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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

GIVE and GAIN



IDEA Elected Officers, Beijing Congress 2024. Olafur Gudmundsson is first left.

I have been a part of and working for associations of many sorts since the early 2000's, mainly for associations of drama and art teachers.

When we in Iceland established FLÍSS in 2005, The Association for Drama in the school system (as it was called in the national education system), I started to think that working for associations and NGOs was the most important work in society. This work is mostly voluntary and is done by all kinds of people. Associations like FLÍSS are operated in a democratic manner and serve the interests, ideals, and needs of the members. This work brings society together and can give a necessary push to or resistance against the authorities; it is the very basis for the democratic society we live in.

Working for FLÍSS through the years has also taught me and given me a lot. This work has usually been voluntary and always on the side of other work I have done over the years. The fact that it is voluntary has given me a lot of insight, and it somehow gives meaning and purpose. It makes me feel that I am contributing to something important in society and to my peers.

I have been associated with and working for IDEA since 2017. IDEA is a voluntary organization like FLÍSS. Its aims are ideals that strive for a better society and a better world, and I am sure all of us who work for IDEA are conscious of this and it gives our work meaning.

When thinking about writing this introduction, I thought about these facts, and to my mind came the motto of Phakama, an international art and drama youth collaborative based in London. Their motto is "Give and Gain" and it is pervasive in all their work. What they mean by this slogan is that by giving you gain. If you give you will gain, not necessarily the same that you gave, but something that the others knew, and you did not. Nobody knows everything and together we become stronger. In my view this is what collaboration is about, and this is how IDEA should strive to be. We decide to give what we know and can give and when we do it, we learn from others. In fact, it is how all communication is and what drama work is about.

IDEA is a voluntary organization. Neither its income nor its budget is big. But with our ideals and purpose we manage. Together we become strong. IDEA has survived through some difficult years before and during Covid. Solidarity and the common effort of both its membership and elected officers have managed to keep it thriving. To me, IDEA is about what we all can give and what we will gain when giving. By thinking in that manner, we may gain things that we never would have imagined. The Tibetan tulku and the founder of the Tibetan monastery Samye Ling in Scotland used to say: "Only the impossible is worth doing". I think it is sometimes good to have this in mind when facing the many challenges of running an organization and contemplating why we are doing it.

At the most recent IDEA general council meeting in Beijing, we established a work group to focus on the funding and financing of IDEA. I was given the task of managing this group. We have met several times since and will meet a few times more. At our meetings, we have had interesting discussions about the several different aspects of funding an organization, how to seek funding, and formulating applications for funding. One thing that I have been able to gain from these discussions is to not always focus on what our immediate needs are and what we need from others, but rather on what we can give and thus gain. Often when thinking about the purpose of our work we forget this. We forget what it is that we can give the world! In fact, this is the most important part of our organization.

What can IDEA give to the world? What is it that we can give that the world needs? What do we offer that the world cannot be without?

In a way, this issue has been a leitmotif in my own personal work as a drama practitioner, that I have mistakenly neglected lately, and this is like a new revelation for me these days. I think I must have forgotten it for a while. Now is the time to wipe the dust off these forgotten thoughts, make them alive and visible again, and see them in the context of what IDEA has to offer. I think we all should do so and with common effort find, declare, and say it loud and clear what IDEA as an organization can give the world. By doing so we can gain things we would not have even imagined. We have everything to win and nothing to lose.

Here is a link to UNESCO's [Framework for Culture and Arts Education](#). This framework is a comprehensive piece that can be used as a basis and benchmark to highlight what IDEA stands for. UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education.

Olafur Gudmundsson,
Vice-President of IDEA

News from IDEA

IDEA General Council Meeting 2025

We invite you to the next General Council Meeting of IDEA that will be held in Singapore in July 2025. It will be connected with the [SDEA Theatre Arts Conference](#), which will be held from 17th-19th of July, so please mark the dates in your diary! The name of the conference is: "All aboard! Navigating Crosscurrents of Theatre Arts Practice and Beyond"

The first day of the General Council Meeting will be held on the 16th of July, before the SDEA conference starts, with the second day taking place after the last day of the conference on the 20th of July.

Registrations for the General Council Meeting are open until 15th of May.

Because this conference is an IDEA endorsed event, IDEA members can get a discount code for the conference registration, by writing an email to the IDEA Administrator.

Information about the conference, provided by the hosts of IDEA GCM, SDEA:

This year's conference 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. Participants will explore critical aspects of theatre arts through a multifaceted lens, challenging traditional paradigms and fostering innovative approaches. 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 Early Bird promotion for the conference has been extended until 15th April 2025 at 23.59h (Singapore time).



