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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

We have just started a new school year here in the Philippines – another cycle, another beginning that points to adventures and possibilities. I recently had a video call with my niece, who lives about 500 kilometers southeast of the country's capital, Metro Manila. A fifth grader, she eagerly showed me what was inside the bag she had carefully prepared for her first day of classes. Our conversation felt like an unboxing video, complete with exciting annotations on everything tucked into her medium-sized purple bag.

She is the most artistically inclined among her siblings. Her coloring pens, assorted highlighters, and carefully chosen notebook designs are small but telling expressions of her creative sensibilities. She is also an active member of the school's dance club, and drum and lyre corps. Her enthusiasm reflects the promise of this new stage in her life as a learner and artist-in-the-making, one marked by the adventures, challenges, and opportunities that accompany every new school year.

With the same sense of anticipation, both hopeful and grounded, preparations for the upcoming 11th IDEA World Congress in Ankara, scheduled for July 2027, have already begun. Key people, including members of the IDEA Executive Committee and our congress host, Çağdaş Drama Derneği, have started pooling ideas and resources. The Young IDEA Lab, a key and non-negotiable component of the congress, has followed the same path.

The lab's working theme, Rehearsing Humanity: Theatre & Collective Futures, nods to the conference's bold challenge as well as a gentle reminder of a profound truth: Humanity is Responsibility. Theorists who have explored the relationship between society and theatre have long viewed theatre as a space not only for imagining better futures but also for rehearsing the steps needed to bring those hopes into reality. Because of this close relationship, some have even described theatre as

the most social of all art forms. It is difficult, after all, to speak of theatre without speaking of society and, by extension, humanity.

The lab seeks to be a space for exploration – a place where participants can collectively deepen their understanding of, and commitment to, the responsibility of caring for our shared humanity. After all, cliché as it may sound, we all share this one planet, and our lives remain deeply interconnected. We intend not only to brainstorm and critically examine ideas, but also to shape collective responses, experiment with possible futures, and transform them into performative showcase outputs.

We hope to welcome individuals under the age of 30 who are theatre teachers in schools and alternative learning settings, emerging theatre and drama education practitioners, theatre-makers, arts and cultural workers or managers, university and graduate students, and anyone who believes in the power of theatre and the arts as tools for education and community-building.

Applications will be available soon through the congress website. Meals and accommodation during the lab will be provided courtesy of Çağdaş Drama Derneği, an associational member of IDEA known not only for their dedication to drama education, but also for their warm hospitality. Those who require support for travel expenses may apply through IDEA's solidarity fund. Applications from Young IDEA participants will be given priority for funding.

Events unfolding across many parts of the world alert us why Humanity is Responsibility is both a timely and urgent conference theme. Situations of unrest continue to affect communities we know well, and communities elsewhere across the globe. As we prepare for this gathering, there is value in seeing ourselves once again as learners – eagerly anticipating another meeting point that celebrates our field, Drama/Theatre and Education. In coming together, the learner in each of us looks forward to experiences that will enrich both our individual and institutional practices. We will listen and share, reflect and discover, so that a renewed and recalibrated understanding of our common humanity and responsibility can inform our work and our lives.

Fredyl B. Hernandez (Philippines)  
Young IDEA Director



*Fredyl B. Hernandez, IDEA Director of Projects  
Theater Arts Conference 2025  
Singapore Drama Educators Association  
@sdeaofficial #SDEATAC2025*

## News from IDEA

### IDEA General Council Meeting 2026

The General Council Meeting of IDEA was held on June 6th 2026 via Zoom platform. The online meeting gathered our members from around the world to discuss and decide on important topics such as changes to IDEA's Operational Manual, but also to more closely learn about exciting news from the Association.



# IDEA World Congress 2027 in Ankara: Note from CDA

Dear IDEA members,

Turkey is eagerly awaiting you, all you drama and theater enthusiasts.

Preparations are underway for the IDEA World Congress, which will take place from July 20–25, 2027, under the theme “Humanity Is a Responsibility.” We know you’re eager and curious. Our website, featuring all the details, will be available to you very soon. At a recent meeting regarding the arrangements and details for the venue where the congress will be held, important steps were taken toward finalizing the decisions.

The event, organized by the Contemporary Drama Association, is planned to take place at Ankara University’s Cebeci Campus. For those curious about the Cebeci Campus and the congress venue, we’re taking you on a brief tour with a little Turkish commentary. You can get an idea of the venue where the conference will be held by visiting the link below.

