



Regional Workshop ASSITEJ – Colonia del Sacramento – URUGUAY

(December 5th-10th 2016)

Daniel H Fernández (ASSITEJ International Executive Committee Member)

The first thing I must do is express my great joy for being able to collaborate with Gabriel Macció Pastorini, coordinator of ASSITEJ Uruguay, in the first Regional Workshop; and for sharing a week of exchanging ideas with two highly qualified workshop coordinators, María Inés Falconi and Leandro Kees, and with 25 other professionals from the region, theatre workers from Uruguay, Brasil, Chile, Venezuela, Spain and Argentina.

I strongly believe that these are essential actions for the development of Theatre for Children and Young People, both in this region and in the world.

Meeting with different professionals from the region in this kind of workshops makes it possible not only to add the necessary tools that allow us to think about Theatre for Children and Youth as a transforming artistic fact with its own themes and rules, but it also inevitably creates, in the most powerful way that I know, interchange networks between all the members. In my opinion, and according to the work ASSITEJ has been doing, these networks are crucial for the development of Theatre for Children and Young People.

Being able to multiply these actions in our region is our biggest challenge in making a better Theatre for Children and Youth.

LOCATION

The city of Colonia in itself, and the *Casa de la Cultura* (Culture House) in particular, as the specific site for the workshop, was fantastic. There was an overall sensation amongst the participants that the location's calmness boosted the work. Both areas used specifically for the workshops were suitable and functional.

The breakfast, lunch and dinner areas were adequate. The accommodation posed, perhaps, the greater difficulty of the entire workshop, since the original space was inadequate. But after the organization's quick handling of the situation, it was successfully resolved by the second day.

ORGANIZATION

I would like to highlight Gabriel Macció Pastorini's, ASSITEJ Uruguay coordinator, fieldwork. He, along with Andrés Valledor's collaboration, made each day possible, by being really attentive to details and resolving any upcoming situations. The *Casa de la Cultura* crew was also willing at all times, particularly Eduardo Grosso and Lorena Rochon.



The calling was not entirely clear about the possibility to entry in only one of the workshops. This was evidenced both in the beginning of the workshops, and in the participants' evaluations.

WORKSHOPS

María Inés Falconi and Leandro Kees were great coordinators to the proposed activities. I, who had the possibility to walk around and see the different workshops, could appreciate a dedication and enthusiasm from all the participants which can only be achieved by great coordination. As regarding the members' evaluations, they all showed both the acquired tools, as well as the group harmony accomplished by each one of them.

The participants' diversity boosted the interchange. Young makers, theatre teachers, and more experienced professionals in Theatre for Children and Youth, worked together for 5 days. There were 14 participants from Uruguay, 5 from Argentina, 2 from Chile, 2 from Venezuela, one from Brazil and one from Spain. At the final discussion, all the participants expressed having acquired new tools to continue developing their activities. The exchange of experiences between the participants at the end of the day was very positive, and enabled the encounter between all the members.

Daniel H Fernández

ASSITEJ International Executive Committee

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