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IDEA Quarterly Newsletter

December 2024

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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

Message from outgoing Elected Officer, IDEA Treasurer, Joachim Reiss

Wonderful that we, as drama-teachers in schools, have the fantastic chance for meeting, exchanging and cooperating with colleagues from all over the world. Different views and experiences, advice and expertise - politically and for our subject – that's what we profit from IDEA, especially in our world-congresses. For me and many others it was incredibly inspiring, meeting in congresses. My first was 2004 in Ottawa/Canada, since then I am an IDEA-fan, advertising in Germany, organizing german delegations, bringing german school theatre student groups and their performances to Hongkong 2007 and Paris 2013. A regional informal IDEA network in Europe was founded in 2006 in Frankfurt/Germany, because we could try to influence education policy of the EU and use their funds for common projects and meetings. Since then we have IDEA-Europe-meetings every year.

And from my perspective IDEA is also a big chance for advocating "drama/theatre in the school systems":

In our countries we can show examples from education systems in other countries, where drama/theatre is already implemented and improving formal education and cooperation with theatres and theatre-paedagogues. And IDEA as an international association is "eye in eye" with international associations (ISME, InSEA, WDA) and governments organisations like UNESCO: It was fantastic, that we could take part in all UNESCO meetings and conferences since 2004 – and we could influence the wording of the Lisbon "Road Map" 2006 and "Seoul Agenda" 2010. Together with WAAE, founded in Lisbon 2006 by our president Dan Baron Cohen, we were able to "push" UNESCO, even in our WAAE-conference 2019 in Frankfurt and with the "Frankfurt Declaration", which was part of the new "culture education" policy of UNESCO ending in the "Framework for Culture and Education", decided in Abu Dhabi 2024 with the presence of IDEA and WAAE.

In Germany drama is not yet integrated in the formal education of all our states, but many steps have been done and in some states we do have

“theatre” as a fully recognized school subject and teacher education programmes. It was inspiring and helpful for us and me to be in IDEA and its networks and events, f.i. in congresses, but also in webinars like “Where do we stand” and many others. I was happy and honored being an IDEA board member since 2016 and thankful for good collaborations with many colleagues in many countries, even though there are still a lot of challenges and aims for our future. Good luck for our new board!

Joachim Reiss, Frankfurt/Germany
For BVTS (national association for theatre in school)



"Even if the wind against you is blowing very hard: Stand and fight!!!"

IDEA would like to thank the remarkable outgoing Elected Officers that worked devotedly for our Association in the past years: Liliana Galvan (Vice President), Arnold Koledji (Secretary of the Accountancy Committee), Joachim Reiss (Treasurer), Colleen Roche (Director of Communications), Kristin Runde (President of the General Meeting Committee), Kathrin Gooses and Nefeli Angeloglou (Co-directors of Young IDEA), Patrick Ogutu (Secretary of the General Meeting Committee), Tomas Leijen (Co-director of Projects and Concepts).

News from IDEA

IDEA DAY

IDEA DAY is celebrated on the 27th of November all around the world, by drama educators, teachers, artists, and IDEA's wide community. It is the day dedicated to the celebration of drama/theatre education.

If you didn't have a chance to read the IDEA DAY Message written by IDEA President Sanja Krsmanovic Tasic, you can read it on our website: <https://www.ideadrama.org/page-18262/13430060>

Webinar Drama/Theatre Education Builds a Peaceful and Compassionate World

IDEA has celebrated the 27th of November with a webinar "Drama/Theatre Education Builds a Peaceful and Compassionate World". Webinar was very fruitful and started with IDEA President Sanja Krsmanovic Tasic reading the IDEA Day Message, as well as ringing the bells for drama education. IDEA Vice-President Olafur Gudmundsson presented the workshop "Taiji and Qigong as the basis for warm-up, group building, and the development of trust in drama work". Other presentations included "It could be me, it could be you" (Nassia Choleva, TeNET-Gr), "Building peace through supporting child rights: working across borders" (Cariad Astles, UNIMA), "Transformational drama teaching" (Robin Pascoe), "The Herds project" (Yolanda Markopoulou,

Alice Evans, Constantina Georgiou). Tintti Karppinen also shared thoughts and practices on drama for peace education.

