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IDEA Quarterly Newsletter  
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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.

# Introduction Letter

IDEA Colleagues,

We are three months into 2024. Our shared world continues to greet us with both beauty and challenge. Together, we continue to grow, create and educate. Part of that work comes in how we tell each other the stories of our work through publications. On March 2, I was inspired by the IDEA members who assembled to learn and share about each other's organizational publications, hosted by Zeki Ozen as Director of Research, Dunja Đokić as IDEA Administrator and myself as Director of Publications. Journals and magazines presented include:

*ADEM: Australian Drama Education Magazine* (Australia)

Direct link: <https://dramaaustralia.org.au/adem-2023/>

*Applied Theatre Research* (Intellect, United Kingdom)

Direct link: <https://www.intellectbooks.com/applied-theatre-research>

*Creative Drama Magazine/YaraticiDrama Dergisi* (Contemporary Drama Association, Türkiye)

Direct link: <https://dergipark.org.tr/en/pub/ydrama>

*DaTEAsia: Journal of Drama and Theatre Education in Asia* (TEFO, Hong Kong)

Direct link:

<https://tefo.hk/en/tefo-resource-hub/tefo-publications/journal-of-drama-and-theatre-education-in-asia-dateasia/>

*DRAMA: Nordisk dramapedagogisk tidsskrift/Nordic drama pedagogy journal* (Norway)

Direct link: <https://www.idunn.no/journal/drama>

*Education and Theatre Journal* (Hellenic Theatre and Drama Education Network, Greece)

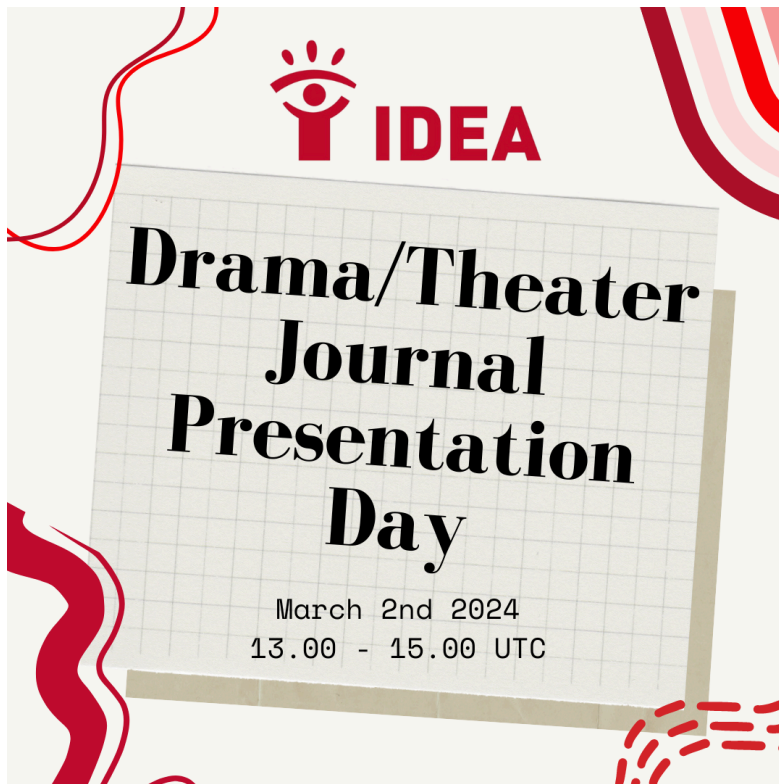
Direct link: <https://ejournals.epublishing.ekt.gr/index.php/edth/index>

*NJ: Drama Australia Journal* (Drama Australia, Australia)

Direct link: <https://njdrama.scholasticahq.com/>

*Provocations Journal: Drama+Dance in Education* (CODE, Canada)

Direct link: <https://www.provocationsjournal.com/>



This inspiring list is a beginning. We are continually curating a list of IDEA member organization publications to be shared through the IDEA website. If you would like to have your member organization's journal or magazine or other publication included, please reach out and share (emurra17@charlotte.edu) with the information. All are welcomed.

