



News March 2010

Brilliant Networks!

All sorts of new networks are springing up. All over the world. Even networks of networks. *What does that tell us about the old ones - like ASSITEJ?*

The ASSITEJ regional networks of East Asia, Nordic-Baltic, Ibero-America, and Africa are booming. Established national centres are joining together and new ones are being formed as people are eager to take part in international projects and exchanges.

The Asian Festival Network linking Seoul, Okinawa, Taipei and Osaka, has been a remarkable recent stimulus to exchange and development. The **African Centres** are growing in number and despite finding it difficult financially are determined to meet and work together. ([Read ACYTA Report here](#))

In **Western Europe** by contrast networks have usually been set up to develop particular interests or special areas – **Small Size** is an example. Last week I learned that at the

recent **Takeoff Dance Festival** in Düsseldorf a dozen countries signed up to a new specialist network in dance for young audiences. Someone from The Place was there but no-one from a UK company. Very soon the connections made between festivals like **Szene Bunte Waehne** in Vienna, **Krokus** in Hasselt, **Takeoff** in Düsseldorf and others in Finland and elsewhere will start to determine the direction Dance for Young Audiences takes in the next ten years. Who will link UK artists into that network?

So the new websites and discussion forums set up by **Karian Schuitema** ([click here](#)) and **David Harradine** (see below) are very welcome indeed!

“ **The Future Playground** is a community of people who are creating the future of art for children. It's a place for debate, for exchanging ideas, sharing knowledge, asking questions, and spreading information.

It's a place where we can come together and talk about how to ensure that art for children - whether in theatre, dance, visual art, music, writing or any other form - can always be as brilliant, challenging, rigorous and beautiful as art for anyone else.”

These new forms of association need talented and enthusiastic individuals to drive them forward. Luckily we have them.

But while they are an encouragement to wider participation they can be a potentially destructive force, pulling us apart to bury ourselves in personal enthusiasms.

We need unity as well, especially in difficult political times. (*see report from Wales below*)

ASSITEJ is a worldwide, open framework within which many specialist interests are nurtured and promoted. *ITYARN*, the academic research network has no UK academic members yet. Who do you know at your local University? *Next Generation*, the regional networks, the script catalogue and many more activities and projects are needed, especially by artists new to the field.

ASSITEJ Executive Committee, meeting in Alcalá near Madrid 8-13 February 2010, decided to embrace these new kinds of service and network and look hard at changing the Constitution to recognise the need for both individuals and organisations to be able to play a more active role. PH

UK Ideas at Congress'11

UK proposals for a *Day on Disability* and an *Open Space* on the Future of ASSITEJ have been endorsed in principle by the Congress organisers. Now we have to make them a reality, finding the right formats, keynote speakers, workshop leaders – and the money!

The date is already booked so be in Copenhagen on 26 May 2011 and join us.

International Newsletter from ASSITEJ

[Click here for the latest edition](#)

Soundbites At Work

TYA News starts a new competition today – a soundbite to promote **Children's Theatre Day 20th March**. There's no prizes but think how good you will feel if your's wins! Think how local MPs will relish the soundbites you give them to promote your work for young audiences to Government. **Children Need Theatre!** Let's help a new generation of MP's make it possible.

Kate Cross writes: ... How about this from 'the egg'...'Theatre is a vital language. Don't shut your children away from it'.

Add your soundbite to this [google doc](#)

All Change in Wales

Gary Meredith, Chair of TYA Wales writes: **Here's a brief outline of what's been happening in Wales.** The Arts Council has undertaken an Investment Review of all revenue funded organisations in order to 'identify a new 'portfolio' of revenue organisations (RFOs) that will be at the heart of the Arts Council's future strategy to develop the arts in Wales.' ACW say that by the end of the process their aim is to have a portfolio of RFOs who are 'artistically vibrant, financially durable and with a level of investment that will enable them to thrive.' The funding of this new portfolio will take effect from 1 April 2011.

Every RFO has been required to submit a very detailed three year business plan which will form the basis on which ACW will decide which organisations will continue to be funded

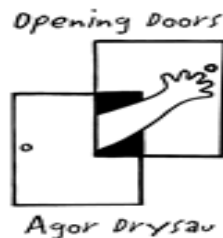
and which organisations will be cut. The preparation of the business plan has been a major undertaking that has preoccupied all of us for the past six months. This part of the process is now complete and all business plans were submitted by 14 December 2009.

Timetable

All RFOs will receive 12 months notice from the end of the current financial year that the present funding arrangement will cease. In June 2010 ACW will announce their decisions about which organisations will continue to be funded and which organisations are to be cut.

