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# IDEA Quarterly Newsletter

## October 2021

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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.

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Dear readers, dear colleagues, dear members and friends of IDEA,

Here we present the third edition of the IDEA Newsletter consisting of activities that occurred in the past three months, as well as future activities and events. Even though the situation is not easy, and we seem far from exiting the Covid-19 pandemic, we are happy to announce live

events that are about to happen, as the IDEA Congress in July next year, or an event that has just finished, hours before the distribution of this newsletter, the IDEA Europe network meeting in Sandnes, Norway.

One of the most significant events of our past trimester is the exciting 36 marathon of the IDEA Online Festival Together We Go On that made us reconnect online and realize the vastness and richness of knowledge, practices and work of our members over the globe. We mapped the time zones of the world, as the Festival was traveling from country to country following the Sun, and it made us aware of different circumstances and ways our members do their work, and how they have adapted to the virtual reality. The Festival was the result of the initiative and work of our two Directors of Projects and Concepts, Tom Willems and Tomas Leijin, and I would like to congratulate them for this incredible event, as well as all our members who participated. We have decided to make this a biennial event, with the next edition coming in 2023.

I am looking forward to the activities we are initiating concerning the celebration of the 30 years of IDEA, consisting of a book about IDEA, a live celebration event as part of the Congress in Iceland and monthly online sessions THE (HI)STORY OF IDEA with narratives tracing the footsteps of IDEA through trans-generational and trans cultural dialogues. Our working groups have been planning these events and activities, and I am thankful to our Honorary President Maria van Bakelen for her contributions and sharing her experiences in this work, as Maria has been one of the initiators of the IDEA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in Evora, Portugal, in 2017.

One of the important traditions of IDEA is the Celebration of IDEA Day each 27<sup>th</sup> of November. As this day is approaching, I invite you all to celebrate, activate, share and let your voice, bells, song or action be seen or heard for the support and promotion of drama theatre education over the world.

There are many interesting and inspiring events happening, like the ongoing African Theatre Webinars organized by Mercy Mirembe Ntangaare and Marion Küster, our Sharing IDEA(S) series of online workshops. I invite

you to take part, as well as to propose IDEA activities that we shall be glad to promote and help you organize.

For the end, I quote the title of our Online Festival : Together we go on!

Sanja Krsmanović Tasić  
IDEA President

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## IDEA ELECTED OFFICERS MEETINGS

The IDEA Board of Elected Officers meets every month through the Zoom platform when they closely collaborate on IDEA work and activities.



*Screenshot of the Elected Officers meeting in August 2021*

The Elected Officers also continued working in working groups that let them use their specialized knowledge and skills in the best possible way for IDEA. And the EOs had quite a lot of work since the past quarter was marked by some milestones and very important IDEA events, as well as the ambitious plans for the future. IDEA Communication Working Group

made detailed plans for the reconstruction of our website, IDEA Online Working Group worked alongside the rich ecosystem of webinars, forums, workshops, festivals, etc. IDEA Translation Working Group started working on providing some IDEA news and material in non-English languages, and IDEA Finances and AC Working Group, IDEA Membership Working Group and IDEA Solidarity Funding Working Group continued with their regular activities.

Also, the temporarily established working groups had a busy quarter. IDEA 30 Years Celebration working group advanced in their planning of next year's jubilee, while the Evaluation of 2020 General Council Meeting Working Group organized the forum on the evaluation of th 2020 GCM.

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## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

We would like to wish a very warm welcome to [Dr Janardan Ghosh](#) from India as a new individual member of IDEA and our drama/theatre and education community.