As we look to the Beijing IDEA Congress on the horizon, we have several publication projects in planning. IDEA is forming an editorial team to work on these publishing projects. Would you like to join? We are looking for IDEA member volunteers with skills in writing, editing, reviewing,

translating, video editing and graphic design. Researchers, practitioners, educators, artists, designers, and administrators are welcome. Please fill out this form to express your interest. If you wish to nominate a friend or colleague, please share this form with them. We want the team to represent the diverse world IDEA serves.

IDEA Editorial Team Interest Form: <https://shorturl.at/fktzZ>

Looking forward to our continued collaboration for drama/theatre education toward a better and better world.

Best wishes,  
Beth Murray  
IDEA Director of Publications



## News from IDEA

# Registrations Open for IDEA World Congress

Registrations are now open for the 10th IDEA World Congress, which will take place in Beijing, China from 15 to 20 July!

The Early Bird Registration is open until April 15.



The 10th IDEA World Congress will offer a fruitful programme, with more than 150 presenters presenting their workshops, academic papers, performances, as well as holding panel discussions.

All details and information about the Congress venue, accommodation and other useful data about the event are now published on the Congress website: [www.ideacongress2024.org](http://www.ideacongress2024.org)

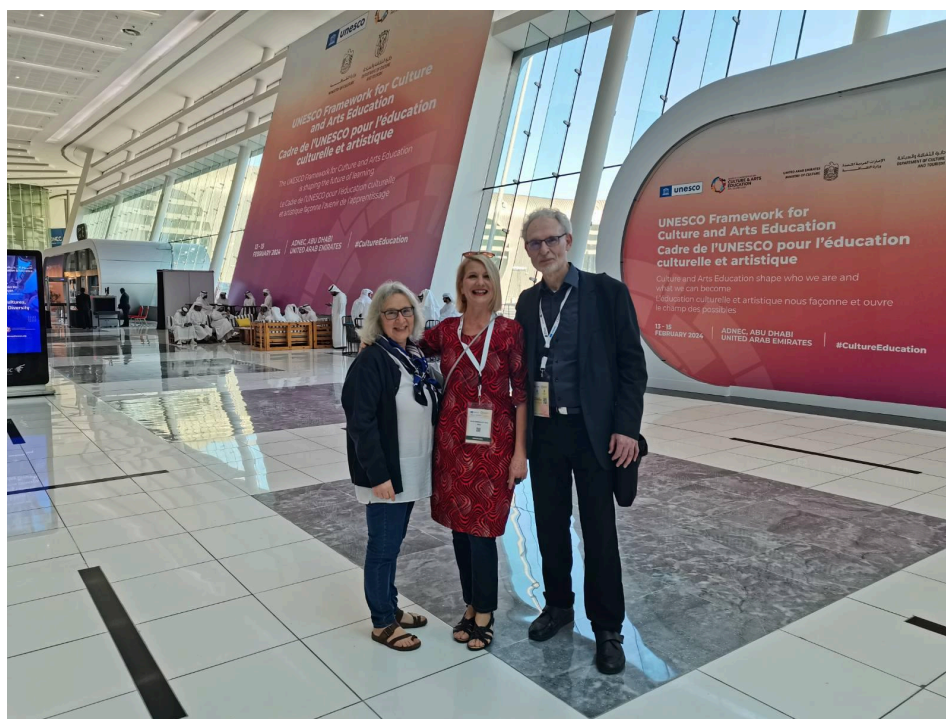
## The UNESCO World Conference on Culture and Arts Education

The UNESCO World Conference on Culture and Arts Education took place in Abu Dhabi on the 13th, 14th and the 15th of February 2024.