IDEA Online

Webinar "Presentation of National/International Congresses and Conferences on Drama Theatre Education"

In February, IDEA organized a webinar dedicated to congresses and conferences IDEA members organize around the world. We are very thankful for our members who presented following congresses and conferences:

- 2024 International Drama/Theatre and Education Association Congress (presented by IDEAC, China)
- 32nd Creative Drama in Education Congress (presented by Çağdaş Drama Derneği Turkey)

- Full steAm Ahead - Drama and Dance for the Future (presented by CODE, Canada)
- Theatre/Drama and Inclusive Education (presented by TENet-Gr, Greece)
- Theatre Arts Conference 2025 (presented by Singapore Drama Educators Association, Singapore)
- International Crossroads of Invisible Theaters, Education, and School (presented by AGITA, Italy)

The recording of the webinar is available on IDEA's YouTube channel:
<https://youtu.be/A3Cmi7uVdOE>

*Presentation of National /
International
Congresses and
Conferences on Drama /
Theatre Education*

Available on IDEA
YouTube channel!

IDEA
WEBINARS

* * *

Webinar "Drama/Theatre in Education: Festivals"

On March 29th from 12pm UTC, IDEA is organizing a webinar dedicated to the festivals. Many of IDEA members invest a lot of work in preparing

and organizing international, regional or national festivals, where students/children/youngsters present their shows/plays in a public space/theatre to other student-theatre-groups and to a big audience of experts like drama teachers, theatre pedagogues, education-policy-makers and media.

If you want to join our webinar and learn more about the festivals IDEA members organize around the world, register by writing an email to IDEA Administrator at ad.ideadrama@gmail.com

**DRAMA/THEATRE
IN EDUCATION:
FESTIVALS**

 **MARCH 29TH
2025**  **12PM
UTC**





Assitej Artistic Gathering 2025



A panel representing the professional exchange meeting between Assitej, IDEA and UNIMA at the Assitej Artistic gathering in Marseille will take place on 26th of March: <https://france2025.assitejonline.org/>

This is an event within the Assitej Artistic Gathering 2025 and we are seeking to develop projects between IDEA, Assitej and UNIMA, specifically to develop projects and funding applications working across our organisations and focusing on Africa and the Middle East. The meeting is both hybrid and public.

Our three organisations have rarely worked together in the past, yet we have shared aims: to develop theatrical activity for children and young people in the interests of developing cultural rights and expression. We would like to plan work with puppeteers in educational settings for children to explore child rights and future dreams.

The aim of the panel is to develop a deeper understanding of our practices, extend discussions about collaboration and develop plans for cross-continent projects which address the concerns of children, such as the creation of online or in-person training workshops for teachers in or from areas with children at risk including Lebanon, Senegal and Palestine. The panel explores the development of resources for children to create puppetry and drama projects connected to child rights.

Christine Hatton and Sanja Krsmanović Tasić will represent IDEA on the panel.

THE HERDS: Online Education Workshop

IDEA is happy to announce that we are one of the partners of THE HERDS project!

We are happy to invite you to our third online education workshop for THE HERDS.



Register to join the free online workshops designed for teachers, facilitators and community workers from across the world. It will take place on March 27th, 16.00 CET.

We are here to support you and discuss how Let the Wildness In can be reimaged in your school, your group, your community. Let's create a global meeting place for students to share ideas, amplify their voices, and connect with peers from Africa, Europe, and beyond. Bring your friends along!

Download our first Habitat from our [Education Programme](#), the Congo Basin [here](#) and our Puppet Guide of the Pangolin [here](#)!

JOIN US as we explore the captivating realms of the European Forests and its endangered Hedgehog.

This is your chance to be part of a global learning initiative and inspire our younger audiences.

Please register in advance for this meeting:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe4d7I4FJ_pJ9k53pJn9SuD6KhpUEF4_6VfX_hZbit7wbLIHw/viewform

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

News from IDEA members

Full steAm Ahead – Drama and Dance for the Future

On October 17-19th of 2025, the Council of Ontario Drama and Dance Educators will descend upon Kitchener, Ontario, for their annual conference. This year's theme is Full steAm Ahead - Drama and Dance for the Future. There will be several workshops, keynotes, panels, and performances around how drama and dance are preparing the critical thinkers and tools necessary for an equitable and sustainable future - the future we want to see.

