

# ASSITEJ IN TORINO

The second ASSITEJ Executive Committee meeting of the 2008 – 2011 cycle was held in Turin during the annual regional festival *Giocateatro*. Our hosts occupy a magnificently renovated factory building. [La Casa del Teatro Ragazzi e Giovani](#) has large and small theatre spaces and a range of studios where youth theatres and a number of resident companies can rehearse. A basement cafe and generous grounds complete a prominent site next to the Olympic stadium – home of Juventus.

*Giocateatro* attracted over one hundred theatre professionals from all over the country for – among other events - a relaunch of ASSITEJ Italy. The presence of the Executive Committee was also calculated to focus world attention again on a country which has in recent years offered many world class companies and touring productions.

The regional productions we saw were mainly dance, circus or puppet shows. With the exception of [Zerogrammi - \(Weightless\)](#) in which a pair of strong male dancers explored children's relationships with delicacy and gentle comedy, the level of skill and originality was not outstanding. However the Swiss circus company [Nicole & Martin](#) who travel with two traditional showman's wagons and a large white dome performed excellently restrained, skilful versions of Grimm tales – *The Musicians of Bremen* and *The Fisherman and his Wife* - in which their top quality circus skills are woven into the storytelling.

The Festival ended with an ASSITEJ forum on the relationship between stage and audience in TYA, in which the professionals engaged with enthusiasm. My notes record the usual complaints that children today are being ruined by media, commercial pressure and the education system. The majority of older professionals began their careers in theatre for children with 'animation' or drama and youth theatre activity with children so they find communication easy.

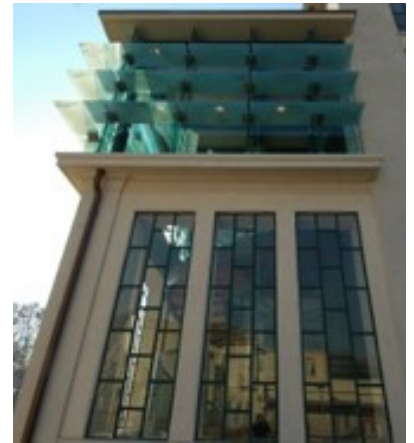
## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The ASSITEJ EC meets twice a year and oversees the core functioning of the world organisation. There are reports from all regions and discussions on finance, products such as the Book, the content of the website and policy towards member Centres with problems. Niclas Malmcrona from Sweden gave a detailed and positive report on preparations for [Congress 2011](#).

Key decisions this time were to establish an editorial Board for the ASSITEJ book and other publications, to enhance the frequency of e-newsletters and create more ASSITEJ World events like the Forum at the Small Size festival in Bologna this Spring. An important development for the UK is the decision to create a new regional grouping in Western Europe, to encourage closer working relationships between Centres in Holland, France, Belgium, UK and Ireland. Within this grouping there are many diverse approaches to TYA. Paul Harman was appointed rapporteur for the region.

Building co-operation between people from so many countries and cultures takes time. Sharing meals and discussing plays together is part of the process. When cooking and theatre are rooted in such deep traditions of excellence as in Turin we make good progress.

See also *ACTORS IN CONTEMPORARY THEATRE FOR CHILDREN* on the website: [www.tya-uk.org](http://www.tya-uk.org)



Our hosts occupy a magnificently converted industrial building with excellent workspaces



Italy is famous for ice cream ...

Final EC session to review festival shows