The World Conference on Culture and Arts Education, organized by UNESCO brought together nearly 1,000 culture and education stakeholders – including 90 ministers, 125 representatives of UNESCO Member States, policy-makers, experts and NGOs, as well as UN agencies, academia and the private sector.

Joachim Reiss from IDEA presented the Frankfurt declaration and Sanja Krsmanović Tasić, the president of IDEA, presented the work of IDEA on advocacy. Both spoke alongside colleagues from WAAE (World Alliance for Arts Education) at the [side event](#) named “Towards the implementation of the UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education”. This side program was organized by World Alliance for Arts Education (WAAE), together with the World Dance Alliance (WDA), daCi (dance and the Child international), and the International Society for Education through Art (InSEA), with the participation of Vice President for Asia and Pacific Region of the World Federation of Clubs and Associations for UNESCO and the Deputy Commissioner for the National Plan for the Arts of the Government of Portugal.

One of the most important outcomes of the event was that UNESCO Member States unanimously adopted a new global Framework for Culture and Arts Education. Among the commitments made: to give greater priority to culture and arts education in teacher training, to put more emphasis on local and indigenous cultures and heritage in the classroom, and to better recognize artistic and cultural skills within the professional world.



*Teresa Eca, InSEA, Sanja Krsmanović Tasić and Joachim Reiss, IDEA*

Sanja Krsmanović Tasić was also invited to speak at an online side event of the world Conference, organized by the Community Arts Network-CAN, that took place prior to the event in Abu Dhabi, on the 9th of February. The theme of this side event was: *Revitalizing arts education in global public schools: Evidence on the roadblocks and opportunities.*

You can download the new Framework on arts education [here](#).

## IDEA Online

The next IDEA Online event will be the IDEA Forum dedicated to the IDEA Congress that will take place in Beijing in July. This event will take place on the 13th of April 2024 at 12pm (noon) UTC time.

You will have the opportunity to learn more about the Congress program, get to know the keynote speakers on the Congress, and also ask

questions about this important event for the drama/theatre world Community.



## News from IDEA members

### Drama Australia and Drama New Zealand Conference



Join Drama New Zealand and Drama Australia at the 2024 Joint Conference, Kia Tōnui - Flourish.

This year's Drama Conference will be held from September 27 - September 30, 2024 in the beautiful, central Te Whanganui-a-tara/ Wellington, Aotearoa. Connect with drama teachers from abroad and locally, ranging throughout the primary to tertiary years. You'll hear from local presenters as well as a selection of international speakers, workshops, and seminars.

It's time to reconnect, dig deep, and flourish in 2024.

Early bird registrations and pricing are on now until April 30, 2024.

Book today!

Click here to register: <https://forms.gle/JsFbKJSMNyUbx8i19>

## NJ: The Journal of Drama Australia – New Edition Released



Drama Australia is excited to be joining with IDEA colleagues across the globe in 2024. Our national conference this year will be a combined conference with Drama New Zealand, [Kia Tōnui – Flourish](#), to be held in Wellington, New Zealand 27-30 September. We welcome drama educators from across the region to join us to be reenergised and to flourish in drama and theatre education.

We have recently released a new edition of [NJ: The Journal of Drama Australia](#). We are delighted to note that thousands of drama educators from many different countries have been accessing the journal since it became available open access. Current and past editions of ADEM, the Australian Drama Education Magazine is freely available on our website. [ADEM](#) includes articles of current practice and news from all our state and territory associations.

## Issue 24 of Education & Theater Journal

The *Education & Theater Journal* is a publication that promotes theatre, drama and other performing arts in education. It is published by the IDEA member Hellenic Theatre/Drama & Education Network (TENet-Gr). The journal is published once a year and the newest issue, issue 24, was published at the beginning of the year. Several IDEA members have written articles for the newest issue of *Education & Theatre Journal*.