If you have missed the webinar, you can watch it on IDEA YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/9boeTKa5PJQ?si=1s4IDJuMwSf-w7y3>



FLISS from Iceland & IDEA Day Celebration

FLISS, the Icelandic drama and theatre in education association celebrated the IDEA day 27th November by contacting all the social media in Iceland. We translated the message Sanja Krsmanovic Tasic, our IDEA president, created to all the members and sent it to all the newspapers. One of them did take it up and put it in a very good place which led to new members coming into FLISS and people talking about drama in education. At the same time, two in the board of FLISS were invited to talk about FLISS and drama and theatre education in schools

on the radio, and for a long time. Drama and theatre are now more visible in Iceland.

It is maybe interesting for you to see the message in Icelandic in our newsletter of IDEA:

[https://heimildin.is/grein/23387/idea-dagurinn-minnir-a-hve-leiklistarken
nsla-i-skolum-er-gagnleg/](https://heimildin.is/grein/23387/idea-dagurinn-minnir-a-hve-leiklistarken
nsla-i-skolum-er-gagnleg/)

IDEA DAY celebrations in Greece

The Hellenic Theatre/Drama & Education Network (TENet-Gr) participates annually in the celebrations of the World Day for Theatre/Drama & Education (IDEA Day) as invited by IDEA.

This year's general thematic framework in Greece was: "Facing New Challenges: "Together We Stand! From individual isolation to collective strength."

Several events took place in many cities across Greece (Athens, Thessaloniki, Ioannina, Patra, Corfu, Heraklion, Ierapetra, Samos, Zakynthos etc). These events address both teachers and students (including refugee children) and feature experiential workshops, film screenings, performances, public presentations and discussions, storytelling and solidarity initiatives for Palestine. All events were offered free of charge.

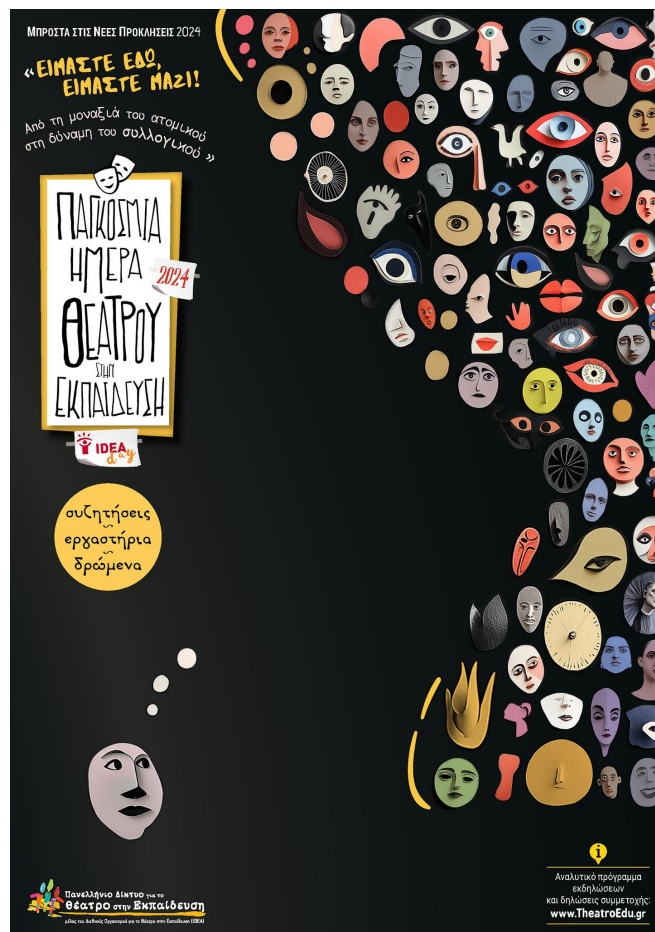
The following message was shared to all schools in Greece by the Board of the Hellenic Theatre/Drama & Education Network (TENet-Gr):

"Modern society faces unchecked competition and escalating challenges. Increased obligations, diminished free time, and the lingering effects of an unprecedented pandemic significantly impact our lives on both individual and collective levels. Additionally, the rapid expansion of technology and unrestricted digital access immerse individuals in a virtual world, overshadowing real-life connections.