Welcome to all of you in advance...

Video can be accessed [HERE](#).

Note: Those who wish can enable subtitles in their own language via the YouTube Chrome settings.



## IDEA Awards

This year, we had the first call for nominations for IDEA Awards, which were collected until May 1st 2026.

The IDEA Awards recognise excellence, service and innovation in drama theatre education by individuals, groups, organisations and institutions in three categories: IDEA Excellence in Practice Awards, IDEA Community Impact Award and IDEA Legacy Award.

We are thankful to our members that have sent over 20 nominations. The Awards Committee will continue working hard on this matter and the

public can expect the first ever IDEA Awards to be announced in November, followed by the presentation during the IDEA Day.



*Young IDEA participants at the opening of the 8th IDEA World Congress in Paris  
Photo: IDEA Archive*

## IDEA Online

### **Webinar *Socially Engaged Theatre: Practices and Future Directions***

IDEA hosted a webinar *Socially Engaged Theatre: Practices and Future Directors* on 11th April 2026.

This webinar explored socially engaged drama and theatre practices from around the world. Practitioners and researchers shared examples of the work they are doing today, the issues they address, and the communities they collaborate with. The conversation focused on why socially engaged theatre matters in the current social and political climate, how artists approach this work in different contexts, and what possibilities they see for its future.

Here are the list of participants and the topics of their presentations:

- Poliksena Hardalova & Sonia Barbosa (Portugal), School of Education, Polytechnic University of Porto: Engaging and empowering Early School leavers through Theatre
- Lazar Jovanov (Serbia), Artichoka: Challenging Ageism through Intergenerational Theatre
- Andrea Katrín Guðmundsdóttir (Iceland) Minningaleikhús Theatre Company: Reminiscence theatre in Iceland.
- Chetna Mehrotra (India) Ranghumi Applied Theatre :Facilitating Fragments: Toward a Dramaturgy of Emergence
- Shaq Koyok (Malaysia) Awas Masas: A Puppetry Project for Indigenous Empowerment
- Guillaume Gbekou (Togo):Le théâtre au service de la jeunesse, de l'éducation et de la société Theatre in Service of Youth Education and Society
- Matthew Sheahan (Canada)Council of Ontario Drama and Dance Educators (CODE): Reconciling the Future

Webinar is available on IDEA's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XO3D5oJA0uI>



## International Culture & Arts Education Week 2026

As part of UNESCO Culture and Arts Education Week 2026 (May 25–31 2026), the World Alliance for Arts Education (WAAE) hosted a series of international webinar panel discussions on the theme “Arts Education in Action for Peace.”

On May 27th, a webinar ***From Vision to Practice: Implementing the UNESCO Culture and Arts Education Guidelines*** was held, focused on the Implementation Guidance for the UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education. The session explored how the framework can be put into practice across educational contexts to support more holistic, inclusive, creative, and culturally responsive learning through the arts. Representatives of UNESCO, Tariq Talal Mossad and Mathilde Stoleroff participated in the webinar, alongside Jody Kerchner (ISME), Sarah Know (WDA), Sanja Krsmanović Tasić (IDEA), Patsey Bodkin and Susan Coles (InSEA), moderated by Mira Kallo-Tavin (InSEA).

Webinar is available on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TkhD2pz89c>



On May 30th, IDEA gathered international artists, educators and theatre practitioners to explore how drama and theatre education can foster peace, empathy, dialogue, sustainability and democratic engagement. In IDEA's webinar ***Drama/Theatre Education in Action for Peace***, moderated by IDEA's Vice-President Olafur Gudmundsson, participated following experts: Michelle Gram Giesen (Canada), Matthew Sheahan & Heather Newman (Canada), You Lyu (United Kingdom), Lutz Pickardt (Germany), Roberson de Sousa Nunes (Brazil).

Webinar is available on IDEA's YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rC9UcrBEC84>



Drawing by Adriana Nichting

## IDEA Endorsed Events

# Where Imagination Becomes Experience: Celebrating Cecily O'Neill's Pioneering Contribution to Drama in Education



The Association for Drama Education in Ireland (ADEI) and Trinity College Dublin are organizing a conference "Where Imagination Becomes Experience", celebrating Cecily O'Neill's extraordinary legacy in drama education. The conference will be held on 25th and 26th July 2026 at the Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. The conference is endorsed by IDEA.