## Three children's theatrical performances in Daliangshan Theatre Festival

Daliangshan Theatre Festival is one of the most well-known theatre festivals in China, initiated by 24 artists including the president of China Dramatists Association, and organized every December in West China. This year, The children's theatre groups in Tianfu No.7 High School were accepted by the theatre festival, including "Jingwei Filling Up the Sea" and "The May Fly" performed by primary school students and "Antigone" performed by middle school students. The stage was the open air theatre Moon Theatre with the mountains and lakes as the stage set. These children were the students of Miao Bin and Eley Yuan who are members of IDEA and drama teachers of the school, and besides this theatre festival, have performed in China Children's Theatre Festival, Looklive Village Games Theatre Festival, etc. They are willing for opportunities to perform in the theatre festivals in other countries, and open for cooperation and exchanges.



# Chinese Drama Teacher in Greece

## **Intercultural theatre class in Peiraikos Syndesmos Drama School in Athens**

In Athens, Peiraikos Syndesmos Drama School invited Miao Bin to give a class entitled "Intercultural Theatre" to the first year students of the school. He integrated traditional Chinese cultural elements such as martial arts, music and philosophy into the class, and used "Farewell My Concubine" as an example to bring the students to experience Chinese opera singing and stances, as well as exploring the creation and understanding of intercultural theatre. The Greek students also used the Chinese story Jingwei as material to create a short play of intercultural theatre. In 2020, Miao Bin collaborated with Peiraikos Syndesmos Drama School to produce a intercultural theatrical performance "Farewell My Concubine" which was performed in Theatre Olympia in Athens. To learn more: <https://shorturl.at/aqM15>



## **Lecture "Drama in Education: From Nafplio to Chengdu" in Athens**

On 14th February, the lecture was given by Miao Bin, a member of IDEA, in Theatre NOUS in Athens. Miao Bin graduated from the MA in Drama and Performing Arts in Education and Lifelong Learning from the Department of Theatre Studies, University of Peloponnese in Nafplio, Greece. After his graduation, he was invited to be a drama teacher in the

primary in Chengdu, China. In this lecture, he shared his experience from studying drama in education in Greece, to becoming the first one to make drama education as a compulsory discipline in primary school in Chengdu. The audience, including professors from the universities, drama educators, artists, etc. attended the lecture. Drama education has become an important channel for the exchange between Greece and China.

To watch the video of the lecture: [https://youtu.be/4MIId9G\\_LTc](https://youtu.be/4MIId9G_LTc)

## News from Czech Republic

IDEA member from Czech Republic, Creative Dramatics Association (Sdružení pro tvořivou dramaturgii) organizes each year many meaningful and important workshop events and Festivals. This year these events are:

### **CHILDREN'S STAGE 2024 / DĚTSKÁ SCÉNA 2024**

#### **52nd National Festival of Children's Theatre – 52nd National Workshop of Children's Reciting**

Svitavy (Czech Republic), 7.–13. 6. 2024

[www.nipos.cz/artama-dea-ddpdv](http://www.nipos.cz/artama-dea-ddpdv)

[www.drama.cz/prehličky\\_dilny/index.html](http://www.drama.cz/prehličky_dilny/index.html)

### **YOUTH STAGE 2024 / MLADÁ SCÉNA 2024**

#### **21st National Festival of Students' Theatre**

Ústí nad Orlicí (Czech Republic), 24.–28. 6. 2024

[www.nipos.cz/artama-dea-ddpdv](http://www.nipos.cz/artama-dea-ddpdv)

[www.drama.cz/prehličky\\_dilny/index.html](http://www.drama.cz/prehličky_dilny/index.html)

### **DRAMA IN SCHOOL / DRAMATICKÁ VÝCHOVA VE ŠKOLE**

#### **28th National Workshop of Drama in Education**

Jičín (Czech Republic), 19.–25. 9. 2024

[www.drama.cz/prehličky\\_dilny/index.html](http://www.drama.cz/prehličky_dilny/index.html)