These societal trends inevitably affect schools, which mirror the broader challenges. The role of the arts in the educational process is often

undervalued, and the educational community continues to operate within an outdated, competitive system. Alarming, incidents of violence— both within schools and in broader social contexts—are on the rise, reaching concerning levels.

In this environment, students and educators seek meaningful outlets. This year's theme seeks to counter individualism and violence with the antidote of solidarity, empowerment, mutual support, and care. TENet-Gr organizes events and activities across Greece. These gatherings bring together teachers, theatre educators, teatrologists, artists, students, and group facilitators to share insights, discuss methodologies, and explore tools for fostering connection and understanding."



IDEA member from Serbia, CEDEUM, celebrated the IDEA Day with “Mater Terra” festival

Theatre festival of children and youth, “Mater Terra” was held for the 11th time in Belgrade, celebrating the IDEA Day and drama education. The festival focuses on ecology and ecology of the soul, and 9 theatre groups, primary, middle and high schools, performed, from all across Serbia. This festival is a place where children meet and exchange experiences from the field of drama and ecology. The experts review their plays and send them to their drama pedagogues, who can use it to further enhance their drama practices as extra-curricular activities in schools.





IDEA DAY celebrations in Bangladesh

On celebrating 30 years of BITA and IDEA Day 2024, a Program titled 'Theatre for Peace and Reconciliation' was held on November 27, 2024, at Alliance Française de Chittagong.

Author and journalist Ahmed Munir, Actor and Theater Director Suman Tinku, and Assistant Professor Institute of Fine Arts, Chittagong University SiraZam Munira Sawrna gave their valuable Speech.

The program was started by showing a video of BITA 30 year's journey and opening the 30-year logo by Moushumi Chowdhury, Honorable General Secretary of BITA Executive Committee. Director of Alliance Française de Chittagong Bruno Lacrampe gave a welcome speech.

Puppet production 'Ha-re-re-re-re-re' was performed with the participation of the BITA youth team. The guests discussed the effective

role of theater in promoting peace and reconciliation and its future trajectory.

BITA Executive Director Sisir Dutta thanked everyone for attending and participating in the event. Members of the BITA Executive Committee, Theater Performers, Theater Group Members, NGO Representatives, Cultural Group Members, Youth Members, and BITA Staff were present at the event.

Finally, the event ended with a musical performance by young music artist Prama Avanti Biswas.



Presenting Our New Logo

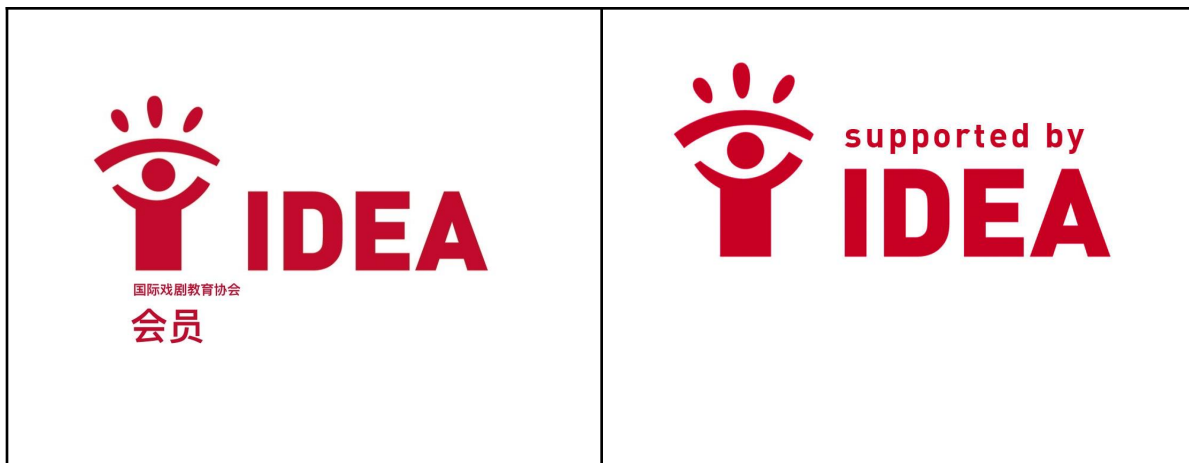
IDEA Elected Officers voted for the new logos that members can use on their websites. These days, we are actively working on the rebranding of IDEA. To use the IDEA logo, please write to the IDEA Administrator and the Administrator will send the logo in full resolution.

