

Report Activities

Young Dance Network –
a global network for exchange

**GATHER
PEOPLE
AND IDEAS**

May 2017 – March 2021



19. ASSITEJ World Congress and Performing Arts Festival in Cape Town (South Africa),

from 17 – 27 May 2017

Dance for Young Audiences Focus Day, 24 May

Thanks to the engagement of Yvette Hardy, president of ASSITEJ International, a first encounter dedicated to dance could take place during the 19th World Congress. She asked Gabi dan Droste (Germany) to initiate it. The main aims were to establish if there is a need and general interest to launch a worldwide network for dance within the ASSITEJ community and to find out the most important issues for potential users of the network. An open call to join was sent to all national ASSITEJ centres and thereby to all ASSITEJ members.

The response was great - more than 50 people from all over the world came to the 3-hour meeting. Their discussions made clear that the exchange of people should be the heart of the initiative. For the very first time the ASSITEJ World Congress took place on the African continent; this fact made it possible for a number of colleagues from Africa (like Nicola Elliott) to join the meeting and that the emerging network could have a base in South Africa, right from the beginning.



Festival Visioni di futuro, visioni di teatro in Bologna (Italy),

from 24 February - 4 March 2018

Workshop Days, 23-24 February

Thanks to the invitation of Roberto Frabetti, La Baracca (Italy), a second meeting took place during the Festival Visioni.

An invitation to take part was sent out directly to interested colleagues who are involved in SMALL SIZE by the festival Visioni. 20 dancers / choreographers, mostly from Europe, came together.

The meeting provided an opportunity to share ideas, to reflect on our own dance work for young audiences and to exchange experiences. Main topics: What is specific about this art form for young audiences? What makes it different to other forms? And what is the potential of working with the body, with the tools of dance? Thomas Eisenhardt (Denmark), Barbara Fuchs (Germany), Omar Meza (Spain) and Yutaka Takei (France) gave practical impulses that initiated the professional exchange.



The second day offered the opportunity to discuss the emerging dance network and to collect different visions, opinions and needs, wishes and expectations, from professionals in the field. Members of the SMALL SIZE network and the participants gave a panel discussion about the challenges and possibilities of networking in an international context; Young Dance Network was able to benefit from the experience of an already existing and experienced network, and SMALL SIZE received new impulses from the new approach of YDN.

SMALL SIZE has a number of members, not only in Europe but also in Latin America; this fact made it possible to get into contact with colleagues from Chili and to build bridges to Latin America with the help of Layla Raña Kanacri and later Gabriela Torres.

THINK BIG! #6 International Dance Festival For Young Audiences in Munich (Germany),

13-22. July 2018

Working sessions, 17-18 July

Thanks to the invitation of Simone Schulte-Aladag, head of the Festival THINK BIG!, the next meeting could happen with colleagues who joined the network regularly like Sanja Tropp Frühwald (Croatia) and new ones like Alfredo Zinola (Germany), Ceren Oran (Turkey), and Jan Baanstra (Netherlands). We experimented for the first time with connecting globally with a video call to South Africa. How to communicate and to exchange further steps and decisions is a central issue for our work. We aim to establish mentorships and regular dialogue partnerships by sharing meeting reports and working documents to ensure that the Dance Network is relevant and understands the context within which each partner operates.



Central to this meeting:

- the definition of the heart of the network: We developed a 'global model' for the YDN. We visualized a global model through the concept of the network being the centre of a circle (representing the globe) surrounded by seven objectives. We chose a circle as all objectives that are in the circle are equal in importance without judgement or hierarchy. It gives flexibility to be able to choose one of the objectives as a topic based on time, place, culture, etc. The question: 'What do we intend as dance?' is still an open window and to be discussed again with future members.
- the decision to apply for full membership within the ASSITEJ International - Cat. A: professional companies and artists performing for children. And: We welcome children and families as associated members too.

