

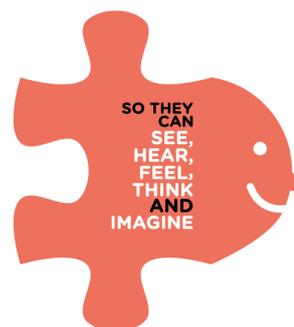


## International Organisation for Children's Theatre Launches World Day Campaign - March 20th

**ASSITEJ** (*French acronym - Association Internationale du Theatre pour les Enfants et la Jeunesse*) is the only global association of its kind connecting thousands of theatre makers, artists, educators and producers dedicated to theatre for children and the cultural entitlement of children. It has National Centres in more than 80 countries across the world, and 5 professional networks with members spanning almost 100 countries. In recent years, ASSITEJ has been working on becoming a more open and inclusive association. From this perspective and underpinning the work of IIAN, we join the commemoration of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was adopted in 2006 at the United Nations, then opened for signature and support in 2007 and entered into force in 2008. ASSITEJ encourages all its members to consider how to make their work more inclusive of all artists and all audiences.

**March 20th is ASSITEJ World Day of Theatre for children and is celebrated world wide through the campaign 'take a child to the theatre'**

### TAKE A CHILD TO THE THEATRE



This year, a message has been written by Jenny Sealey, Artistic Director of Graeae Theatre Company and co-director of the 2012 London Paralympics, in addition to a message written by President of ASSITEJ Yvette Hardie from South Africa.

**Jenny Sealey, Artistic Director of Graeae Theatre Company and co-director of the 2012 London Paralympics says;**

# press release

\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\*

I get increasingly frustrated that the importance of creating work for and with and by young people is still not fully recognized and funded. It breaks my heart knowing that many disabled children are not deemed worthy of an education in many many countries, BUT my travels around the world are a reminder that the passion of those of you who drive this work means that we will not have a world without theatre and that theatre is an education to a life.

## **ASSITEJ President Yvette Hardie says:**

It is five years since we started the #Takeachildtothetheatretoday campaign, which is celebrated in many places around the globe on and around the *World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People*, 20<sup>th</sup> March. This campaign has offered ASSITEJ members a strong space for advocacy, and with the campaign has come many compelling reasons, contained in messages, speeches and articles, arguing for why children and young people should be exposed to theatre.

## **Read the full world day messages here -**

<http://www.assitej-international.org/en/the-world-day-of-theatre/>

## **See the promotional World Day 2016 film from Nigeria here -**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avV194losao&feature=youtu.be>

## **Examples of Activity across the world;**

**ASSITEJ Argentina** will celebrate with the ATINA Award Ceremony on March 30<sup>th</sup>

**ASSITEJ Azerbaijan** will have a "Performances parade" at the Azerbaijan State Theater of Young Spectators on March 18-25.

**ASSITEJ Finland** will give out the first ASSITEJ prize in Finland on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**ASSITEJ France** organizes an instant playwriting game, "1 day, 1 play"

**ASSITEJ Germany** will have a festival in nine different theatres throughout the city of Augsburg from March 6-20.

**ASSITEJ Iran** will celebrate with the Mobile Theater Caravan of KANOON.

**ASSITEJ Kenya** will invite schools for different activities such as workshops, seminars, puppetry, story telling and contemporary dance.

**ASSITEJ Mexico** will organise its annual theatre marathon, which will host over 25 shows with free entrance throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> of March.

# *press release*

\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\*

**ASSITEJ South Africa** members across the country are preparing to celebrate World Theatre Day by supporting children and young people to see theatre through free and discounted performances, festivals and workshops.

**ASSITEJ Switzerland** invites children from financially and socially weak relations to the theatre with their program “Robin Hood”.

Ends

For further information, interviews or images contact Nina Hajianni, Chair of Communications on +44 7802874489 or email [nina@assitej-international.org](mailto:nina@assitej-international.org) or Marisa Gimenez Cacho, Secretary General on (52) (55) 10 00 46 22 ext.1331 or [sg@assitej-international.org](mailto:sg@assitej-international.org)

<http://www.assitej-international.org>

[www.facebook.com/Assitej.International](http://www.facebook.com/Assitej.International)

<https://twitter.com/ASSITEJ>