

News November 2010

First an apology. Where did October go? Your editor was overwhelmed by a local crisis — threatened closure of all Darlington's arts facilities. In fact, as it will be everywhere else in the UK, we suffer a combination of national and local hammer blows from all sides.

In my town, cuts to Council allocations from London mean that every service is in danger. But the Arts are easier to cut because they are both non-statutory and — if you think that way — only of importance to the affluent middle class. So much for 13 years propaganda in praise of Arts at the Heart and all the other instrumental arguments. So I am building barricades and talking to desperate politicians.

Changes

Campaigning articles in The Stage underlined the sense that change is essential but we are all unsure if there will be resources to do what is needed. We now know all (English) RFO's have to reapply and those left after the cuts will do more—just like many TYA companies do already. Takeoff Festival is a case in point.

Each member of TYA has lobbied, advised, made contingency plans, talked to colleagues

and funders with the aim of becoming more 'adaptively resilient'. Collectively, NCA has tried to warn of the losses to the nation if the arts ecology is damaged. Some people don't actually believe in ecology, trusting talented individuals will always appear to create new forms out of their genius ... out of thin air.

Well, the air may be very thin for a long while. Big budget government schemes will stop and many venues will close. Individual performers and companies will work on if they have strong reputations. TYA will continue to be a home for those who want to share ideas and plan together for a number of possible futures.

Paul Harman was in Belfast for the excellent all-Island 'Gathering' which focused this year on International Collaborations. *Report later this month.*

Brigitte Chaffaut from ONDA in France was there to announce a special event for venue programmers at Momix Festival in Alsace in 2011 between 26 Jan and 6 Feb. with shows specially selected for a UK audience.

World Congress and Festival 2011
20-29 May Copenhagen/Malmö
www.assitej2011.info

UK Event Diary

11-12 Nov: Darlington: Takeoff Festival

Special members' meeting at 9.30am on Thursday 11 November at Darlington Arts Centre. Free Coffee & Croissants!

14 December: London: TYA England Committee meets.

New TYA Website

Check out the work in progress here and send in details of your latest shows and events for display. The site has a powerful search facility to enable shows, scripts and reports to be found.

New needs will emerge in the next few months as the smoke clears ...

Ctrl+click to open links

TYA-UK Board Election

At a TYA-UK Board meeting in Belfast it was agreed that Elections be postponed until the Spring.

Chair TYA-UK
paul.harman63@ntlworld.com



What we are getting right

Since we decided to organise on the basis of the four parts of the UK each has developed in its own way. In England and Northern Ireland there has been an upsurge of positive activity, and many events shared with other organisations like ACA.

Website

The website is undergoing a complete overhaul and will offer new services to members:

- a) Every new show you produce can be featured in an active display with a powerful database function making it easy for bookers to find shows on the topics they want
- b) Dedicated pages for each part of the UK
- c) Links to festivals and activities worldwide
- d) Active news constantly updated
- e) Archives of scripts, articles and reports on many topics which can be easily searched *(more detail soon)*



Executive Committee in Rwanda

International Profile

TYA-UK's International Profile is high with our partners in the Executive Committee. ASSITEJ Congress in May 2011 has accepted two UK workshop proposals and at least one show.

UK continues to contribute positively to the work of ASSITEJ International by supporting Key areas and functions such as banking, script catalogue, Next Generation development and constitutional updating.

Where We Go Next

We are entering a new and difficult economic era with confidence and in a good state of organisation. Now TYA-UK needs a new Board to tackle the next set of challenges and engage with Government agencies across the country to advance members interests.

Members of the Board

Responsibilities include all those which attach to a Board of management of a Company limited by Guarantee and a registered Charity—essentially making such returns to statutory agencies as are required.

The period of Board service will follow that of ASSITEJ International – currently a 3-year cycle, 2011-2014.

As far as possible, Board meetings are held at existing events in the four parts of the UK

Organising for Congress

A key job for the new Board is to make sure all members can get to Copenhagen for the Congress. That is where great deals are done, international exchanges are fired up, inspiring new shows and artists are encountered.

Flying the Flag

Board members represent the interests of all members in the UK at all times - many opportunities are offered to take up invitations at overseas festivals, for example.

Next News Deadline
17 September
paul.harman63@ntlworld.com