[www.nipos.cz/artama-dea-ddpdv](http://www.nipos.cz/artama-dea-ddpdv)

## **INSIGHTS 2024 / NAHLÍŽENÍ 2024**

### **34th National Workshop of High School Drama and Youth Theatre**

Bechyně (Czech Republic), 20.–23. 10. 2024

[www.drama.cz/prehličky\\_dilny/index.html](http://www.drama.cz/prehličky_dilny/index.html)

[www.nipos.cz/artama-dea-ddpdv](http://www.nipos.cz/artama-dea-ddpdv)

## **CHILDREN-EDUCATION-THEATRE / DĚTI-VÝCHOVA-DIVADLO**

### **Autumn Festival of Children's and Youth Theatre of the Czech Republic**

Praha (Czech Republic), Theatre Faculty, Academy of Performing Arts, 25.–27. 10. 2024

<http://www.dvd-damu.cz/>



*Elá hop, performance (based on the texts by Daniil Kharms) of the children's group from Třebotov, heads of the group: Václava Makovcová and Jana Barnová; presented within the National Festival Dětská scéna (Children's Stage) in Svitavy 2023*

## **DRAMA EDUCATION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

At the end of 2023, we published a publication in English introducing readers to drama education in the Czech Republic, its basic forms, tendencies and directions. The authors of the studies are key experts in

drama education who have had and continue to have a decisive influence on its shape and development. The book captures primarily the current situation of drama education in the Czech Republic, but also its historical development and its roots. It is divided into four sections. The first contains studies on the history and present of Czech drama education and presents in detail the system of shows and workshops. The second section outlines the situation of drama education in Czech education today. The third section contains studies on the dramaturgy of children's theatre and on the relationship between speech education and children's and artistic performance. The last section introduces the reader to how dramatic methods and techniques are used in educational programmes in Czech professional theatres, and to the overlap of drama education with other disciplines, based on the experience of the Creation-Creativity-Play workshops of complex aesthetic education. An important part of the book is the rich pictorial material - mainly photographs from workshops and seminars of drama education and from the most important productions of children's and secondary school ensembles from the 1960s to the present. The book also contains an inventory of selected Czech literature on drama education, an inventory of institutions and organizations involved in drama education, and a name index.

If you are interested in the book, you can order it at: [jaroslav.provaznik@damu.cz](mailto:jaroslav.provaznik@damu.cz). We will send it to you free of charge. You will pay only the postage.

Some of the authors include: Jaroslav Provazník, Gabriela Zelená Sittová, Eva Machková, Anna Hrnečková, Jakub Hulák...

## News from Portugal: A Companhia João Garcia Miguel

**TRACE Collection: A Companhia JGM launches four new theatrical texts from João Garcia Miguel**



How to assign time and place to a theater performance? TRACE Collection emerged with this purpose: to publish and make accessible the set of theatrical texts that are the origin of A Companhia João Garcia Miguel plays. *My Nose is Arabic*, *Apocalypse of Pure Hearts*, *The Redhead* and *Crowned Mary* were the plays presented to the public in 2023 and are the new theatrical texts now joining the TRACE Collection. The books now to be launched include the original texts by João Garcia Miguel (with more than three decades dedicated to performative writing) with translations by Suzana Durão and prefaces by Paulo Barriga - both in Portuguese and English - in addition to a selection of stage photographs from each show. Books can be purchased at any time by email to [garcia@joaogarciamiguel.com](mailto:garcia@joaogarciamiguel.com) or [rdomingos@joaogarciamiguel.com](mailto:rdomingos@joaogarciamiguel.com). All plays are fully available at our youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/joaogarciamiguel>