"Where Imagination Becomes Experience" celebrates the life and work of Cecily O'Neill, one of the most influential figures in drama education worldwide, marking her 90th birthday as

an outstanding scholar, practitioner, mentor and guide.

For more information visit [here](#).

## News from IDEA members

### Provocations (drama + dance Journal)

On May 1, 2026, Provocations drama + dance Journal published and shared their most recent volume, "Drama and Dance - Creative Tools for Change." This is the fifth edition of Provocations, after publishing volume 1, "words words words," in 2022. Since its inception, several current and former members of the Council of Ontario Drama and Dance Educators have served as board members and contributors to the journal.

The current volume "will undoubtedly provoke your own personal reflections and questions" because this "is a time of change and heightened creativity which makes it an exciting and significant time to be an arts educator" (Christine Jackson, Managing Editor 2022-2026). This volume contains a plethora of voices to get you questioning and taking action through your practice.

There are submissions exploring the concept of drama and dance as "Creative Tools for Change" from around the world, including an interview with IDEA General Meeting Committee members Asa Ragnarsdottir and Matthew Sheahan.

To read, listen and view Volume 5, click [here](#). To read about the Call for Submissions for Volume 6, "Planting the Seed - Drama and Dance for Development, Growth and Exploration," click [here](#).



## “Just Dance” by Tessa Lofthouse from CODE

CODE President, Tessa Lofthouse, along with members of AM: (Association for Media Literacy) created the article, “Just Dance,” published on the [AML website](#).

Here is a brief excerpt: “How does dance education happen in your school? In many elementary schools, dance is a prep delivery subject, taught by educators who are often “prep fairies”, with several responsibilities for multiple grades. While data exists about how many specialist teachers teach the other arts (46% for music as of 2018, 16% for visual arts, and 8% for dramatic arts) there is no data about how many specialist dance teachers are teaching in elementary public schools (People for Education, 2018). When dance isn’t your passion, how do you program effectively?”

Non-specialist teachers might be tempted to turn to YouTube and have students copy the moves on an instructional video. This practice may appear to be an easy solution, as it does not require the instructor to be a proficient dancer with any background or experience. The authors of this article, who are associated with CODE (the Council of Drama and Dance Educators) and AML (the Association for Media Literacy) are keen to encourage educators to critically examine this practice, understand the problematic elements of it, and recommend alternatives that benefit everyone involved.

Click [here](#) for the full article.



## “Racismo is a Pandemic”

In 2026, the International School Partnership (ISP) Changemakers program aims to put into action the discussion of the theme “Racismo is a pandemic”. The Year 9 students of ISP Escola Internacional de Alphaville are representing Brazil in this international action in an innovative way by representing this issue on stage. In June, a team of 60 Year 9 students will perform two different plays that have in common the theme of racism in Brazilian society for the past two centuries. Written and directed by Elaine Lavezzo, PhD in Drama Education, the play is inspired on the book “Sítio do Picapau Amarelo”, written by Monteiro Lobato, and reinforces the Angela Davis's quote: In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist, we must be anti-racist."



## Student Festivals – Action Days TOGETHER 2026, in Greece

**Art as a means of expression, collaboration, social awareness, and inclusion, with a vision of a world where every child belongs.**

The TOGETHER 2026 Student Festivals-Action Days were successfully completed across 16 cities in Greece during May 2026, bringing together approximately 3,500 students, 462 teachers, and 145 schools from all educational levels. Through creative artistic activities in public spaces, young people highlighted issues of human rights, peace, refugee issues, and anti-racism, while also participating in workshops led by more than 40 volunteer artists and drama educators. The events were supported by over 70 local organizations and institutions, while their coordination was carried out by the local teams of the **Hellenic Theatre/Drama & Education Network (TENet-Gr)**. The TOGETHER Festivals are part of the long-running (since 2015) programme «It Could be Me, It Could Be You» under the auspices of UNHCR and IDEA. Their success was made possible through collaboration, volunteer commitment, and the support of local communities. The TOGETHER Festivals highlighted TENet’s role as a

vibrant learning community, leaving a lasting educational and social impact.