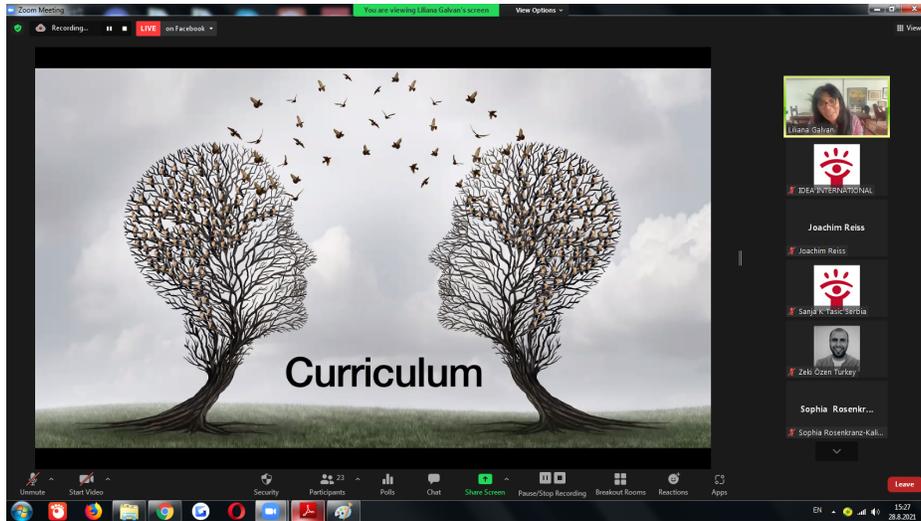
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## IDEA ACTIVITIES AUGUST - OCTOBER 2021

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## TOGETHER WE GO ON Festival

IDEA did it! The first IDEA Together We Go On Festival with a 36 hours non-stop online programme was held on 28th and 29th August.

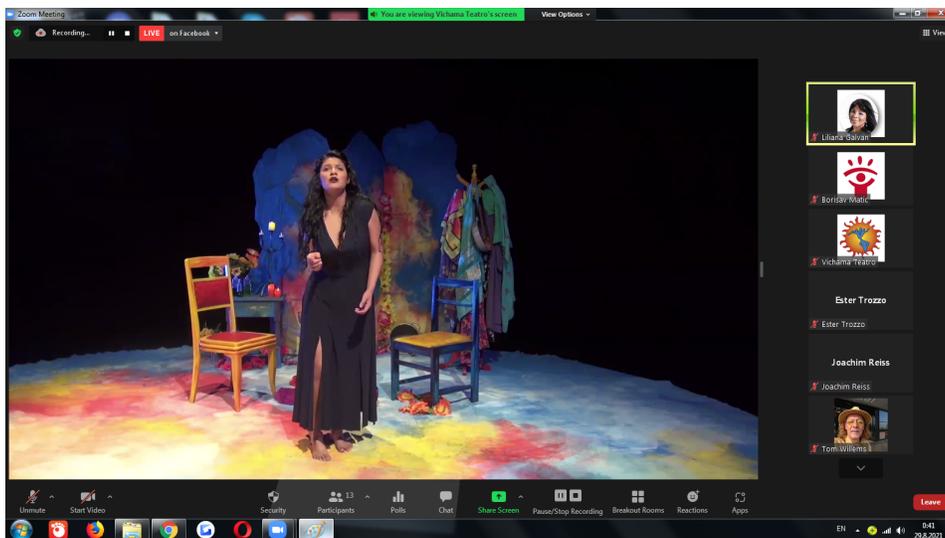


*IDEA Vice-President Liliara Galvan talking about the state of drama/theatre education in the Americas; Together We Go On Festival*

We are grateful and impressed by all the work the IDEA community showed during this intensive festival.

