

# UK, Ireland & International Theatre Associations



**A Guide to the roles and activities of key voluntary and official organisations promoting theatre and performing arts worldwide, with a special emphasis on those related to Theatre for Young Audiences.**

**Editor: Paul Harman 2010**

# UK & International Theatre Associations

There are many voluntary associations for drama and theatre by, with and for children and young people in the UK and Ireland and a wider international family of associations and organisations supports the promotion and development of theatre and drama worldwide. *(see list on next page)*

The relationship between these international associations is complex. Some are semi-official. The International Theatre Institute is recognised by UNESCO as the representative organisation for all the performing arts but some others, such as UNIMA and AITA-IATA, are also regarded as partners by UNESCO. As UNESCO is based in Paris, many associations founded in the 1950's are known by their French names or acronyms.

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For comments, amendments and additions please contact:

[youngtheatreportal8@gmail.com](mailto:youngtheatreportal8@gmail.com)

Paul Harman, Chair TYA-UK Centre of ASSITEJ July 2010

## Declaration of Principles

*This statement was presented on 10 June 2010 as the starting point for a future agreement on common aims and purposes.*

WE BELIEVE that all children have the right to experience the arts and to share fully in cultural life *(UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)*

WE KNOW that children and young people benefit from engaging with performing arts, as spectators, makers and participants

WE RECOGNISE the essential and complimentary roles played by teachers, professional artists, presenters and educators in theatres and schools

WE WILL SUPPORT each other in representing the interests of children and young people in enjoying high quality of experiences drama and theatre

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# Towards a *World Theatre Council*

*Notes of a meeting held in London on 10 June 2010*

## Background

Following discussions at the conference of the *World Association for Arts Education* in November 2009, between Dan Baron Cohen, President of IDEA, Paddy O'Dwyer, President of AITA/IATA, Tobias Biancone, Secretary General of ITI and Wolfgang Schneider, it was agreed to meet in London to discuss closer collaboration between International Associations, possibly by the formation of a *World Theatre Council* recognised as a partner by UNESCO

**Present:** Representatives of ITI, ASSITEJ, AITA/IATA, ETC, UNIMA

## Conclusions

1. None of those present believed that a new organisation was either necessary or desirable but consideration of a *World Theatre Council* had been useful to establish common purposes and ideals.
2. ITI already exists to deliver the co-ordination and representation of the Performing Arts through UNESCO to the UN - and so to world governments.
3. The following protocol presented by WS was agreed in principle:
  - A. ITI should be the umbrella organisation for the Performing Arts
  - B. The agenda of ITI in this role should include:
    - a. Cultural Policy Issues related to the Performing Arts
    - b. The social and economic situation of performing artists
    - c. The development of theatre as Arts Education
  - C. ITI should provide a database for Events and Projects in the Performing Arts
  - D. ITI and the organisations present should organise a conference where all the different performing arts associations could present their approaches to a concrete, common topic, such as *the role of theatre in society* or *the development of cultural identity in an era of globalisation*.

# United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Building peace in the minds of people.

UNESCO works to create the conditions for dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, based upon respect for commonly shared values. It is through this dialogue that the world can achieve global visions of sustainable development encompassing observance of human rights, mutual respect and the alleviation of poverty, all of which are at the heart of UNESCO'S mission and activities.

The broad goals and concrete objectives of the international community – as set out in the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – underpin all UNESCO'S strategies and activities. Thus UNESCO'S unique competencies in education, the sciences, culture and communication and information contribute towards the realization of those goals.

UNESCO'S mission is to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

[www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

## UNESCO UK

The United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO is the focal point in the UK for UNESCO-related policies and activities.

The Commission is an independent civil society organisation which supports UNESCO'S work in the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, and communication.

[www.unesco.org.uk](http://www.unesco.org.uk)

# International Theatre Institute

The purpose of the International Theatre Institute is to promote international exchange of knowledge and practice in theatre arts in order to consolidate peace and friendship between peoples, to deepen mutual understanding and increase creative co-operation between all people in the theatre arts.