Visit the CODE website for ongoing updates and registration:
www.code.on.ca



Successful conclusion of the International Conference "Theatre/Drama & Inclusive Education"

The International Conference "Theatre/Drama & Inclusive Education" concluded successfully on March 23, 2025, at the Experimental Music High School of Pallini, transforming the venue into a dynamic hub of global dialogue. Organized to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the project "It Could Be Me, It Could Be You" (2015-2025) and to mark the completion of Theatre Makes Politics (TMP, Erasmus+ 2022-2025), this landmark event, endorsed by IDEA, gathered over 400 educators, artists, drama practitioners, academics, and activists from more than 20 countries. Together, they explored theatre's transformative role in fostering equitable and inclusive societies.

Bringing together leading voices in the field, the conference featured nine keynote speeches, including addresses by Melissa Fleming of the United Nations and distinguished figures such as John O'Toole, Kostas Magos, Kostis Papaioannou, Sanjoy Ganguly, and IDEA President Sanja Krsmanović Tasić. The diverse program engaged participants in thirty-seven experiential workshops, fifty-five research presentations, film screenings, and nine thematic roundtables, all of which examined pressing social issues through the lens of drama and performing arts education. Student and pupil performances further enriched the discourse on inclusive education.

Designed as an interdisciplinary platform, the conference facilitated the exchange of pedagogical, artistic, and socio-political practices, championing equality, justice, and education without exclusion. Emphasizing the need to combat hate speech, xenophobia, and racism, the event showcased innovative applied artistic practices that merge theatricality, embodied practice, and new audiovisual technologies with pedagogical and social action.

Critical discussions centered on how theatre can drive social change by addressing gender inclusion, representing marginalized communities such as the Roma population, advocating refugee rights, and pioneering new pedagogical approaches in prison education, disability inclusion, and intercultural learning. Particular focus was placed on theatre's unique capacity to challenge social exclusion and foster meaningful dialogue across diverse communities.

The conference sessions explored a broad spectrum of themes focusing especially on hegemonic and anti-hegemonic narratives of otherness in participatory theatre, documentary theatre, educational drama, theatre of the oppressed, performative actions in the public space, and other applied theatre and drama approaches.

This significant gathering was organized by the Hellenic Theatre/Drama & Education Network (TENet-Gr) in strategic partnership with UNHCR and the International Drama/Theatre and Education Association (IDEA). It was further supported by a coalition of twelve universities, including the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Aristotle University of

Thessaloniki, and the University of the Peloponnese. Major international organizations such as UNICEF, the Council of Europe, and the World Alliance for Arts Education also lent their support.

To extend the impact of the conference, all materials—including video recordings and proceedings—will be made available through the official conference website at www.theatroedu.gr, ensuring these vital discussions continue beyond the event.

As Sanjoy Ganguly poignantly stated in his keynote address, "In an increasingly divided world, theatre and education serve as bridges for dialogue and inclusion." His words encapsulated the essence of a conference that underscored the immense potential of performing arts as a force for social transformation.



The Myth of Hundred Birds Robe

On January 5th, Libo No. 2 Primary School in Guizhou hosted an innovative educational event blending Miao folklore with DIE. Led by

Professor Gao Feiyan from Nanning Normal University, the workshop brought the local legend "The Myth of Hundred Birds Robe" to life through immersive cultural experiences.

Professor Gao opened the session wearing traditional Miao attire and singing the dialect folk song "I'm in Guizhou Waiting for You." This authentic introduction transported students to the story's setting while demonstrating cultural preservation through performance. The workshop's success was reinforced by Ms. Wei Jing, who shared practical insights from implementing similar drama programs in primary schools in Guangxi to bridge cultural understanding while maintaining classroom engagement.

This collaboration between academic research and primary education showcased drama's unique capacity to make intangible cultural heritage accessible to new generations. By transforming passive storytelling into participatory learning, the event established a replicable model for cultural education in multi-ethnic communities.



Today I Shall Nap on the Beige Cotton Sheet and Get a Haircut When I Get Up

Performance by Chetna Mehrotra (India) in the Netherlands, exploring how the female body can become a site of resistance and agency happened on 22nd January 2025.

In her artistic research at the Home of Performance Practices, ArtEZ University of the Arts, Netherlands, Chetna Mehrotra presented a durational one-on-one conversational artwork titled "Today I Shall Nap on the Beige Cotton Sheet and Get a Haircut When I Get Up." This performance examined the oppressive beauty standards and the often invisible, unrecognized domestic labor faced by brown Asian women. Through the performance, the audience was invited to cut performer's hair while engaging in conversation about the cultural, social, and oppressive norms that strip women of agency and sovereignty over their bodies. In this space, her body became both a site of resistance and a claim to agency, asserting the right to rest within a public context.

