Fernando, one of the senior members of LCYTO and a highly acclaimed actress on stage, television and screen in Sri Lanka, is going to direct Garcia Lorca's "Blood Wedding" with LCYTO actors. The play is scheduled to go on boards in December this year. Kaushalya who had won unparallel 5 times Best Theatre Actress award in Sri Lanka is going to venture into theatre direction as a part of her Master level studies in Drama and Theatre.

ZIMBABWE

**2nd International Festival,
December 1 - 5, Harare**

International festival with seminars on December 1st to 4th and with excursions to the Lion and Cheetah Park in Lake Chivero and to the Chipungu Sculpture Park on December 5th.

More info: <zatcyp@mango.zw>.