To achieve this purpose, the ITI shall:

- encourage activities and creation in the field of the live performing arts (drama, dance, music theatre)
- aim at an enlargement of the existing collaboration between performing arts disciplines and organizations, both national and international
- establish international offices and foster the establishment of ITI Centres in all countries
- collect documents, disseminate all types of information and issue publications in the realm of the performing arts
- co-operate actively in the development of the “Theatre of Nations” and encourage and co-ordinate the organization of theatrical congresses, workshops and meetings of experts, as well as festivals, exhibitions and competitions, both on regional and interregional levels, in co-operation with its members
- defend the free development of the performing arts and contribute to the protection of the rights of performing arts professionals.

To achieve this within the ITI, the member Centres of the organization shall be guided by the principles of mutual respect of the national traditions of each country

[www.iti-worldwide.org](http://www.iti-worldwide.org)

# International Amateur Theatre Association

Our mission is to promote understanding and education through theatre and unite those who wish to make friends with like-minded people working in the theatre mainly on a non-professional basis.

Opportunities include:

- to take part in the World Festival of Amateur Theatre
- to bring a group to the World Festival of Children's Theatre
- or take part in any international festival organised by an AITA/IATA-linked organisation
- to join an international network of amateur theatre
- to participate in international workshops, seminars, training courses and symposia
- to invite groups from abroad to come to your festival
- to get official international status for your festival
- to receive a regular newsletter on international events
- to publicise your event through the AITA/IATA-network

[www.aitaiata.org](http://www.aitaiata.org)

## National Association of Youth Theatres (England)

NAYT is the only development agency supporting youth theatres in England.

Founded in 1982, NAYT works with over 1,000 groups and individuals to support the development of youth theatre activity through information and support services, advocacy, training, participation and partnerships. Registration is free and open to any group or individual using theatre techniques in their work with young people, outside of formal education.

NAYT's vision is to ensure that every young person has the opportunity to take part – as a right – in safe, empowering, challenging theatre of excellence.

NAYT's mission is to make a positive difference to young people's lives by supporting their participation in, and access to excellent youth theatre.

[www.nayt.org.uk](http://www.nayt.org.uk)

## Promote YT (Scotland)

An umbrella organisation for youth theatre in Scotland which organises festivals, skills training and information exchange.

A Review of Youth Theatre in 2003 identified over 300 youth theatres in existence in Scotland, around 8,000 young people taking part in youth theatre every week and a strong demand for an organisation which would provide a national network and resource, respond to issues/gaps in provision and facilitate development.

The findings of consultations with young people and youth theatre practitioners carried out at the Inaugural Youth Theatre Seminar on November 2003 in Aberdeen, formed the basis of Promote YT's objectives and key activities.

Promote YT (Scotland) was incorporated on the 29 June 2004 and has been supported annually by the Scottish Arts Council.

[www.promoteyt.co.uk](http://www.promoteyt.co.uk)

## National Association for Youth Drama (Ireland)

**NAYD** (National Association for Youth Drama) is the development organisation for youth theatre and youth drama in Ireland. NAYD supports youth drama in practice and policy, and supports the sustained development of youth theatres in Ireland.

**NAYD** advocates the inherent value and the unique relationship between young people and theatre as an art form, and is committed to extending and enhancing young people's understanding of theatre and raising the artistic standards of youth theatre across the country.

**NAYD** supports youth drama in practice through an annual programme that includes the National Youth Theatre, National and Regional festivals of youth theatres, commissioning new writing, publications, resources, training and other services as well as research and policy development.

**With a membership of over 50 youth theatres throughout the country**, NAYD supports the sustained development of youth theatres in partnership with local authorities, youth services, theatres and arts centres.

In addition, **NAYD** is involved in developing Drama in Education in Ireland, and works closely with the formal and non-formal education sector.

[www.nayd.ie](http://www.nayd.ie)

## International Theatre Exchange

ITE (International Theatre Exchange) is the GB National Centre of AITA/IATA, the world body for International Amateur Theatre.

(See EDERED)

No Website. Contact: [mlovegrove3@aol.com](mailto:mlovegrove3@aol.com)

## Contacting the World

A pioneering, biennial festival and collaborative project for young people across the globe. Since the first Contacting the World in 2002, it has inspired innovation, creativity, inter-cultural dialogue and genuine collaboration amongst hundreds of young people.

Produced by Contact Theatre, Manchester, it is a programme of exchange involving 150 young theatre makers from 12 different companies across the world, who are randomly twinned to work creatively and collaboratively over a six month period, culminating in a vibrant UK based performance festival.