Credits: Dr. Pavlos Kountouriotis

Verena Stenke

Andrea Pagnes

Photo credits: Steef Kersbergen



Chinese Drama Education in Iceland

Miao Bin, IDEA Director of Projects and a drama teacher of Tianfu No.7 High School in Chengdu, was invited by FLISS, association member of IDEA, to hold workshops in Iceland for the Icelandic drama teachers on 1st and 2nd February. The workshop lasted for two days, six hours each day. As a drama teacher from China, Miao Bin brought Chinese cultural elements to the workshop. The theme of the first day was "Dramatization of Chinese Mythological Stories" and the second day was "Chinese Martial Arts Used in Drama Education". The Icelandic teachers worked on the two Chinese mythological stories "Jingwei Filling up the Sea" and "Wu Kong" and experienced the process and methods of Miao Bin's drama education.

For more information: <https://www.miaobin.net/blog/workshopiniceland>



The 2025 National Drama Education Spark Mentors' Winter Camp in Beijing

The 2025 National Drama Education Spark Mentors' Winter Camp was held in Beijing, which was jointly initiated by Beijing Zhen'ai Public

Welfare Foundation and Shanghai Theatre Art Centre. IDEA members Miao Bin (Director of Projects) and Eley Yuan (Head of the Drama Team of Tianfu No.7 High School) were invited to be the Drama Education "Spark Mentor". Some of the best drama education mentors from all over the country met in this camp and each of them held one workshop of his or her best method to share with the others. The 9 workshops include drama in education, theatre in education, process drama, applied theatre, etc.

For more information:

<https://www.miaobin.net/blog/spark-drama-educators-in-beijing>



News from Czech Republic

CHILDREN'S STAGE

CHILDREN'S STAGE 2025, Czech National Festival of Children's Theatre, the most important event in the Czech Republic in the field of drama education focused on theatre work with children, is held every year in

June. This year it will be the 53rd edition in Svitavy, a town located less than 200 km east of Prague, 13-19 June 2025.

Visitors will see more than 15 performances of the most interesting theatre and puppetry productions by children's groups, selected from 13 regional festivals, and will be able to get an idea of the current trends and forms of Czech and Moravian theatre with children. In addition, the programme of the Children's Stage 2025 includes daily discussions about the performances and workshops for children as well as for drama teachers, leaders and students of drama education. As every year, the National Workshop of Children's Reciting will be part of the Children's Stage.

www.nipos.cz/artama-dea-ddpdv

www.drama.cz/prehlicky_dilny/index.html





Photos from the Children's Stage 2024.

DRAMA EDUCATION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The book, published in 2023 in English (peer-reviewed by Sanja Krsmanović Tasić and Kateřina Žarníková), introduces readers to drama education in the Czech Republic, its forms, tendencies and significant events, as well as the drama curriculum for primary education. An important part of the book is the rich pictorial material - mainly photographs from drama workshops and from the productions of children's ensembles from the 1960s to the present. The book also contains a list of selected Czech literature on drama education and information on institutions and organizations involved in drama education. If you are interested in the book, you can order it at: std@drama.cz

We will send it to you free of charge.

News from Iran

"From Performance Art Training to the Solo Performances on Nature Rights"

At Saad Abad Cultural Palace, Tehran/Iran with association The Narengi Theater Laboratory Group
By Erfan Khatibzadeh, member of the IDEA

Performance art has always been effective in social/cultural changes. Recently, I conducted a performance art class with my young students at the Seventh Art School. The course included a theoretical component that covered the history of art, contemporary practices, featuring videos of outstanding artists such as Marina Abramović, John Cage, etc.

We engaged in rehearsals and exercises, exploring selected themes such as; the war, racism, peace, life and death through individual and collective performances. Finally, our team showcased outdoor performances with environmental themes (nature, water,etc) for example, one performance featured a boy whose body was covered in rubbish, while the other children came to remove it from him.

The audience was estimated to be between 300 and 350 people, and we successfully facilitated communication and interaction with them.

Short Video can be watched [here](#).



Report of The Activities in Institute; Soday Honar (lahijan city)

The performing arts institute, Soday Honar, is located in the northern part of Iran(Lahijan), and is managed by Fatemeh Ali Parast. This center was established four years ago. During this time, 110 professional students have graduated from this official institution.

The priority of this institute is education in the fields of acting, directing, playwriting, performance, applied drama, musical theatre, and more. In this regard, after training with professional teachers and masters, the production becomes the second phase of the program.

Actually, several performing arts projects and productions have been presented, including; children's plays, street theaters, psychodrama, short films, and so on.

Additionally, Soday Honar's latest project involves working with charities to produce valuable work. Notably, the new project of this institute focuses on folk street performances about peace, none verbal with international capabilities.

