

TYA-UK

NEWS MAY 2009

Click here for my report on the ASSITEJ EC meeting in Turin: [ASSITEJ IN TORINO](#)

News Shorts: England

May/June: Arts Council England will call a second meeting of officers and practitioners to discuss the future of theatre for children and young people. Send your ideas about ACE support for TYA to Steve.Ball@birmingham-rep.co.uk

25 May - 7 June, Leicester: The Spark Children's Arts Festival: Details at www.sparkfestival.co.uk

Stockton on Tees: 4 June: A1 NE Dance Fest
Bite-sized dance chunks... ARC and Tees Valley Dance present a selection of North-East based choreographers and companies in a range of dance styles. Bad Taste Cru (the UK and Ireland BBoy Champs), Surface Area Dance Theatre, Joelene English and Tees Valley Dance.

International Co-Production for Young Audiences

21 May 1.30-5.00 Birmingham Rep: *Looking for Yoghurt* - a production devised in the UK, Korea and Japan followed by discussion. Guest speakers include Professor Jonathan Neelands

30th June 1.30-5.00: Oxford Playhouse: *One Small Step: Bringing Companies and Venues Together*

How do venues approach the programming of theatre for young audiences? How do companies forge mutually supportive relationships with venues? Should the South East consider a regular regional showcase for companies creating theatre for young audiences?

Contact Cathy Rollins at 0121 245 2092 or e-mail cathy@tya-uk.org

Scotland

25 May – 1 June: Imagine Festival special delegate packages sold out instantly but there are still tickets left. www.imagine.org.uk

Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund

The Bank of Scotland Imagine Festival was successful in its bid for Expo Funding enabling it to present 4 Scottish productions for children and young people in New York in collaboration with the New Victory Theater. The Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund will support around 90 performances over 7 weeks from four of Scotland's theatre companies. The New Victory Theater will showcase the productions which have all been seen at the Bank of Scotland Imagine Festival:



The Man Who Planted Trees - Puppet State Theatre Company (for ages 7 and up)



Cinderella - Shona Reppe Puppets (for ages 4 and up)

My House - Andy Manley in association with Starcatchers (for ages 18 months to 3 years)

Hansel and Gretel - Catherine Wheels Theatre Company (for ages 8 and up)

The productions will run in New York from September 18 - November 1 2009.

Northern Ireland

9-17 May 2009: Newry: Sticky Fingers Festival: Early Years event growing in reach and authority!
www.stickyfingersarts.co.uk/sf/assets/pdf/festival/programme2009.pdf

22-31 May: Belfast Children's Festival Website live soon: www.belfastchildrensfestival.com

Dali Muchi is a **Flying Gorillas** project currently taking place in UK, Romania and Italy. In each country the company works with local artists: dancers, musicians, actors, acrobats, magicians in a closed laboratory, exchanging ideas on techniques and approaches to performance. An important focus of these sessions is the crossover between dance and music. Narrative is not used and verbal language is minimal.

All ideas can be explored except those unsuitable for children (eg nudity, swearing etc). Selected artists from the laboratory then join in with company workshops for children, either in local primary schools or in unconventional venues. Recently these have included a children's cancer hospital and a Roma camp. Some of these artists are then integrated in a specially re-devised version of the company's current performance, which is performed first in the workshop venues and then in a short theatre season.

The partner agencies are Philadelphia Foundation of Transylvania, Romania and Teatro Stabile di Innovazione, Fontemaggiore, Italy

The next project, due to launch in September 2010, focuses on Traveller, Roma and Nomadic children and explores the crossover between dance and science. It will take place in UK, Romania, Italy, Turkey, Finland and Egypt.

The Flying Gorillas are supported by EU Education, Audiovisual, Culture Executive Agency (Euclid).

More from Nigel Warrack: www.flyinggorillas.co.uk

Early Years Festival 2010

York Theatre Royal in partnership with **Tutti Frutti** are planning an Early Years Festival in the summer of 2010 and are keen to explore programming a wide range of National and International companies that have a specific interest in work for children aged 3 to 7 years. The festival will be a week long and we'd like to pack it with as much inspirational and challenging work as we possibly can.

The idea is to present work and activities to children and their families and create forums for debate and workshops in which to share good practice. We will have two spaces for performances with two performance slots per day in each and several other spaces for workshops and discussions. We'd like to have as many different companies as possible with us throughout the week and we don't want to limit the scope of the work.