[www.contactingtheworld.org](http://www.contactingtheworld.org)

## Arts by Children

Organises international festivals of theatre performed by children.  
Based in Lingen (Ems), Germany.

[www.artsbychildren.org](http://www.artsbychildren.org)

## European Drama Encounters (EDERED)

Founded in 1985. The first Children's Encounter took place in 1982; the first Youth Encounter was held in 1987. An initiative by the Council of Europe: "Children and Culture in Contemporary Europe".

Membership of the organisation is open to those who have been responsible for the running of an Encounter in their own countries and to those who plan to organise one in the near future.

The Encounters usually last for two weeks and consist of an intensive inter-cultural workshop programme and planned social activities. Participants do not bring prepared theatre performances to the Encounters which culminate in a final showing or presentation.

The Encounter exists for the benefit of the participants and therefore all activities of the organisation must always have that focus. To that end these **Six Principles** of EDERED have been developed and they form the philosophical basis for all Encounters.

- The Encounter should be **open-minded** and welcome diverse ways of working in drama/theatre and facilitate diverse approaches in methodology.
- The Encounter should provide opportunities for **sharing** these **diverse approaches**.
- The environment of an Encounter is **non-competitive**.
- The Encounter is a process of listening and **inter-cultural co-operation** and provides opportunities for children/young people/leaders to share their ideas and experiences in a safe environment.
- Each Encounter must recognise the unique opportunity provided for the social interaction of children/young people from diverse cultures.
- **It should be fun**

[www.edered.eu](http://www.edered.eu)

## Little Theatre Guild

LTG has been in existence since 1946 to represent the views of Amateur theatres across the UK.

Our membership extends throughout the UK, plus some overseas locations. In particular membership of the LTG is open only to those amateur theatres that own or lease the theatre premises upon which productions are mounted.

LTG members can access more information including individual Theatre facilities details, statistical information, contact information, annual reports, newsletters, guidance etc.

We currently have in excess of 103 member theatres right across the United Kingdom, ranging from 64 seat auditorium up to 450 seat auditorium. This includes theatres that present only four plays per year to those that present a continuous repertoire. In the last year LTG theatres presented over 850 productions to an audience in excess of 630,000 patrons.

[www.littletheatreguild.org.uk](http://www.littletheatreguild.org.uk)

# International Drama/Theatre and Education Association (IDEA)

IDEA is an association of national associations working in drama/theatre and education, open to regional and international associations and to other institutes, bodies, networks, organisations and individuals working in drama/theatre and education.

- we represent drama/theatre and education in a world context;
- we liaise with other national and international organisations working in all fields relevant to education, especially education through the arts;
- we organize regional and international congresses for drama/theatre and education;
- we initiate research into and development of drama/theatre and education;
- we produce international publications and facilitate the circulation of information relevant to drama/theatre and education;
- we encourage the exchange of drama/theatre practitioners between our member associations.

[www.idea-org.net](http://www.idea-org.net)

# National Drama

The UK's leading drama subject association

Making Drama is part of being human. It spans our histories and cultures. We recognise it as a creative process and as a means of exploration, expression and making meaning. Through it we learn what it is to be a human being.

National Drama is the UK's leading professional association of Drama Educators. It is an open and inclusive organisation that welcomes all those involved in Drama for learning and theatre education in any context or setting.

We work pro-actively and with vigour to ensure that the voice of drama is heard at the highest levels and that its role in education and learning is well supported and promoted.

National Drama is committed to:

- supporting the development of all drama practitioners developing drama at regional, national and international levels
- creating a powerful and professional network of practitioners
- supporting research and development in drama for learning and
- theatre education across all stages and phases providing a coherent and authoritative voice to lobby agencies, parliament and arts organisations
- promoting drama as a key element of the curriculum for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

[www.nationaldrama.co.uk](http://www.nationaldrama.co.uk)

# London Drama

Professional Association for teachers of drama and theatre in London originally formed in 1955 by teachers committed to the creative experience of educational drama and the school play.

We have been active in supporting:

- Primary Drama in relation to both creative learning and literacy and subject learning
- Secondary Drama in a variety of contexts: Classroom Drama, Drama in Performance, Drama and Theatre Studies.

We continue actively to promote and develop Drama within the current curriculum changes that are being introduced and continue the tradition of stewardship and new initiatives to maintain and develop the network of drama teachers and theatre workers across the Capital.

