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IDEA Quarterly Newsletter
May 2023

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International Drama/Theatre and Education Association
Associação Internacional de Teatro Educação
Association Internationale Théâtre et Éducation
Asociación Internacional Teatro y Educación
国际戏剧/戏剧和教育协会

This e-bulletin contains important news and updates about our work at the International Drama/Theatre Education Association, as well as our activities and invitations to IDEA events.

“I Am Because We Are”

Dear readers, dear colleagues, dear members and friends of IDEA,

Since our December Newsletter two major live events have taken place in two different parts of the world, both in March. One was the World Summit on Arts Education in Funchal, Madeira, at the very beginning of the month, and the second one was the International Conference on Performing Arts, which hosted our blended General Council Meeting, in Kampala, Uganda, at the end of the month.



WAAE Summit in Madeira, Portugal 1-3 March 2023

As you all know, IDEA has been involved in the preparation of the Madeira Summit, as part of the World Alliance for Arts Education, and its success can be measured also by the committed involvement of UNESCO and its representatives, which led us through the process of how the new document, the 2023 Framework on Culture and Arts Education, will be created through various consultations and recommendations from different stakeholders as well as the voices from members of our four associations, InSEA, ISME, WDA and IDEA. A survey was distributed to you through the IDEA mailing list, and I hope you have taken the time to

fill it in, for each voice and opinion is important in this process. An IDEA UNESCO Framework Working Group is also right now in the process of shaping the recommendations of our association for this document, based on the work initiated by the focus group that was present at the Madeira Summit.



WAAE Executive Forum in Madeira, Portugal

The Conference in Uganda was an IDEA-endorsed event, and developed in partnership with the main host, the Makerere University from Kampala, as well as the Rostock University for Theatre and Music from Rostock, Germany and IDEA. The whole program was rich in content, with participants from different international and African universities and drama/theatre education communities participating. Mercy Mirembe Ntangaare and her team made us feel welcome and enveloped in a most interesting and enriching program, interlaced with beautiful art sequences of dance, music, poetry and singing performed by the students of the Performing Arts department of Makerere University, that celebrates its 50 years anniversary this year.

We have met and spoken to dear colleagues that were present at the Kisumu Congress in 1998, as well as new generations of practitioners and scholars from Uganda and all over Africa. It is our joint feeling that

IDEA has come home again to Africa and that many new members will join our association after this most important and successful event.

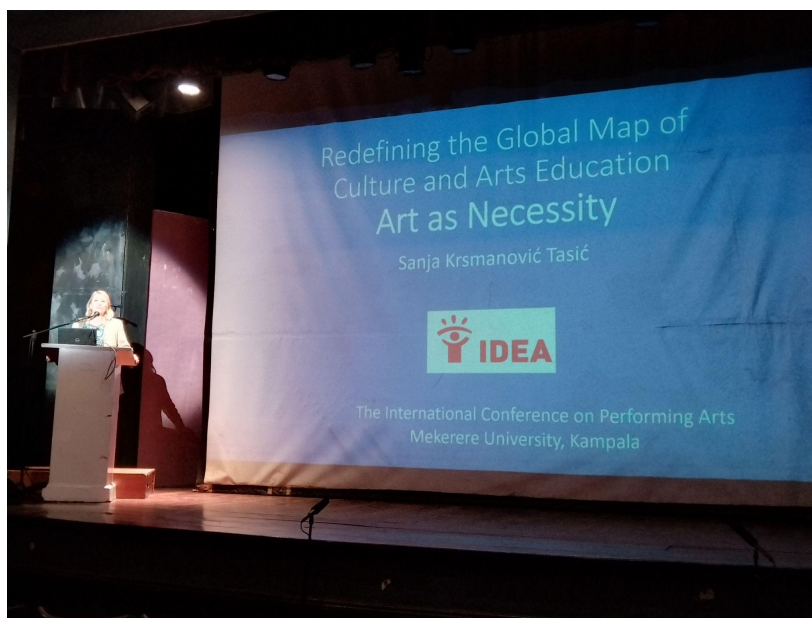


Participants of the International Conference on Performing Arts in Kampala, Uganda; 27 March - 1 April 2023

The blended General Council Meeting, led by IDEA General Meeting Committee Vice President Ása Ragnarsdóttir and GMC Secretary Patrick Ogutu, accomplished its goal, with Liliana Galván, IDEA Vice President online, and Borisav Matic, IDEA Administrator, in person, carefully guiding the online participants so that they could feel included and that their voices could be heard.