More/Videos: [HERE](#)

Hellenic Theatre/Drama Education Network

# Students Arts Festivals Action Days

2026 April-May

~Presentations~  
~Performances~  
~Workshops~

Arts as a means of expression, collaboration, social awareness, and inclusion, with a vision of a world where every child belongs

at 16 towns across Greece

together

Info: [www.TheatroEdu.gr](http://www.TheatroEdu.gr)

Hellenic Theatre/Drama Education Network  
member of International Drama/Theatre and Education Association (IDEA)

it could be me - it could be you

Under the auspices  
**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

Under the auspices  
**IDEA**

Over 100 local organisations

# Theatre Summer Camp, 27–31 August 2026 in Greece

## ***Impacts: Bodies and Voices in Action.***

The 23rd Theatre Summer Camp of the **Hellenic Theatre/Drama & Education Network (TENet-Gr)** will take place from 27–31 August 2026 in Chiliomodi, Corinthia, Greece, under the theme ***Impacts: Bodies and Voices in Action.*** Bringing together educators, artists, facilitators, and teenagers, the camp explores how theatre and the arts can foster participation, inclusion, resilience, and meaningful coexistence. Through theatre workshops, movement, storytelling, music, discussion, and play, participants will investigate how bodies and voices interact within collective experiences and how creative practices can support expression, dialogue, and social imagination. The camp aims to create a safe and open community where lived experiences inspire creativity and connection. Daily morning workshops are offered for adults and teenagers, led by experienced artists, educators, and theatre practitioners, while supplementary afternoon workshops provide additional opportunities for artistic exploration. The programme also includes performances, happenings, discussions, exercise sessions, swimming pool activities, music, and recreational events, combining learning, creativity, collaboration, and enjoyment.

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

SEE MORE [HERE](#) (and check Application Procedure)

**Hellenic Theatre/Drama & Education Network**  
member of International Drama/Theatre and Education Association (IDEA)

**23rd** THEATRE SUMMER CAMP

for educators, artists/facilitators,  
performing arts students,  
teenagers

# Impacts

*Bodies and Voices in action*

**CHILIOMODI**  
CORINTHIA, GREECE

**27-31**  
AUGUST 2026  
Hosted at Freelandcamp

**INFORMATION – REGISTRATION**

+30 210 6541600 | info@theatroedu.gr | www.theatroedu.gr

## News from Individual Members from China

Students from School Affiliated to Sichuan New Area Huayang High School (Chengdu, China) had their works selected for the 12th iSTART Children's Art Festival under the theme "Seeds, Archipelago, Wanderings". These pieces were created by children in drama classes led

by teacher Yijia Luo, who guided them to start with "misspelled characters" they had written themselves, then explore associations, create stories, contrast images, and produce poetry and paintings.

Students' words: Correct characters have their reasons for being correct, and incorrect ones have their reasons too. Making spelling mistakes isn't a big deal—just get it right next time!



## Tianfu No.7 High School Transforms Drama into Social Education at iSTART Festival

On May 31, the art education team of Tianfu No. 7 High School partnered with the A4 Children's Art Museum to launch "Drama Island" at the iSTART Children's Art Festival. Rather than offering traditional stage performances, the event served as a profound sociological experiment, vividly demonstrating drama's power to foster self-awareness, empathy, and community healing. Rooted entirely in the school's daily art curriculum rather than isolated rehearsals, the festival was brought to life by 16 teachers and over 100 students. The immersive experience was structured around several key highlights:



**The "Thumb Village" Experience:** An imaginative space where conventional power dynamics were flipped. Students became instructors and rule-makers, while adults became "miniature villagers." This role reversal empowered children to build confidence through interactive games and sensory leadership.



***Interactive Forum Theatre:*** Brought to the broader community for the first time, this segment tackled real-life family and peer conflicts. The audience of all ages could stand up to say "stop," step onto the stage, and actively change the narrative's outcome, transforming friction into opportunities for mutual respect.

***Theatrical performance "The River Taming Boy":*** A captivating performance centered around a silent, overlooked youth who saves his village through the profound and gentle act of "listening."