[www.londondrama.org](http://www.londondrama.org)

## Union Internationale de la Marionnette (UNIMA)

The aim of UNIMA is an international Non-Governmental Organisation to promote the art of puppetry.

This is achieved in the following ways:

- By encouraging contacts and exchanges between puppeteers from all nations and continents, using all possible means of communication;
- By organising congresses, conferences, festivals, exhibitions and competitions, or by giving UNIMA endorsement;
- By assisting members of the Organization in assuring their democratic, union, financial and legal interests in the framework of their professional activities, notably through recommendations or proposals to the competent authorities;
- By encouraging professional training;
- extending historical, theoretical and scientific research;
- By keeping alive traditions, as well as encouraging the renewal of puppetry;
- By proposing puppetry as means for ethical and aesthetic education;
- By participating in the work of international organisations with similar objectives.

[www.unima.org](http://www.unima.org)

## British UNIMA

Part of UNIMA, an international puppetry organisation

UNIMA brings together people interested in the art of puppetry and in using this art to promote peace and mutual understanding between peoples, regardless of race, political or religious convictions and differences in culture.

It organises conferences, festivals and publications and encourages professional training and research.

British UNIMA offers opportunities to attend international festivals and workshops, organises an annual lecture and other events, publishes Puppet Notebook magazine and a Newsletter three times a year, and reports news, events and opportunities on its website.

[www.unima.org.uk](http://www.unima.org.uk)

# International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ)

ASSITEJ was founded in 1965 to unite theatres, organisations and individuals dedicated to theatre for children and young people throughout the world, currently in 82 countries.

ASSITEJ seeks to foster a healthy, vibrant and collaborative community of artists, administrators and educators that reaches across cultural and international boundaries.

ASSITEJ assists in the development of artists and networks so that intercultural dialogue, innovation and excellence are an integral part of everyday practice.

[www.assitej-international.org](http://www.assitej-international.org)

# Theatre for Young Audiences – UK Centre of ASSITEJ

TYA-UK Centre of ASSITEJ (International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People) was founded in 1982

TYA-UK is a network for makers and promoters of professional theatre for young audiences, linking the UK to theatres, organisations and individual artists around the world

We work for a fuller awareness of the value of theatre for young audiences

We deliver, support and promote:

- professional development for established and emerging artists
- festivals and conferences
- information about plays, artists, events and trends worldwide

Membership is open to all professional theatre companies, individual theatre artists, such as writers, actors or directors, and to all those wishing to introduce theatre to young audiences, such as teachers and programmers of festivals and theatre venues

Our members are represented by committees in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

[www.tya-uk.org](http://www.tya-uk.org)

## Theatre for Young Audiences Ireland

(Ireland Centre of ASSITEJ) is the national association representing and promoting professional organisations and individual artists whose work primarily focuses on engaging Irish children and young people through theatre. TYA Ireland provides a crucial link between members, the arts sector, and the wider community.

### Mission Statement:

To provide access to high quality professional performing arts experiences to all children and young people in Ireland.

### Aims:

- 1) Create a Forum for the Sector.
- 2) Increase the value/profile of the work.
- 3) To promote and foster training and development opportunities for practitioners in the sector.
- 4) Have an International Dimension.

### Objectives:

- a) Provide a point of connection for the development of the sector.
- b) Increase the profile of performing arts for children/young people amongst the wider performing arts sector, media, schools, families, politicians and decision makers.
- c) Encourage opportunities for engagement with the international children's/young people's performing arts sector and to promote Irish work on an international level.
- d) To proactively seek out and encourage partnerships with third level bodies and other relevant organisations and individuals in the training of practitioners for the sector.
- e) Showcase Irish work at home and on an international level.
- f) Explore ways of increasing public access.
- g) Develop a strong relationship with the media.
- h) Increase Information exchange.

[www.barnstorm.ie/assitej.php](http://www.barnstorm.ie/assitej.php)

# More International Theatre Associations

## European Theatre Convention (ETC)

The European Theatre Convention is a public theatre membership network founded in 1988 to promote contemporary playwriting, to support the mobility of artists and to develop the artistic exchange throughout Europe.

The ETC advocates for the sector on a political level, intensifies the relations with the future theatre audience and encourages the intercultural dialogue between theatre professionals through outstanding common multilingual artistic projects.