[instagram.com/soday.honar](https://www.instagram.com/soday.honar)

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News from Drama Australia

Drama Australia is the peak national body that represents and advocates on behalf of all state and territory Drama Education associations in Australia. All members of state and territory Drama associations are members of Drama Australia, and three Australian drama education associations will be hosting conferences in the month of May. Drama Queensland's state conference themed [Bloom](#) is on the 2-3 May. The Drama Australia conference [INVIGORATE](#) is being hosted by Drama South Australia in Adelaide on 10-11 May. Drama New South Wales will be hosting their annual conference on 23-24 May. [Reclaim, Reignite, Reimagine: Celebrating 50 Years of Drama NSW](#) is a very special event for Drama New South Wales as it is the 50th anniversary of the foundation of their association. Our other state and territory drama associations are planning conference events for later in the year.

We have newly published drama education research articles in our Journal [NJ: The Journal of Drama Australia](#) which are freely accessible to all through open access publishing. A new edition of our Australian Drama

Education Magazine (ADEM) with examples of drama practice will soon be published and available with [ADEM past issues](#) to download from the Drama Australia website.



**Publication of the practical handbook on
#theatre.makes.politics on 05.04. at the
Children's and Youth Theatre
Dortmund, 11.00-18.00**

The German Federal Association for Theatre in Education has been working with partners from North Macedonia, France, Greece, Portugal and the Kinder- und Jugendtheater Dortmund since 2022 to develop a practical handbook for theatre pedagogues and other interested colleagues to counter the anti-democratic forces in our societies.

Our handbook will be presented on 5 April in Dortmund.

The event is funded by Erasmus+ and is free of charge for participants. It includes participation in the workshops and the lecture by Prof. Wilhelm Heitmeyer.

Please note that the number of seats is limited, so please register quickly at:

<https://t.rausgegangen.de/tickets/veroeffentlichung-des-praxishandbuchs-zu-theatremakespolitics>

You can find initial impressions of the project on our website:

<https://www.theatremakespolitics.eu/>

We would be delighted to welcome you among our guests.



**Young Artists' PlayLAB (YAP) –
GOLDMINE YOUTH THEATER
FESTIVAL 2025**

The Goldmine Youth Theater Festival, held on February 21-22, 2025, at the PETA Theater Center, brought together 11 secondary public schools with Special Program in the Arts – Theater Arts and three Youth Theater Organizations (YTO) from Regions III, IV-A, V, and VI. The festival featured 13 productions—nine from schools and YTO partners, plus four special performances—highlighting key program themes.

This event is part of PETA's five-year partnership with KIYO, a Belgian NGO promoting youth empowerment through the arts. Training for students and teachers, mentorship, and Repertory Theater Guidance (RTG) serve as strategies to foster a gender-sensitive learning environment based on Global Citizenship Education and Education for Sustainable Development principles, helping young people realize their rights, become global citizens, and contribute to a just, sustainable society.



Ang Baryo Bunot. One of the 4 special performances of students on Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship.

News from Çağdaş Drama Derneđi

35 years old anniversary

Founded on March 5th 1990, Çağdaş Drama Derneđi celebrates its 35th anniversary. To celebrate, a formal ceremony was held in Anıtkabir, the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey. Our president, Dr Pınar ÖZDEMİR Şimşek, shared a message: "Çağdaş Drama Derneđi continues its efforts for the modernization of our country through drama, education and art."

ÇDD has branches and representatives in various cities across our country. Our branches and representatives celebrated our 35th anniversary by bringing together drama instructors and volunteers through various events.

Project Presentation Days

Candidates who want to become Creative Drama Instructors complete 320 hours of training and then carry out a practical project under the guidance of a mentor assigned by the association. On February 2nd 2025, 20 creative drama instructor candidates presented their projects.

33rd International Creative Drama in Education Congress

The preliminary meeting of the 33rd International Creative Drama in Education Congress was held at Dicle University, Ziya Gökalp Faculty of Education.

The meeting, which was attended by the dean of the faculty, vice deans, and relevant faculty members, was highly positive.

Details about the congress will be announced soon. Please stay tuned.

Representing our association, our president, honorary president, vice president, Diyarbakır representative, and Diyarbakır representation volunteers participated in the meeting.



News for IDEA Members

Welcome to New Members!

IDEA is happy to welcome to our community our new member – **Instituto de Etnomusicologia – Centro de Estudos em Música e Dança | Centro de Investigação em Psicologia da Música e Educação Musical (CIPEM)**" from Portugal, as well as individual members **Erfan Khatibzadeh** from Iran, **Silvia Vammaro** and **Juan Carlos Perez** from Argentina.

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

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
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