Apart from IDEA member logos in official IDEA languages, we use this opportunity to also present the new logo for IDEA endorsed events (*Supported by IDEA*). To have your event endorsed by IDEA, please write

to the Administrator, who will inform you about the procedure. After submitting the proposal, the Executive Committee will vote, and if the outcome is positive, you will have the opportunity to use the IDEA endorsement logo, as well as have support in promoting your event through IDEA social media channels, as well as the IDEA webpage.

The creator of new IDEA logos is Anastasia Tasić, visual artist and graphic designer from Belgrade, Serbia. She has created them pro bono, for IDEA.





IDEA New Years' Gift to Members

In anticipation of Christmas and New Years holiday, IDEA is giving to its members the Highlights of the 10th IDEA World Congress, which was held in July in Beijing, China. There are numerous videos from the Congress that you can watch.

Access the video library [here](#).

This is an IDEA members exclusive.

**IDEA wishes its members and the drama/theatre community
🎁 Happy Holidays and a wonderful New 2025! 🎁**

Invitation for Projects

As the new cycle of calls for projects in arts education and culture are approaching, we ask IDEA members to be free to invite IDEA as the 32 year old association with remarkable reputation, to become a partner in future projects concerning drama/theatre and education. The Working group for Funding and Finances, formed during the IDEA GCM in Beijing in July has been actively working, led by IDEA Vice President Olafur

Gudmundsson, and this has been one of the conclusions of the group: to join with our expertise and capacities projects of our members.

The expert team of IDEA is capable of implementing projects and also contributes to their visibility in an international context.

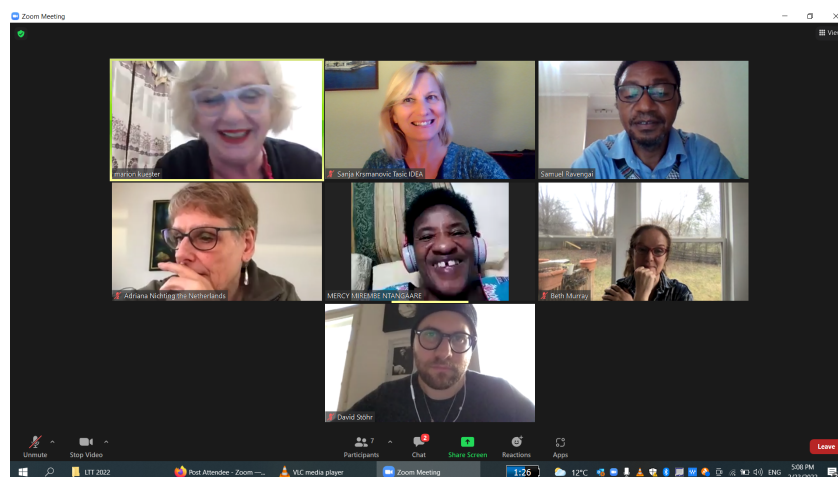
Please write to ad.ideadrama@gmail.com if you plan to write a project and have IDEA as a partner.