I believe we all share the feeling that the world is regaining its normality after the years of the pandemic and that borders and countries are opening up more and more. For IDEA it all started with our Reykjavik Congress last year, as a meeting of friends and colleagues and the possibility to share and exchange, talk and be together in one space in real-time. But what these difficult times have brought us is the new paradigm that we can share not only an actual real-time place, but we can also include the presence of others that are thousands of miles away, and still feel like we are in the same room, that we are all together. These blended events, the Madeira Summit, the Kampala Conference and

especially our Uganda GCM, proved that we can be together, work together and connect through screens and on-site.



Sanja Krsmanović Tasić at the keynote speech at the International Conference on Performing Arts

I am again full of admiration and respect for my colleagues that worked so hard to make these events come to life and also for those who have traveled so far to be there for all IDEA members, present and future. Marion Küster, Joachim Reiss, Colleen Roche, Mercy Mirembe Ntangaare, Liliana Galvan, Patrick Ogutu, Elisabeth Murrey, and many more.

But let us also reflect not only on successes and joyful events but also be aware of the turbulent world we live in, and that many of our colleagues need support and encouragement to pass difficult moments in their lives. We need to support our colleagues from the Creative Drama Association from Turkey, after the horrific earthquake that happened in February. There have been many turbulences in Greece, with the tragic train crash in Larissa and protests all over the country, involving drama school students and artists concerning the degradation of the position and qualifications of drama/theatre artists and educators. Not to mention the war in Ukraine and the suffering of all people in conflicted areas worldwide. And just recently the mass shootings in my own country,

Serbia, where one of the shooters was a 13-year-old boy, and the victims were his schoolmates.



Discussion at the GCM in Kampala about IDEA-Africa relations and collaboration

It is impossible for us to solve injustices and world problems but what we can do is continue to nourish what we call IDEA culture. It is a culture of solidarity and support, without prejudice, inclusive and generous, warm and human. It is a special environment where drama/theatre educators, pedagogues, students, scholars, researchers, teaching artists, teachers and everyone who is involved in our field is welcome and feels a belonging and acceptance. We are here to connect, meet, develop and open doors and windows. We are a home for all. And we are growing stronger each day through the acceptance of our own vulnerabilities, imperfections reflecting our humanity.

I believe and practice in my work the African concept of UBUNTU, especially in my pedagogical drama/theatre education work on the prevention of bullying. It was exciting for me to talk about that in my keynote speech at the National Theatre of Uganda on World Theatre Day at the opening of the Conference, to talk about how African cultures and concepts inspire me and my work. So I share with you one of the essential messages of this concept:

“I am because we are.”

Enjoy reading our May newsletter!

Sanja Krsmanović Tasić

IDEA President

Welcome to New Members

IDEA wishes a very warm welcome to the individual members who joined our association recently: **Patrick Mangeni** (Uganda), **Mercy Mirembe Ntangaare** (Uganda), **Lillian Mbabazi** (Uganda), **Miranda Young** (South Africa) and **Aishwariyah Shanmuganathan** (Asha Nathan, Singapore).

IDEA Events and Activities

UNESCO International Arts Education Week, 22-28 May

UNESCO International Arts Education Week 2023 will take place from 22 - 28 May.

The **Ring the Bells for Arts Education** action will take place again as an IDEA, WAAE and UNESCO initiative. We ask you all to join us on Monday, 22 May at noon, by ringing bells or sounding other instruments as a sign of support for arts education. It will be a 24-hour action, as we pass the time zones at noon.

We also ask you to record a short video of the action and send it to ad.ideadrama@gmail.com by 25 May so that it could be edited into a short video to promote arts education over the world.

We will present the videos of the Ring the Bells initiative at the **International Arts Education Week Webinar** on 28 May at noon UTC which will be the closing event of this important week. At the webinar, participants will also have the chance to hear about recent developments

and events in arts education like the World Summit for Arts Education, the International Conference on Performing Arts and the IDEA General Council Meeting, the UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education, the Multistakers Dialogue that will take place on the 25th and 26th of May and the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, etc. Be sure to save the date and join us at the webinar!

‘Together We Go On’ Festival, Call For Proposals

The Co-directors of Projects and Concepts are organizing the second Online World Festival ‘Together We Go On’ from August 26 at 8 am UTC until August 27 at 8 pm UTC.