Beyond the campus, the festival highlighted the school's expanding social footprint. A dedicated parent drama community participated actively, utilizing the arts to break down family anxieties and foster broader community connections. Ultimately, "Drama Island" showcased Tianfu No. 7 High School's core drama educational vision: not training actors, but cultivating compassionate, creative, and emotionally resilient future citizens.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.miaobin.net/blog/tianfu-no7-high-school-transforms-drama-into-social-education-at-istart-festival>



The most pressing issue currently facing drama education in China is the shortage of drama teachers qualified to teach in primary and secondary schools. As a member of the Executive Committee of IDEA and a pioneer in introducing compulsory drama courses in Chinese primary schools, Miao Bin has dedicated himself over the past few years to training drama teachers for these levels. Miao Bin holds a Master's degree from the Department of Theatre Studies at the University of Peloponnese in Greece and is due to complete his PhD in June.

On 28 March, Miao Bin was invited to lead a drama workshop for over thirty teachers at the Asian Organic Education Conference.

On 19 April, Miao Bin completed a four-semester course in Drama in Education for 67 students across two classes of the 2023 cohort in the Department of Primary Education at Chengdu College of Arts and Science.

On 25–26 April, Miao Bin was invited by the Education and Science Research Institute of Suzhou Industrial Park District, Jiangsu Province, to



deliver drama education training to over thirty local music teachers.

From 2 to 4 May, Miao Bin’s own Muse Drama Education Lab hosted the third intake of its Basic Drama Education course and the first intake of its Advanced Drama Education course. Trainees from across China gathered in Chengdu to study under Miao Bin. Following the course, participants will be eligible to apply to join the Muse Drama

Education Lab, forming a studying community dedicated to drama education.

On 16–17 May, Miao Bin was invited by the Education Bureau of Yongshun County, Hunan Province, to conduct drama education training for over 30 teachers of subjects including Chinese, mathematics, music,

psychology and history. In August, he will also lead a week-long drama training camp in the area.

Miao Bin's book on drama education, "Fostering on Campus: A Practical Guide for Drama Education for Primary and Secondary Schools", has risen to 30th place in the primary and secondary school teachers' book rankings on JD.com, China's leading online retailer. It has been adopted as a textbook by the Department of Drama Education at Wuhan College of Media and Communications and is highly regarded by teachers across many regions of China.

## Shakespeare and Teenagers — An Educational & Performance Workshop at Tavanesh Institute, Tehran/IRAN.



This educational and performance-based workshop was led by Erfan Khatibzadeh. The program began with an introduction to the works of William Shakespeare, followed by in-depth analysis and discussion of

Shakespearean plays and iconic characters such as Hamlet, King Lear, Macbeth, and the protagonists of Romeo and Juliet.

Throughout several sessions, students were trained in both the theoretical and practical aspects of acting and stage performance techniques. As the final project of the course, a workshop-style adaptation of King Lear was developed and performed by the students. The production approached the classic tragedy through a comedic, modern, and youth-oriented perspective and was ultimately staged with a live audience.

Tavanesh Institute, located in Tehranpars, Tehran, was founded in 2018 under the direction of two well-known Iranian children's and youth theatre artists, **Davood Zare** and **Narges Asghari**. Since its establishment, more than 200 students — ranging from children to young adults — have received training at the institute. The institute's core mission is to combine professional education with the production and public performance of theatrical works within the same creative environment.

## Drama/Theatre Education Around the World

We are excited to introduce a new segment in IDEA's newsletter: ***Drama/Theatre Education Around the World***.

This section will feature news and updates from across the global drama/theatre and education community. Contributions are not limited to IDEA members, and members are encouraged to share not only their own news but also developments from their countries and regions.

We will be collecting submissions for this segment for the September issue of the newsletter.

# News for IDEA Members

## Welcome to New Members!

IDEA is happy to welcome to our community new individual members **Sunny Ghosh** from Bangladesh, **Shana Bestock** from the United States, **Lawrence Osano** from Kenya, **Tony Agoh** from Nigeria, **Marin Bukvić** from Croatia, **Deng Ying Ying, Yang Ling, Kun He, Xu Sha, Xiao Xu, MengQiu Lu** from China and **Sajad Aghababaie** from Iran.

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

## Annual Membership Fees for 2026

IDEA is collecting annual membership fees for 2026!

If you missed paying last year's fee, please be free to do it now, as the process is now simplified and easy.

On the following page there are instructions how to pay the fee in 2 possible ways – via bank transfer or by card:

<https://ideadrama.org/join-us/>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact IDEA Administrator at [administrator@ideadrama.org](mailto:administrator@ideadrama.org)

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For further information visit the IDEA website:

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

Contact: IDEA Administrator: [administrator@ideadrama.org](mailto:administrator@ideadrama.org)

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