Invitation to join the IDEA Online Working Group

The IDEA Online group invites members to join us in creating content for the IDEA Online events. The group has so far developed these formats of events: IDEA Forums, IDEA Webinars, Sharing IDEAs and IDEA Online Festival.

We meet regularly, and discuss which content would be interesting to present to the drama/theatre community, and then work on its realization in smaller groups.

If you wish to join us, please write to: idea.president.sanja.tasic@gmail.com, as Sanja Krsmanovic Tasic is the leader of this working group.



News from IDEA members

Athens 2025 International Conference “Theatre/Drama & Inclusive Education”

SAVE THE DATES! 21-22-23 March 2025 Athens Greece



[Athens International Conference “Theatre/Drama & Inclusive Education”](#)

REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN:

<https://theatroedu.gr/en/What-we-do/International-Conferences/International-Conference-2025/Registrations-Contact>

IDEA Regional Conference

Organised by the Hellenic Theatre/Drama & Education Network
(TENet-Gr)

See here [Paper Presentations](#) and [Workshops](#) (more soon!)

The response from researchers, teachers, theatre educators and artists from over 20 countries exceeded expectations. The high quality of

proposals fills us with optimism, and we hope that the conference will foster meaningful exchanges of ideas and practices in the fields of inclusive education and applied performing arts, that we expect to address burning questions and key needs of education and theatre education professionals who struggle daily against exclusions.

You can find detailed instructions on how to register in 2 steps [here](#).

See you in Athens!

The Conference is an IDEA endorsed event.

32nd International Congress on Creative Drama in Education, held in Eskisehir

Eskisehir Osmangazi University Faculty of Education and Contemporary Drama Association jointly organized the 32nd International Congress on Creative Drama in Education, held in Eskisehir between November 13-16, 2024. This congress is part of the International Seminars and Congresses on Creative Drama in Education series, which have been organized since 1985, and aims to facilitate the national and international sharing of studies promoting creative drama as a course and method.

The theme of the congress, "Eternal Cycle," highlighted the concepts of cyclicity and dynamism in creative drama. This term, derived from the Turkish words "devir" (to revolve) and "daim" (continuous and eternal), signifies a dynamic journey involving transformation and continuity. Creative drama naturally reflects this theme through its cyclic structure and circular working format.

The primary goal of this year's congress was to share and discuss theoretical and practical studies in the field of creative drama and evaluate their impact on education, culture, and art. By opening creative drama studies to discussion within the educational system and societal framework, the congress contributed to the dissemination of the field in educational, theatrical, and artistic environments. The connection

between creative drama and the concept of the Eternal Cycle was examined, exploring how this dynamic structure manifests in educational sciences, arts education, theater, music, and dance. The congress was dedicated to Prof. Dr. Ali Öztürk, the founding president of the Creative Drama Association's Eskisehir Branch, who passed away on August 29, 2022.

The congress hosted approximately 700 participants and distributed around 1,500 participation certificates during workshops. Academics, artists, theater pedagogues, and practitioners from different regions of Turkey and various countries worldwide gathered to discuss the role of creative drama in education and the arts. Additionally, six trainers from England, Italy, Germany, Serbia, and Finland supported the congress as workshop facilitators.



All Aboard! - Navigating Crosscurrents of Theatre Arts Practice and Beyond and IDEA GCM 2025

The Singapore Drama Educators Association ([SDEA](#)) proudly presents the Theatre Arts Conference 2025 (TAC 2025), to be held in Singapore from July 17-19 2025. The conference, titled 'All Aboard! - Navigating Crosscurrents of Theatre Arts Practice and Beyond', invites a diverse community of artists, educators, researchers, and practitioners to embark on a journey through the dynamic intersections of drama and theatre education, community engagement, and performance. Themes such as hybridity, diaspora, and representation will be unpacked alongside efforts to dismantle the legacies of colonialism in the practice of Drama and Theatre. The conference encourages a balanced exploration of traditional knowledge alongside the creation of new insights, promoting Southeast Asian perspectives and content. Drawing inspiration from concepts such as 'un-curating', 'de-colonizing', and 'un-learning', TAC 2025 aims to ignite conversations that transcend established methodologies and embrace emerging trends. This platform encourages critical reflection, collaborative learning, and forward-thinking dialogue, aimed at shaping the future of theatre arts education and performance practices in a global context.