To be as inclusive as possible we are going to program 36 hours non-stop. No time zones, no one excluded.

It will be a 36 hours online Festival!



Screenshot from the Together We Go On Festival in 2021

We invite all IDEA members to send their proposals for content to the Co-Directors of Projects and Concepts: ideadirectorofprojects@gmail.com.

The content can be:

- a live stream of a performance

- conclusions from the Webinars
- special interest groups
- lectures
- IDEA Research
- a presentation of a current project
- an interactive intervention
- an introduction to the World Congress in China 2024
- Young IDEA

The deadline for proposals is June 1, 2023.

We are looking forward to your proposals,

Tomas Leijen and Tom Willems, Co-Directors of Projects and Concepts
IDEA

IDEA Europe Meeting

The IDEA Europe Meeting 2023 will take place from 4 - 8 October at the venue of [AAA Fabre Vieux](#) in France.



The venue FABRE VIEUX is a restored 'Manor' - a castle dated from 1642

Fabre Vieux is situated in the southwest of France, in the Region Occitanie, department du Lot, in Pern. Maria van Bakelen and Wilbert van der Post bought Fabre Vieux as a ruin in 1988 and restored it during 12-15 years.

In 1999 the Association Atelier Activités Artistiques (AAA Fabre Vieux)

was created. AAA Fabre Vieux offers interdisciplinary and intercultural workshops and projects and is active in IDEA. Recently preparations have started for creating a place for Artists-in Residence.

AAA Fabre Vieux is happy to host the IDEA Europe Meeting 2023. Parallel to the IEM, a Young IDEA project will be organized at the venue.

The deadline for registration is 1 July 2023. For more information, contact fabrevieux@gmail.com and tomwillems1961@kpnmail.nl.

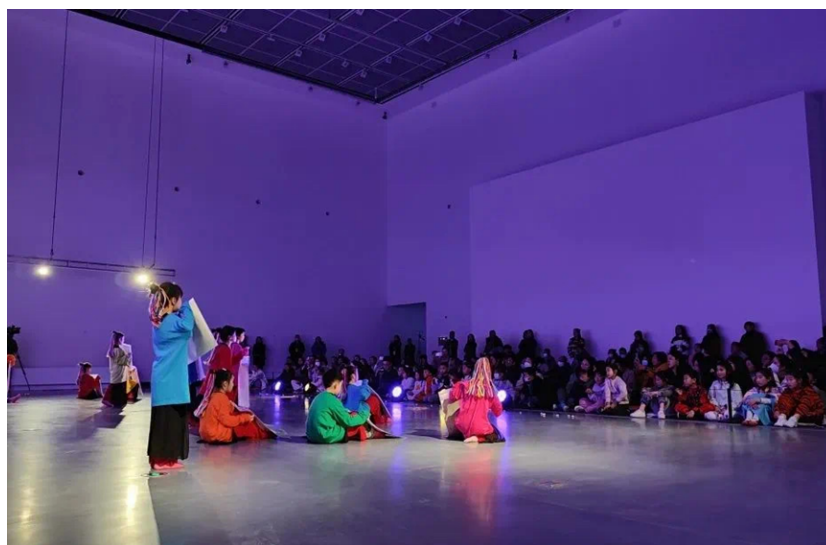
News from IDEA Members

The Second Zhiren Theatre Festival of Tianfu No.7 High School Primary Section, China



The second Zhiren Theatre Festival of Tianfu No.7 High School Primary Section was successfully landed in the first quarter of this year. There were five parts that included Theatrical Performances, Dramatic Parade, Theatre Carnival, Creative Fine Art Exhibition, and the Public Performance to the Society. All the school students participated in the theatre festival and managed to create and perform on their own, based on their compulsory drama classes every week. The chief designer of the

festival Miao Bin, who is also the drama teacher of the school and a member of IDEA, shared his practice in school drama education at the International Conference on Performing Arts at Makerere University in Uganda.