## Upcoming play: Heróis do Impossível



The strength of opposites in their maximum tension. That was the game out in those years after the Carnation Revolution of April 25, 1974. A maximum of opposites between the old ages of the world and a new age that, one can guess, will arrive. A collective storyline pictured in the life of a couple: man and woman as symbols of that tragic feeling that swept and pushed us in those years. Based on texts by Natália Correia and testimonies by General Amadeu Garcia dos Santos, Heróis do Impossível has the Direction of João Garcia Miguel and interpretation of the Portuguese actors Catarina Wallenstein and Pedro Lacerda. It will premiere on April 20, 2024, at the Museu Nacional do Teatro e da Dança, Lisbon, Portugal with the financial support of the Portuguese Republic – Culture / Directorate-General for the Arts and comissão Comemorativa 50 anos 25 Abril. A Companhia João Garcia Miguel is a contemporary theater company dedicated to exploring the body, movement and sound/spoken word through theater creation, publishing and performing arts training.

## News for IDEA Members

### Welcome to New Members!

IDEA is happy to welcome to our community our new member – [A Companhia João Garcia Miguel](#) from Portugal, as well as individual

members **Michelle Gram Giesen** from Canada, **Brendan Glanville** and **Erin Mascord** from Australia, **Elaine Lavezzo** from Brazil, **Arma Tanović Branković** from Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Cariad Astles** from The United Kingdom, and **Karina Semenenko** from China.

We are looking forward to many years of successful collaboration and mutual engagement.

## In Memoriam

### John Somers



John Somers was one of the most impactful persons in the field of drama in the past decades. The Exeter International Conference, the MA in Applied Drama, the Research in Drama in Education journal were only a few of his project-babies, which for sure have shaped today's field for all of us. People may also know his tireless efforts of Community Theatre projects, discovering the history of his home-town and bringing it to life; others may have followed his TiE research tackling issues such as mental health and dementia. Perhaps some of us followed his constant efforts to evolve, even by humbly completing his PhD some years ago.

For all of us who were lucky to have crossed paths with him, let alone be his students, John was the fuel to create a fire from our spark. He followed each and everyone of us in our personal paths and was always there to make sure we tried, made mistakes, learn from them and try better. He had the patience to see us bloom in our own time and made sure we kept our playful element intact, at all times. He opened his home and welcomed us, with his wonderful spouse, Di. He made sure that his international students understood significant aspects of cultural elements of our student life in Exeter, so that we made the most out of it. He also made sure we overcame the language barrier, which at times could become overwhelming. He made sure that we took care of ourselves (eat properly, sleep properly, were on top of our game). But also he was the one to create multiple opportunities for new knowledge and experiences; through organizing seminars with visitor guests, with involving us as volunteers in his conferences and thus meeting with people of the field from around the world, even with secretly paying off fees for meetings, conferences or trainings so that we could attend, whenever he could see that we were struggling with money. John had a unique way of helping us wear our wings, softly push us out the window for our first flight, then reflect with us on our performance in order to fly higher and further next time. He empowered all of us and inspired many of his international students to create a drama field in their countries and was there to put his energy, know-how and personal effort in our first baby steps. In Greece he enabled our Network to be shaped and was there for over two decades to support and to see flourish.

My life for sure took a clear direction when I met him and learnt about drama and its potential. I was thrilled to have participated as an erasmus and then as an MA student his programs. I was simply happy when I was connected through him with the Greek and the international drama community. I was honoured to receive his constant support as a young professional and as a member of a fellow network. I was proud to carry some of the ethics and professional qualities he taught me. And I am simply devastated today with his loss.

John was way, way, way more than a professor to me and to all of us. He was our mentor, our compass, our father, our friend, our Teacher.

Dearest John, I am sending my condolences to your lovely family and I hope I help transfer a message of the sorrow your loss has caused to your drama families all over the world, who stand in solidarity at this hour.

Our beloved PapaSmurf, with great sorrow we greet you and we wish you farewell. May you rest in peace.

Nassia Choleva, MA Applied Drama, year 2003.

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For further information visit the IDEA website:

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

Contact: IDEA Administrator: [ad.ideadrama@gmail.com](mailto:ad.ideadrama@gmail.com)

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