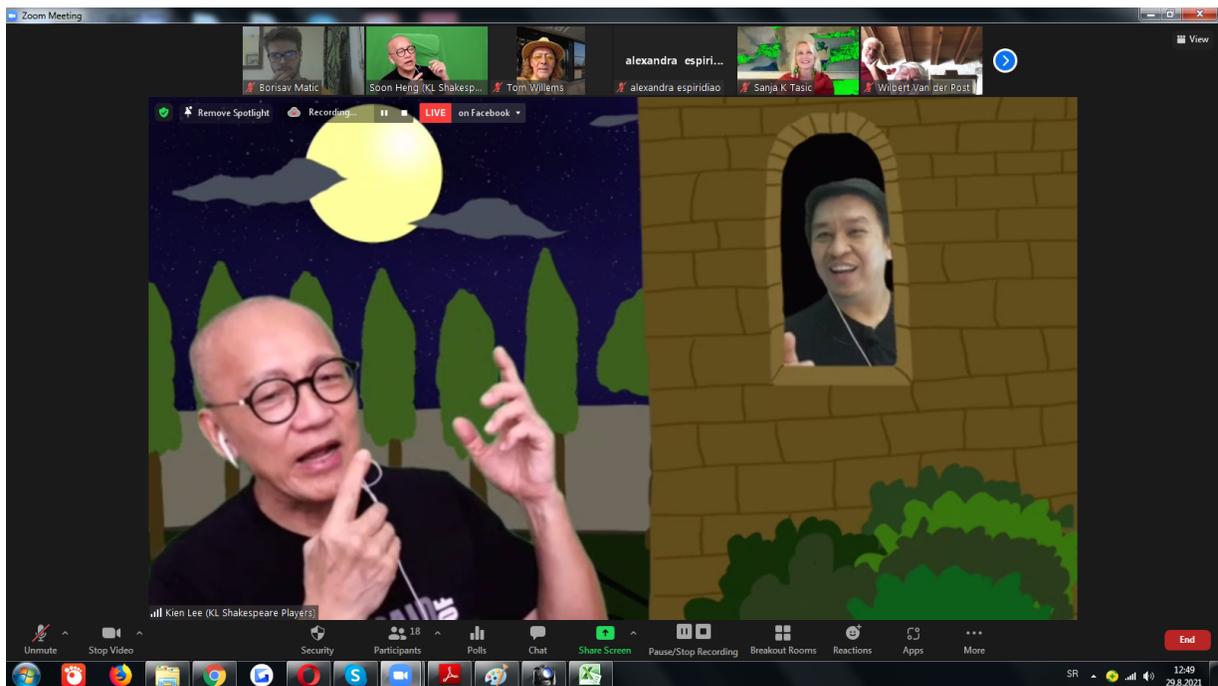
With more than 500 unique watchers we can say that it was quite a success and well received. We want to thank all the participants, the hosts and the audience that bore with us during the technical mess-ups.

IDEA showed the variety of perspectives, ideas and knowledge that lay within her.



*Streaming of the performance Pétalos de arena by the Peruvian Vichama Teatro; Together We Go On Festival*

As most of us have experienced during the last year, international coöperation is not self-evident, but we managed to create a space where it did feel possible to meet each other across our borders and to be inspired. The Together We Go On Festival showcased performances, discussions, workshops, documentaries and theatre-related artworks from all continents. The list of participants expands through the countries of Iceland, the Netherlands, Germany, Serbia, Kenia, Chez Republic, Uganda, Mexico, Peru, Lithuania, Australia, China, Turkey, Portugal, Malaysia, Romania, USA and Ireland. The festival also had a time-zone friendly programme, all of which have given new meaning to IDEA's inclusive philosophy.



*KL Shakespeare Players from Malaysia presenting their techniques for creating an interactive digital show; Together We Go On Festival*

You can watch complete recordings of our 36 hour festival on [IDEA's Facebook page](#).

Tom Willems and Tomas Leijen  
Co-directors of Concepts and Projects



# IDEA FORUM: DIALOGUE AND REFLECTION ON GCM 2020

On 15th September 2021 we facilitated an online meeting to evaluate and talk about the GCM 2020 and the Elections of the IDEA officers, with the help of two neutral mediators, who were not part of the elections and have experience in moderating evaluation discussions. The Moderators opened a space for dialogue and listening by letting the people involved speak freely and holding space for the emotions that can run high in processes like these.