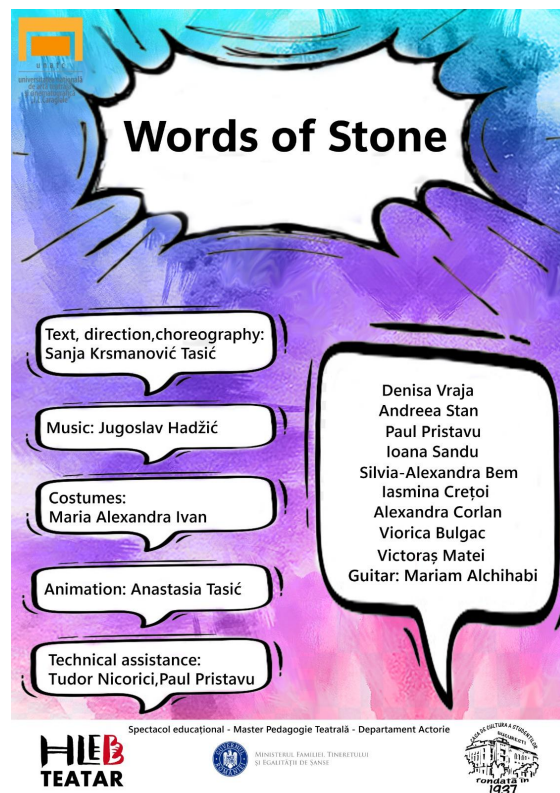


The delegation consisted of 50 principals of the schools from Chongqing City who visited Tianfu No.7 High School Primary Section, and Miao Bin, the drama teacher and head of arts education of the school, gave a public drama class for the delegation. Around 40 students in the first year of primary school participated in the drama class, and together with their teacher, they experienced the traditional story of Chinese mythology "Jingwei Filling Up the Sea" and connected the story with their own lives. Graduated from the MA in the Department of Theatre Studies,

University of Peloponnese in Greece, Miao Bin applied the methods of drama in education in this class. He has been the first drama teacher in the schools in Chengdu city who started the compulsory drama classes for all the students of the school. After the public class, he gave a lecture about drama education in school for the delegation. Drama education has gained more attention after the publication of the 2022 Art Curriculum Standards of Compulsory Education by the Ministry of Education in China.

Musical ‘Words of Stone’ at UNATC in Bucharest, Romania

Words of Stone was written as a result of many years of listening to the voices of children and teenagers about bullying, during drama workshops in Serbian elementary and high schools.



It is a story about a 14-year-old girl Ana who reveals her life and problems in sessions with a psychiatrist, as a consequence of cyberbullying. Her story is presented through a teenage musical, with

songs about events and people from the teenager's life, as music is a medium that easily enters the hearts of all, young and old.

The performance will be performed in English at the UNATC University in Bucharest, Romania, on 10 May at 8 pm local time.

Written and directed by Sanja Krsmanović Tasić, president of IDEA, and composed by Jugoslav Hadžić from Hleb teatar, the musical was performed in Serbian theatres and schools from 2017-2019. The English version is the collaboration of Hleb teatar and UNATC, and the music will be later translated into Romanian and performed in Romanian schools.

The actors in the performance are MA students at the UNATC-University for Theatre and Film in Bucharest, Romania, who are studying in the theatre pedagogy department.

Conference 'Global Connections: Performance Pedagogy and Practice'

The 21st century has brought about critical societal changes that arguably put pressure on some of the paramount tenets of performance pedagogy and practice during the 20th century. Transnational connections have enriched our practice with diverse cultural influences and techniques. But they have also shown that what was assumed to be culturally neutral training can have biases and exclusionary practices.

Jointly organized by LASALLE College of the Arts, the National University of Theatre and Film I.L Caragiale, and the Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts, and with Routledge as our publishing partner, Global Connections: Performance Pedagogy and Practice will open the space to enable these and adjacent conversations with the hope of ushering global debates about the future of our disciplines.

We would like to open a space that refreshes the experience of an online conference. To that end, the conference will be broadcast online globally and free of charge.

The conference will take place from 31 May - 3 Jun 2023. For more information, visit [the conference website](#).

National Drama Day in Turkey

“Turkey Drama Teachers’ Meeting and National Drama Seminar” was organized by the Oluşum Drama Institute with the pioneering of Naci ASLAN, who is one of the first practitioners of drama and theatre in education in Turkey, in 2005. At this event, it was decided to celebrate “A National Drama Day on 28 February every year” in Turkey with a tribute to Ismail Hakkı Baltacıoğlu who is one of the national historical symbols for the Drama and Theatre Education field in Turkey. Since 2005, many educators and artists who are pioneering to develop drama, theatre and arts fields in Turkey, including Prof. Dr. İnci San and Tamer Levent, wrote a statement on National Drama Day.

The Proclamation of National Drama Day in 2023 was written and published by Prof. Dr. Ruken Akar Vural.