The reason for the twelve months notice being given in March 2010 is that ACW will not have to give a further twelve months notice in June to organisations that are to be cut. Those that make it through this process will be awarded funding agreements that run until the end of financial year 2013.

Now we can only wait and see what sort of plans they come up with; needless to say the process so far has been incredibly time consuming and very stressful. In spite of the demands placed on us by ACW the Welsh TYP companies continue to produce a diverse range of good work for our young audiences and we're all looking forward to **Agor Drysau**.



**Aberystwyth
13-20 March**

**Click the logo to
visit the site**

Show from South Africa

24 Feb - 13 March: London, Oval House Magnet Theatre, Cape Town, SA presents *Every Year, Every Day, I Am Walking*

"the play's great achievement is to make it impossible to ignore millions of individual tragedies bound up in forced migration"
"Excellent energy, style & performance" PH

Sad News from Japan

Yohei Hijikata was Japan's representative to ASSITEJ EC for many years. He has died at the age of 82 after a career spanning the crucial post-war development of the principles of a dedicated and specialist TYA. He was funny, a marvellous multilinguist and sharp debater. He and Kim Woo Ok brought together the Korea and Japan ASSITEJ Centres to set up the crucial Asian ASSITEJ network of festivals and collaborations.

Overseas Opportunities

Istanbul will host a TYA Festival in the Autumn. If you want to take a show contact Hasan Erkek.

Festivals Guide

This is now on the TYA-UK Website [here](#).

Belfast Children's Festival

21-30 May 2010

www.belfastchildrensfestival.com

News Shorts: TYA England

22 March, Birmingham: TYA England Steering Group. Send your agenda items to: Catherine.rollins@birmingham-rep.co.uk

Events

For upcoming gigs visit these sites:

www.peutetretheatre.co.uk

www.telltalehearts.co.uk

Music Theatre & Opera

19 Feb - 10 April 2010: My Mother Told Me Not to Stare. New opera from Theatre Hullabaloo & Action Transport on tour. <http://mymothertoldmenottostare.wordpress.com>

5 March: Birmingham Work in Progress showing of *The Night Queen*: a music-theatre play by Hoopla Productions for 6-12 year-olds inspired by Mozart's *The Magic Flute* for touring in Spring 2011. For details email Philip Monks at HooplaTheatre@aol.com

19 April 2010: Bath, the egg: Opera For Children: ACA Inspiration Day 10am-5pm. See *A Real Princess* performed by Welsh National Opera, for 3-5yrs at 1.30pm. email: Vicky.ireland@virgin.net

Festivals Abroad

9-25 April: Turin: GIOCATEATRO Theatre festival for children and young people - A European Youth Capital 2010 Event: *Your Time* www.casateatroragazzi.it - www.fondazionetrq.it

2- 5 May: Aarhus: Danish Plus: Showcase & Conference: Experience the very best of Danish performing arts for children and young people. 15 handpicked performances
Registration deadline: 1 March at www.danishplus.dk

15 -23 May: Stuttgart: International Festival *Schöne Aussicht - Bright View.* International Cooperation is focus with 10 shows from Belgium, Great Britain, Italy, Lithuania, Norway and Switzerland plus 10 local shows. festival@jes-stuttgart.de | www.jes-stuttgart.de/festivals

NCA's Arts Hustings

9 March 18:00 - 20:30: Tate Britain, London

Arts Hustings gives you the opportunity to quiz politicians on what they have in store for the arts and cultural sector after the 2010 General Election.

National Campaign for the Arts hosts a debate between the Arts Minister (Labour's Margaret Hodge MP), the Shadow Arts Minister (Conservative, Ed Vaizey MP) and the Liberal Democrat Shadow Culture Secretary (Don Foster MP).

If you would like to submit a **question** email: artshustings@artscampaign.org.uk. If your question is selected, NCA will contact you prior to the event.

Tickets are available online at www.artshustings.eventbrite.com.

World Children's Theatre Day 20th March 2010

Every year a leading personality from around the world writes a message to support Theatre for Young Audiences.

[Orna Porat](#) is a distinguished director and Honorary President of ASSITEJ Israel. Use her message to create a press release for your local media. President [Wolfgang Schneider's](#) greeting is here.

[Download our NEW promotional leaflet](#) overprint it with your company information and send a copy to your local councillors and MPs.

TYA-UK Members' Meeting Traverse Bar, Edinburgh 9am Saturday 15 May 2011

When you book for Imagine Festival put this high-powered FREE breakfast event in your schedule. Meet colleagues, share ideas, demand the impossible ...
Details in April TYA News

Next News Deadline:
10 March 2010
paul.harman63@ntlworld.com