Counting today 41 member theatres in 24 countries, the ETC has become the most important pan- European public theatre network. All member theatres are producing theatres with most of them working with a permanent artistic ensemble.

The ETC is an artistic network to foster European theatre collaboration and to engage in the multicultural dialogue amongst theatre professionals and with the audience. With its members, the ETC advocates throughout its programmes and across Europe for the emergence of a European identity and the linguistic diversity on European stages with a focus on activities for young people.

The ETC promotes and defends the richness of European languages in contemporary drama and has established a wide range of artistic activities.

[www.etc-cte.org](http://www.etc-cte.org)

# International Association of Theatre Critics

IATC was established in 1956

The IATC draws together more than two thousand theatre critics, through some fifty National Sections. Founded in Paris in 1956, the IATC is a non-profit, Non-Governmental Organization benefitting under statute B of UNESCO.

The purpose of the IATC is to bring together theatre critics in order to promote international cooperation. Its principal aims are to foster theatre criticism as a discipline and to contribute to the development of its methodological bases; to protect the ethical and professional interests of theatre critics and to promote the common rights of all its members; and to contribute to reciprocal awareness and understanding between cultures by encouraging international meetings and exchanges in the field of theatre in general.

The IATC holds a world congress every two years, seminars for young critics twice a year, as well as symposiums, and contributes to juries. English and French are the association's two official languages, and its place of incorporation is Paris.

[www.aict-iatc.org](http://www.aict-iatc.org)

# International Federation for Theatre Research (IFTR/FIRT)

Exists to facilitate communication and exchange between scholars of theatre and performance research throughout the world through its conference events and publishing activities. Founded in 1957, the Federation currently boasts members from 44 countries and from all continents.

It holds annual international conferences, regional conferences, and research working group symposia. It owns a leading international journal (*Theatre Research International*) and publishes two major book series in collaboration with Palgrave Macmillan and Rodopi.

## Constitutional Aims:

- To organise international conferences and symposia.
- To establish working groups for specific research projects.
- To assist members to obtain grants for their work from foundations, trusts, and other grant-making bodies.
- To assist in organising societies for theatre research.
- To submit to the authorities of all countries the desirability of creating and maintaining courses, institutes and chairs of theatre research.
- To publish the work of its members in peer-reviewed books series and a major international journal

[www.firt-iftr.org](http://www.firt-iftr.org)

## International Federation of Actors (FIA)

Our members are the trade unions, guilds and associations that work hard every day to ensure that performers can work safely, earn a decent living from their profession and the commercial exploitation of their talent, train to adjust to a rapidly changing environment, enjoy an adequate social protection and equal opportunities and be granted intellectual property rights on their performances.

At international level, FIA steps in and brings these same values to a higher ground, where the lobbying machinery is intricate, national interests are traded and rules are bargained to shape our daily life. But FIA is not only an indispensable lobbying tool for all of us. It is, perhaps most importantly, a powerful heart for all its members, many of which have directly experienced the solidarity that has always been its trademark. Whether in the midst of industrial actions, facing sudden hardship, struggling against political regimes and in countless other occasions, the mutual support of our unions has been a critical asset for those members.

[www.fia-actors.com](http://www.fia-actors.com)

## International Museum Theatre Alliance (IMTAL)

Information and exchange network for theatre activity in Museums

[www.imtal-europe.com](http://www.imtal-europe.com)

# International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts (IETM)

Our Mission is:

To stimulate the quality, development and contexts of contemporary performing arts in a global environment by initiating and facilitating:

- professional networking and communication
- the dynamic exchange of information
- know-how transfer and presentations of examples of good practice.

We aim to

- **Anticipate** : new artistic tendencies and evolutions in the environment of the contemporary performing arts in Europe and around the world
- **Connect** : diverse organisations who share common interests in a cross-sector network
- **Catalyse** : international partnerships, exchanges, collaborations and knowledge transfer
- **Strengthen** : the contemporary performing arts sector by providing new arguments for the arts and by supporting professionals via informal learning experiences
- **Influence** : public policy through active participation in cultural policy debates, policy for and through direct advocacy
- **Federate** : different actors in the sector through IETM's neutral and international nature

[www.ietm.org](http://www.ietm.org)

# International Organisation of Scenographers, Theatre Technicians and Architects (OISTAT)

The Aims are:

- To stimulate the exchange of ideas and innovations, and to promote international collaboration in professions which support live performance
- To promote the formation of centres in each country in order to achieve these aims
- To encourage life-long learning among live performance practitioners
- To respect the integrity of all cultures and celebrate the diversity as well as the similarities of those who work in support of live performance.