'Drama heals, but beyond that, drama strengthens'.

Last year, we experienced difficult and complex times in social, political and economic terms such as climate crisis, pandemic, migration and inequality in all geographies of the world. This historical threshold has reminded us of the importance of questioning the individual-state relationship in the post-truth age, and more importantly, prioritizing building social solidarity and social justice instead of individual competition.

So how did drama function during this period? The healing power of the drama came to the fore as it supported self-recovery. Undoubtedly, we know that play and drama are healing instruments. Based on the distinction between fiction and real world, we see that drama creates a third therapeutic area and supports the holistic well-being of the individual through the experiences of “I in fiction” with the findings of many studies. However, this “fictional world” context can sometimes turn into an epic and unrealistically perfect healing space beyond the social, historical, economic, ideological, and political polyphony in which the individual is surrounded. Fairies, heroes, saviors and happy endings where good always wins...

However, drama is an important tool for the individual to become aware of “who s/he is” under the siege of socio-historical, political, economic, and ideological stimuli, to create his own values and to determine his own choices while deciding “who s/he will be”. Drama, like wearing a pair of shoes, provides the opportunity to be ‘in fiction’ and ‘in the real world’ ‘simultaneously’ and to experience many situations in a polyphonic form through drama techniques. In this sense, a “metaxis” and “living through drama” empowers the individual. It helps to construct the individual consciously. Of course, it also heals. For these reasons, I find it important to increase the place of drama in all school programs and out-of-school learning environments, and to give children and young people the opportunity to gain an aesthetic and multiple perspective through dramatic experiences. I believe that drama will make us more aware, autonomous, powerful individuals and therefore more just societies.

I celebrate the day of all drama practitioners with my faith in drama and - despite everything - with my optimistic hope for life.

Students Art Festival - Action Days 2023 “Together”

For the ninth consecutive year, the Hellenic Theatre/Drama & Education Network (TENet – Gr) in collaboration with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, together with than 70 local partners as education authorities, theatres, universities, parents’ associations, museums and other institutions, are organizing artistic school festivals in 14 cities across Greece.



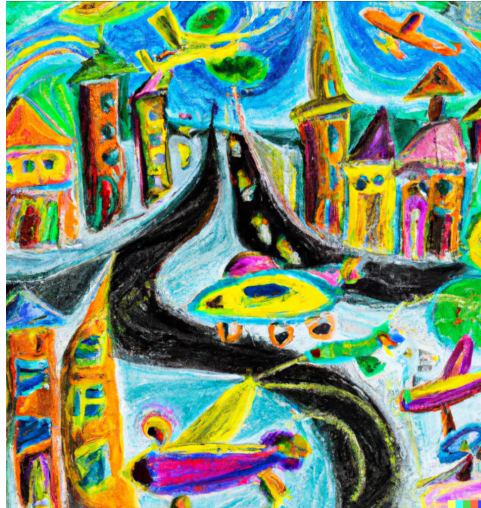
From 5 to 29 May 2023, more than 2,500 students, including refugee children, from 150 schools will take part in 16 student festivals including art workshops and performances during which they will exchange experiences and work jointly in order to celebrate inclusion, peaceful coexistence, and togetherness.



The aim of the festivals is to bring together students, teachers, theatre pedagogues and parents in a big non-competitive celebration, to play, discuss and enjoy each other's creations.



50 Years of Drama in Education in Austria



SAVE THE DATE
22nd – 27th of March 2024
Retz, Lower Austria

*sharing
& caring*
...every child matters!

info@idea-austria.org



25th International Drama /
Theater in Education
Conference 2024

*the place of young people
in the world*



Young people – children, adolescents and young adults – realize that their life-world (in German “Lebenswelt”) is no longer secure. This can make them angry or desperate – or both. Drama / theater can encourage young people’s strive for self-efficacy and active participation in an increasingly complex world.

We should empower them to put forward their demands, we should use the political dimension of drama / theater to raise public awareness about global issues.

In addition to this self-empowerment, we must support them in their strive for a conscious and careful use of all resources as a basis for a self-determined life.

**50 years of Drama in
Education in Austria**

Celebrate with us!

- ✓ Keynote
- ✓ Activities
- ✓ Masterclass

Info & Pre-registration:
idea-austria.org



For further information visit the IDEA website:

www.ideadrama.org

Contact: IDEA Administrator Borisav Matić: ad.ideadrama@gmail.com

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