If you know you are going to have work available in late June 2010 then contact Katy Nelson on 01904 658162 or by email - katy@yorktheatreroyal.co.uk

Theatre Centre Brian Way Award 2009

The shortlisted plays are:

A Sheep called Skye, Nicola McCartney (National Theatre of Scotland)
Duck! Philip Osment (Unicorn Theatre)
I'm A Minger, Alex Jones (Operating Theatre Company)
Romeo In The City, Amber Lone (Theatre Centre)
Space Circus, writers from Chol Theatre (Chol Theatre)
The Mothership, Douglas Maxwell (Birmingham Rep)
The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, Kevin Dyer (Action Transport)

The award is for playwrights who write for young people and has a cash prize of £6,000.

New Slogans for TYA-UK ?

1. Live theatre is essential to the artistic, cultural, and social development of young people.
2. In the shared enjoyment of stories and dramatic situations young audiences explore personal and social issues.
3. In every culture theatre celebrates difference and unity, the particular and the universal.

Comments please to stuart@bennetthouse.org.uk

Actors in Contemporary Theatre for Children

Italian colleagues address the perennial topic of how special it is to act for children. *Click the link* to read about the [ASSITEJ Forum in Turin](#)

Tweetakt 2009

There's madness in the air. There's a Portuguese chef serving fabulous festival meals out of a mobile, wooden church (*Katrina*), a theatre installation in itself; the festival branding depicts toddlers in teenage clothing (!!); we are driven by coach to a farm in the 'midden' of Holland where I am asked to do an audience development questionnaire and in some disused war bunker (*Candyland*) 13 young people eyeball me for two hours, force feed me tea and cold macaroni (both strictly off my diet sheet) and then implore me to put them to bed in a cot. It's certainly not *Wind in the Willows!*

Young people on stage was the *idée fixe* of the festival; I think we call it Youth Theatre. Whilst witnessing some powerful and lasting images we rather suspected that the work, whilst being about *the state of being young*, came less from the ideas of the young people on stage and more from a series of images created through movement workshops.

For a sense of 'festival', *Tweetakt* was great – the church, which also laid on live music and dj-ing daily was surrounded by a series of interesting installations in glass houses, all of which created a magnetic heart to the satellite venues where the shows were taking place. But I have to say that I have not returned to base with a 'product' that I could programme into *the egg*. Far from dining out on a diet of core Dutch companies, the programme was made up of either experimental, student or youth theatre work. **Theatre Max's Yvon**, however, was a 30 minute delight and **Studio Orka's De Legende van Woesterdam** outdoors delivered everything I come to expect of Dutch theatre – philosophical, quirky and a showcase for the true, Dutch tradition of recycling and engineering.
www.tweetakt.net/english.php

One other thing – Dutch family and school audiences can stomach far more crudity, vulgarity and sexual innuendo than any British audience...but I think we knew that already!

Kate Cross is Director of the egg at Bath Theatre Royal

Festivals Abroad

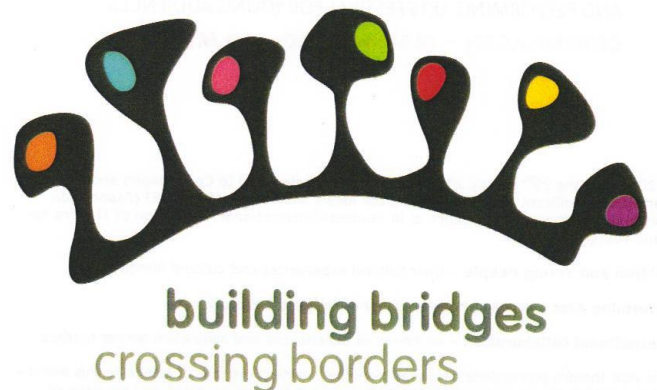
25 June – 5 July: Linz, Austria: Next Generation focus at this festival in City of Culture 2009.
www.schaexpir.at

August 17-25: Huy, Belgium: Annual Showcase of TYA in Wallonie. Delightful small town, great tradition of imaginative work, 50 shows in a week. Cheap accommodation and meals.
Info: marcelle.peerboom@provincedeliege.be

July-August: East Asia: Make that dream trip to Seoul, Osaka, Okinawa and Taipei

Click the link below for more festival news:
www.tya-uk.org/internationalactivityupdates.asp

Congress: 20-29 May 2011



Now is the time to start detailed planning for the big event in the ASSITEJ calendar. **Tony Reekie** is on the Festival Advisory Board. We in the UK need to begin the process of selecting workshop events and productions for inclusion in the programme.

Updates will appear regularly on the Congress website: www.assitej2011.info

**NEXT NEWS DEADLINE:
21 MAY 2009**

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