The General Council Meeting of IDEA in 2025 will also be held during this event, which is a great opportunity for our members to get together.

This conference is an IDEA endorsed event.



24th People's Theatre Festival in India

FEBRUARY 2-7, 2025

AT THEATRE VILLAGE
ODISHA, INDIA

This is the 24th time to organize a festival which is not just to perform and vanish, but rather a refreshing camp for developing knowledge and skills for 100 campers/artists by learning from each other. In the past, the festival focused on themes such as environment, youth, folk theatre, children, peace and harmony. This year, the festival theme will focus on water resources, women rights and welcoming youth. The goal is to highlight the need of motivation for a social change which is best through performing arts and theatre, as well to spread the strength of theatre for awareness aiming for social development and change.

News from IDEAC

In the fourth quarter of 2024, IDEAC has been actively engaged in a range of initiatives to promote and develop drama education.

A key highlight of our work has been the initiation and preparation of the 7th Blue Cloak Youth Creative Drama Festival, scheduled to take place in January of 2025. This prestigious event aims to showcase the talents of young thespians and foster a deeper appreciation for drama among students. In terms of achievements, we are pleased to report that we have successfully collected over 100 play proposals for the festival.



Furthermore, we have embarked on preparations for the 2025 Blue Cloak Youth Creative Drama Troupe's "Centenary Animal Heads, Chinese Spirit" Creation Camp, which is set to take place in the spring of 2025. This innovative project will provide participants with an opportunity to delve into Chinese history and culture through the medium of drama.



Additionally, we have organized three workshops to further enrich the drama education landscape. One of the workshops, led by IDEAC Guest Lecture Fresco(Su Yi), focused on "Educational Theatre" and was held in Zhuhai.



The other two workshops, conducted by IDEAC Guest Lecturer Ye Xunqian, comprised two sessions in Beijing, exploring interdisciplinary learning through "Riverside Scene at Qingming Festival" and emotional empathy via "The Nightingale and the Emperor."



“Haicrianças” Project in Brazil

This project is being developed with 8-year-old elementary school children. The project, entitled “Haicrianças,” plays with the words “haikai” and “criança,” which mean haiku and children, combining the two terms into a single invented word. The students are getting to know Brazilian poets and Japanese haikus, focusing on the elements of nature. We want to encourage them to consider human beings as part of nature, in harmonious dialogue with the forests, mountains, animals, the planet, and the cosmos. The children are writing poems based on traditional haikus, but the most important thing is to create a playful environment for poetic writing. The poems can be recited or transformed into songs to be performed at school. A collectively authored book can be published in versions translated into other languages and sent to national and international educational institutions.



The poem in the photo says: "Eclipse: Moon and sun / play eclipse / in the stillness of the day."

News from Drama Australia

Drama Australia is excited to inform our international community of the Drama Australia National Conference "Invigorate" to be held 10-11 May 2025. The conference is being hosted by Drama SA in association with DreamBIG Children's Festival. [INVIGORATE](#) will include a program of engaging keynote addresses, performances, workshops and research papers, as well as offerings and events of the [DreamBIG](#) festival. This drama conference promises to inspire and invigorate drama educators to fuel the creativity, artistry and wellbeing of young people. We welcome international delegates to join us!



We hosted a hybrid regional Asia and Oceania drama education roundtable meeting at the Drama New Zealand & Drama Australia combined conference in Wellington in September. This was a fabulous opportunity to forge links with drama colleagues across the region. We have plans to reconvene via Zoom on Monday 10th Feb at 5:30pm AEDST and another to coincide with the National Conference in May 2025. These meetings are to lay the foundations for a larger meeting and IDEA GMC to be held in Singapore in July 2025.