Purple #3 International Dance Festival for Young Audiences in Berlin (Germany),


January 2019

Working sessions, 24-25 January

Thanks to the invitation by Canan Erek, artistic head of the festival PURPLE, another meeting could take place with new local guests from Berlin and with Lars Garpenfeldt. Another important step happened: A discussion took place about the necessity of a legal body of the network and various possibilities explored. It was decided that YDN should not be connected with an ASSITEJ local centre, but that it should be independent. In order to realize this idea, it was decided to research possibilities for where the best place for the official seat might be.

Further experiments on how to connect globally were made with simultaneous whats-app-conversations to Latin America.





**FORMING STRUCTURES AND
BUILDING THE (LEGAL)
BASIS FOR COLLABORATION**

International Dance Congress #1 Granada (Spain),

5 to 7 July 2019

Omar Meza initiated the first International Dance Congress in Granada (Spain). Together with ASSITEJ Spain, YDN celebrated the first edition from 5 to 7 July 2019 during the Granada International Festival of Music and Dance. The three-day programme of shows, workshops and meetings aimed to increase the visibility of dance for children and young people.

Performances. En UN ÉclAt a k entrepôt (France) +2, Ain't Misbehaving, De Stilte (Netherlands) +6, WITNESS THIS Company Chameleon (Inglaterra) +9.

Workshops. 'Dramaturgy in dance for young audiences' by Mijke Harmsen, 'What are the rules of the game of a dance performance?' by Jack Timmermans, 'No Work and Just Play' (intergenerational workshop) by Sanja Tropp Frühwald
Conference. With contributions by Fatima Anlló and Jack Timmermans



Thanks to the engagement of ASSITEJ Spain and of the Festival Internacional de Musica y Danza de Granada, the members were hosted for 5 days to concentrate. The following essential steps were decided:

- The defining of the board and core members takes place. The emerging network involves colleagues from four different continents:

Africa

South Africa: Nicola Elliott

Europe

Croatia/Austria: Sanja Tropp Frühwald, Germany: Alfredo Zinola, Germany: Barbara Fuchs, Germany: Gabi dan Droste, Italy: Giovanna Palmieri, Netherlands: Femke Somerwil, Netherlands: Jan Baanstra, Spain: José Omar Mesa, Sweden: Lars Garpenfeld, Turkey: Ceren Oran.

Latin America

Chile: Gabriela Bravo Torrez, Layla Raña Kanacri

North America

Canada, Québec: Pierre-Paul Savoie



- 4 proposals - 1 from Belgium (Goele Van Dijck) and 3 from Germany (Barbara Fuchs) - of possible legal statutes of the network were presented. The group decided to launch a non-profit registered organization in Germany. This decision was not only a big step for the whole group, it also had a big impact on the ensuing work for everybody, as the members had to concentrate on a lot of paperwork and hold discussions about necessary regulations. Barbara Fuchs agreed to be responsible for, and the head of, the non-profit organization.

YDN welcomed Boomer Stacey as a special guest and together started a conversation about possible collaborations with colleagues in the USA and IPAY. According to our mission 'act local, think global', YDN met colleagues from the local scene in Spain and discussed culture and dance for children.

This was the last time we met face-to-face with our colleague Pierre Paul Savoie: under a lemon tree that, while we were working, was dropping lemons around us - an image that stayed with us for a long time and is still there as you can see in the colors of the logo.

December 2019 - January 2020

Dec., 7th: sending in the application to ASSITEJ International for 'Full Membership' - members from at least seven (7) countries from two (2) or more continents - category A: 'Professional companies'.

Jan., 7th: official approval of YDN by the EC of the ASSITEJ International as a member under the umbrella of ASSITEJ International.

Hoch X theatre Munich (Germany),

7-9 February 2021

Working session

Thanks to the engagement of Ceren Oran, the network could meet in Munich (Germany). According to our mission 'act local, think global', YDN met colleagues from the local scene in Bayern and discussed networking in the dance field. According to our mission 'share your work', we succeeded in seeing Schön anders by Ceren Oran.