OISTAT has Centres in 34 countries around the world with combined membership of over 12,000 members; six active Commissions undertaking a variety of projects in the areas of Education, Technology, Scenography, History and Theory, Publication and Communication, and Architecture; and a growing active presence on the web

[www.oistat.org](http://www.oistat.org)

# International Schools Theatre Association (ISTA)

We bring together young people, artists and teachers from different countries in particular settings to experience and learn about theatre, culture and each other. This results in exciting theatre and develops innovative practice at a range of international festivals and training events.

We value diversity and collaboration, celebration and play, friendship and collegiality. These values underpin our practice and lead to the ongoing development of new collaborations, partnerships and programmes.

We are:

- An international community of young people, teachers and practitioners.
- Committed to providing high quality experiences that develop creative learning and internationalism through theatre.
- The International Theatre Educator.

[www.ista.co.uk](http://www.ista.co.uk)

# International University Theatre Association

## (AITU-IUTA)

The International University Theatre Association was founded in 1994 to develop and promote recognized post-secondary activity in theatre training, creation, research and theoretical and practical research, throughout the world, at the level of university or higher studies. The IUTA is present in every continent and has members in over fifty countries.

Designed by and for people from universities and other types of post-secondary learning institutions, the IUTA is a unique forum where teachers, practitioners, creators, scholars and theorists can share discoveries and discuss common concerns. The IUTA provides a space for both exchanges and services (through the presence of festival organizers), and is open to all members of the academic community with an interest in theatre. The IUTA holds a World Congress every two years.

The aim of the International Association of University Theatres is to develop and promote university theatre worldwide. 'University theatre', in this context, means any theatrical activity carried out within higher and tertiary education institutions, as training, creative or research activities, either theoretical or practical.

Aware of the role theatre plays in fostering dialogue and understanding between cultures, the association promotes exchanges and collaboration between university theatres (be it spontaneous student theatre, assisted, vocational or professional work) as well as contacts with amateur and professional theatres.

<http://aitu-iuta.org/index.php/public/en/about/>

# UK Associations

## Action for Children's Arts (ACA)

*Action for Children's Arts*



Founded in 1998, Action for Children's Arts is a national membership organisation embracing all professionals working in children's arts.

[www.childrensarts.org.uk](http://www.childrensarts.org.uk)

## National Student Drama Festival

Annual festival presents 60 productions from schools, Further Education Colleges, Youth Groups, Drama Societies, individuals and touring companies set up by recent graduates.

Includes all forms of live theatre performance: dance, mime, physical theatre, music theatre, site-specific work, comedy, clowning, devised work, new writing and classical and modern drama, as well as film, television and radio.

Dates: 9-15 April 2011

[www.nsdf.org.uk](http://www.nsdf.org.uk)

## Cultural Learning Alliance (CLL)

The Cultural Learning Alliance is for everyone who believes that children and young people should have an entitlement to quality cultural experiences

The Alliance brings together the diverse parts of the cultural sector to work together – including museums, film, libraries, heritage, dance, literature, new media arts, theatre, visual arts and music – with the education and youth sector. It assumes that culture is experienced in a highly interactive, participatory and personal way; that cultural learning takes place within and beyond learning institutions; that it has the power to inspire civic engagement leading to personal, social and community benefit and to the growth of the creative economy; and that it can transform and inspire lives, regardless of personal circumstances

[www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk](http://www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk)

## National Campaign for the Arts (NCA)

The National Campaign for the Arts is the UK's only independent organisation campaigning for all the arts. Since 1985 we have worked to protect and promote the UK's world class arts scene and acted as a powerful and effective advocate for the sector, able to influence the people who matter. With a growing, UK-wide membership, the NCA is driven by the needs of the arts sector. We believe that only speaking with a united voice can the arts truly be heard.

[www.artscampaign.org.uk](http://www.artscampaign.org.uk)

# Research & Development Organisations

## Imagine

Promotes and develops the performing arts for children and young people in Scotland.