We are pleased that research articles in our Journal [NJ: The Journal of Drama Australia](#) continue to be accessed by people from around the world. Drama Australia is proud to be able to make drama education research freely accessible to all through open access publishing. Our Australian Drama Education Magazine (ADEM) includes examples of drama practice and [ADEM past issues](#) are also freely available to download from the Drama Australia website.

News in Drama Education in China

The Youth Theatre Groups Performed Daliangshan Theatre Festival

The 6th Daliangshan Theatre Festival was officially launched at Xichang on November 8, and this is one of the main theatre festivals in China.

Three theatre productions by the Youth Theatre Groups of Tianfu No.7 High School were invited to performed in the Torch Square in the centre of the festival, including the physical theatre “Icarus’ Wings”, the shadow puppet theatre “Yu the Great Ruling the Water”, and the experimental theatre “The Necklace”. All the plays were performed twice in a big stage and a small theatre in two days, and received full houses. Although the Youth Theatre Groups consist of primary and secondary school students, the performances are of high quality and the audiences were amazed by the children. Meanwhile, unlike professional theatre groups, the youth theatre groups’ productions were created by the children and their teachers together, with props and costumes made by the children themselves, so the productions are more educational and thought-provoking for the children.



Teachers from Four Provinces of China Came to Tianfu No.7 High School to Learn Drama Education

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A School Vacation - AGITA's Experimental Training and Exploration

Since 2023, Agita has been experimenting with a new itinerant training format for teachers and theater educators. This intensive course takes place every summer in a different city -in 2023 it was in Turin, in 2024 in Naples - because it is the territory that shapes a multidisciplinary program (visits to museums, exhibitions, meetings with socio-cultural entities, viewing performances, performative and artisanal workshops).

The activities serve to carry out pedagogical and artistic research in which teachers, theater educators, and trainers work and study together. From this year, alongside the basic course, a professional training path has been added for young theater educators (under 30), with whom the research focuses on defining the role, skills, and specific strategies of a theater educator who works in partnership with the teacher in the school (as provided for by the Italian model of theater education).

Stay tuned for updates on the 2025 edition of A School Vacation!



The Long-haired Girl

On November 1st, Ms. Ye Yue from Nanning Normal University conducted a Drama in Education (DIE) lesson for students of Minzhu Road Primary School as part of the “National Frontier Demonstration Lessons for Primary School Teachers” held in Nanning, China. The lesson, themed

“The Long-haired Girl” aimed to narrate ethnic stories in English using the DIE paradigm. Ms. Ye skillfully integrated traditional customs and folk songs from a folktale of the Dong ethnic group into her lesson.

Following the lesson, Ms. Gao Feiyan delivered a lecture titled “Integration of DIE in Primary School English Classes in Ethnic Areas” which provided attendees with a deeper understanding of DIE and practical insights on how to incorporate it into their daily English classes.



News from Brazil

The Brazilian playwright and educator Elaine Lavezzo has been selected as a recipient of a grant through the Creative Thinking in Education for Climate Action Award run by the Global Institute of Creative Thinking.

Her project “Acting for Climate Change” aims to make people more aware of climate change and the situations in polluted rivers, by creating documentary videos and theatre plays about it. In 2025, Ms Lavezzo will write and direct a play about Tietê River pollution and the drought in Amazon rivers.

The purpose of this grant is to facilitate video and play productions, to support this impactful project and its role in inspiring creativity for a sustainable future.



News for IDEA Members

Welcome to New Members!

IDEA is happy to welcome to our community our new individual members from all around the world: **Anastasiia Sedikova** from China, **Tatiana Rassykhaeva** from Latvia, **Margot-Marie Wood** from South Africa, **Irene Zachariou** from Greece.

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

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For further information visit the IDEA website:
www.ideadrama.org

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

This message was sent to you by IDEA International Drama/Theatre and
Education Association