Ambassadorship Meetings

Since January 2019, the core members of Young Dance Network organized various meetings in many cities under festival umbrellas, or through personal initiative, to talk about YDN and to get in touch with local artists. These meetings are set up in roundtable formats, and those who initiated them are called 'YDN ambassadors'. FAMFEST Festival July 20 2018 / Y Generation Festival - Trento (Italy) 16-18 October 2018 / Belgian ASSITEJ National Gathering Charleroi May 2019 / I'm FAMFEST July 2019 / ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering Christiansand (Norway) 6 September 2019 / BRIK Brabants International Kinderfestival Breda (Netherlands) June 2019 / IPAY Philadelphia January 2019 and 2020 / Y Festival Trento (Italy) October 2019 / Parcours Danse, 25 November 2019 / SPLEEN Festival in Graz February 2020 / and finally: YDN took part in the Special Meeting of the General Assembly, videoconferences 18-19 May 2020.

A South African conference was meant to happen last year, but was postponed due to COVID.

March 2020 – March 2021

Due to the pandemic situation, we meet every month via Zoom. Throughout the month, we collaborate in working groups on special tasks and always feedback to the whole group at the monthly meeting. During that time, we have managed:

- finalizing the statutes for the non-profit organization
- finalizing the bylaws of the non-profit organization
- formulating the guidelines for the network
- finding a cooperate identity: yellow and blue, a logo and the website, that will be launched during the WC



UPCOMING FUTURE:

GROWING

new members and topics

New Members

Nicola Elliott initiated welcoming new members from Africa: Joshua Alabi (Lagos, Nigeria), Thalia Laric (Cape Town, South Africa and Amsterdam, Netherlands) and Sumalgy Nuro (Cape Town, South Africa, and Maputo, Mozambique). YDN also welcomed David Rancourt (Canada) as a new member following Pierre Paul Savoie as a representative of North America.

Guideline for network, structure.

Our current topic is how we can grow and what kind of structure we need. According to the idea of 'act local think global' we are discussing the invention of local networks. In order to formulate and find our specificity as dance artists we are considering establishing working groups that focus on topics like dramaturgy, intergenerational work, etc.

20. ASSITEJ World Congress and Performing Arts Festival.

Ceren Oran will talk about YDN during the World Congress and hopefully engage new, interested people for membership. Omar Meza and Giovanna Palmeri are initiating a 'Mapping Project' that reflects the dance scene across the whole globe. Sanja Tropp-Frühwald and Gabi dan Droste are offering a round table on 'Dramaturgy'. Alfredo Zinola and Nicola Elliot will continue the reflections about the specificities of dance for children during a coffee session.

We hope to finish the legal process in terms of the non-profit organization in late summer 2021. We are planning the membership call then and are looking forward to welcoming new regular members.

Thanks to all our guests and hosts Agulhas Gladys (South Africa), Alessandro Rossi (Italy), Andra Burcă (Rumania), Anne-Beth Schuurmans (Netherlands), Anu Maaria (Switzerland-Finland), Amelie Mallmann (Germany), Barbora Machova, Bruno Frabetti (Italy), Caleb Lee (UK), Canan Ereğ (Germany), Caroline Corneils (Belgium), Cinira Macedo (Portugal/Germany), Claire Summerfield (UK), Corinne Eckenstein (Austria), Eulalia Ribera (Spain), Goele Van Dijck (Belgium), Gonzalo Moreno (Spain), Hannah Lefeuvre (UK), Ingrid Olterman (Sweden), Jacquynne Tumusiime (Uganda), Joachim Schlömer (Germany), Livia Patrici (Germany), Loa Carlsland (Denmark), Louis Valente (Denmark), Louise Katerega (UK), Marie Close (Belgium), Patricia Gomis (Senegal), Roberto Frabetti (Italy), Serena Marossi (Italy), Simone Schulte Aladag (Germany), Thalia Laric (South Africa), Thomas Eisenhardt (Denmark), Tinna Grétarsdóttir (Iceland), Tso Hanchieh, Yutaka Takei (France), Yvette Hardie (South Africa),

and to our supporters Arnold Brookhuis (Canada), Céline Lapointe (Canada), Çağlar Demiral (Istanbul, Turkey), and everybody who should also be here on this list.

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