The Bank of Scotland Imagine Festival & Tour takes place in Edinburgh and throughout Scotland in May/June each year.

Every autumn Imagine hosts an event exploring the methods and processes involved in the creation of performances for children and young people.

Development Opportunities are offered for artists and producers at every stage of their career to enhance their skills.

Professional Development opportunities for teachers and other educators offer them opportunities to make the most of the performing arts in education.

Strategic Development is undertaken through research, advocacy and initiatives to increase access and participation and enhance the experience for children and young people.

[www.imagine.org.uk](http://www.imagine.org.uk)

## Kinder- und Jugendtheaterzentrum in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Development organisation owned by ASSITEJ Germany.

Organises workshops, festivals, seminars and international exchanges.

Extensive archive, publications, database of playscripts.

Staff in Frankfurt and Berlin.

[www.kjtz.de](http://www.kjtz.de)

## Chambre des Théâtres pour l'Enfance et la Jeunesse (CTEJ)

Development agency in Wallonie-Bruxelles community of Belgium

[www.ctej.be](http://www.ctej.be)

## International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network (ITYARN)

ITYARN, the International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network, is the international research network of ASSITEJ International. ITYARN aims to further research on theatre for young audiences.

[www.ityarn.org](http://www.ityarn.org)

## Children's Theatre in the UK

This site is an initiative to focus on critical and theoretical appreciations of children's theatre: it aims to elevate the study of children's theatre to the level of other theatre studies, as well as bring together both academics and practitioners with an interest for research into theatre for the young.

<http://childrenstheatre.wordpress.com>

## The Future Playground

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.

<http://thefutureplayground.com>

# Festivals of Theatre for Young Audiences UK & Ireland

***Agor Drysau / Opening Doors:*** Biennial, International: 16-20 March  
2010: Aberystwyth, Wales [www.aradgoch.org](http://www.aradgoch.org) e: [post@aradgoch.org](mailto:post@aradgoch.org)

***Imagine:*** Annual, International: 10-16 May 2010: Edinburgh, Scotland:  
[www.imagine.org.uk/FESTIVAL2009/home.php](http://www.imagine.org.uk/FESTIVAL2009/home.php) e: [info@imagine.org.uk](mailto:info@imagine.org.uk)

***The Belfast Children's Festival:*** Annual, International: 21–30 May 2010: Belfast,  
Northern Ireland [www.belfastchildrensfestival.com](http://www.belfastchildrensfestival.com) e: [ali@youngatart.co.uk](mailto:ali@youngatart.co.uk)

***the Spark:*** Annual, International: 31 May–13 June 2010: Leicestershire, England  
[www.sparkfestival.co.uk](http://www.sparkfestival.co.uk) e: [admin@sparkfestival.co.uk](mailto:admin@sparkfestival.co.uk)

***Ciao!*** International, Climate Change theme: 21 - 27 June 2010: Oxford, England:  
[www.ciaofestival.org.uk](http://www.ciaofestival.org.uk) [info@ciaofestival.org.uk](mailto:info@ciaofestival.org.uk)

***Takeoff:*** Annual, National Showcase: 11-12 November 2010: Darlington,  
England: [www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/takeoff-festival.asp](http://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/takeoff-festival.asp)

***Sticky Fingers:*** Biennial, Early Years: May 2011: Newry, Northern Ireland  
[www.stickyfingersarts.co.uk/sf/festival.do](http://www.stickyfingersarts.co.uk/sf/festival.do) e: [info@stickyfingersarts.co.uk](mailto:info@stickyfingersarts.co.uk)

***Baboró International Arts Festival for Children:*** Annual, International: 11-17  
October 2010: Galway, Republic of Ireland [www.baboro.ie](http://www.baboro.ie)

# Links

## Arts Lynx

US based site with hundreds of arts organisations worldwide.

<http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/orgs.htm>

## Arts Council England

Government-funded national development agency for the arts in England

[www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

(See also [Wales](#), [Scotland](#), [Northern Ireland](#))

## Arts Council Ireland

The **Arts Council** / An Chomhairle Ealaíon is the national agency for funding, developing and promoting the arts in **Ireland**. [www.artscouncil.ie](http://www.artscouncil.ie)

# Contact

Contact us with comments, additions and amendments

Email: [youngtheatreportal8@gmail.com](mailto:youngtheatreportal8@gmail.com)