Representatives of different IDEA Member organizations and most of the candidates and the organizers of the GCM were present.

The discussion was structured in three parts: 1. Space to talk freely and express how the experience of the online GCM and the elections was. 2. Express wishes for the future and 3. Form concrete proposals and solutions with the help of the moderators.



Here are the proposals for next elections and IDEA in the future

- More time to talk, engage, build trust, engagement for all members
- Better means of digital communication
- Simultaneous translation for inclusivity
- Translation of culture
- Someone neutral to oversee election processes
- Explore co-candidacy more
- Not to become too technical
- Less complexity in the procedures
- More delegation of responsibilities
- Equal continental representation and leadership
- Organisational knowledge more transparent – easier for newcomers to step in
- In the next congress: put forward motions to change the constitution
- Address the deeper issues of inclusivity and equality
- Continue the talks and the evaluation of the meeting in more meetings like this.

The moderators created a constructive discussion and a climate of honesty and listening to each other, which everyone appreciated. We thank everyone who participated and was open and frank. We hope to continue this climate of open dialogue and will arrange more meetings like this to make IDEA more inclusive and truly international. We thank all who participated. Until next time!

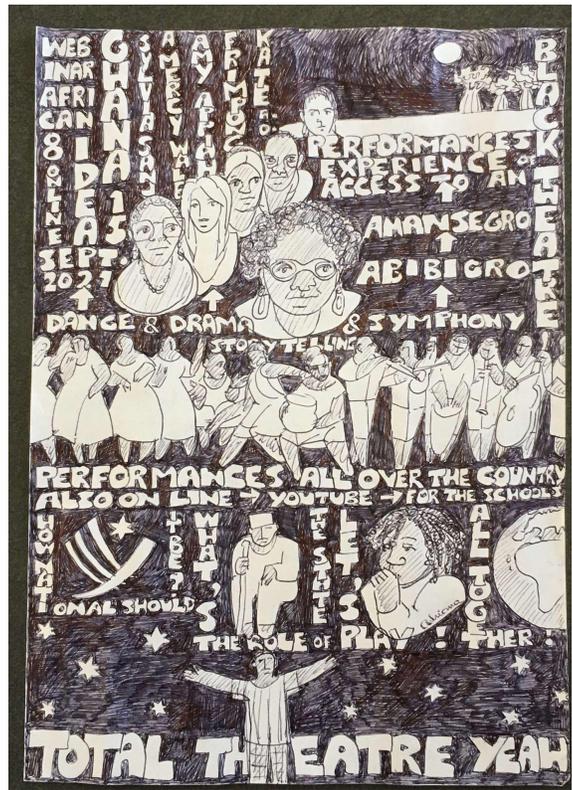
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## **AFRICAN THEATRE WEBINARS AUGUST-OCTOBER**

The African Theatre Webinars successfully continued from August through October, every third Wednesday of the month at 6 pm UTC.

The August session "Producing Theatre in the New Normal" brought us the work and experiences of two theatre artists and teachers who continue to

make theatre and train artists even in difficult times like the present Covid-19 pandemic! Sophia Mempuh Kwachuh from Cameroon and Hope Azeda from Rwanda shared with us the strategies they use to train and make theatre and festivals online.



*Adriana Nichting's drawing of the September edition of the African Theatre Webinar*

"Ghana National Theatre and the Abibigro Concept", the September edition of the Webinar, saw Amy Appiah Frimpong as the guest who highlighted the evolving roles of the National Theatre of Ghana, but she also discussed the African theatre tradition of Abibigro Concept. And the October edition under the name "African Theatre: Concepts, Methods, Differences and Equality" saw a more relaxed and free form, a panel discussion with the audience about the concepts and methods of African theatre and the way it compares to Western performing arts.

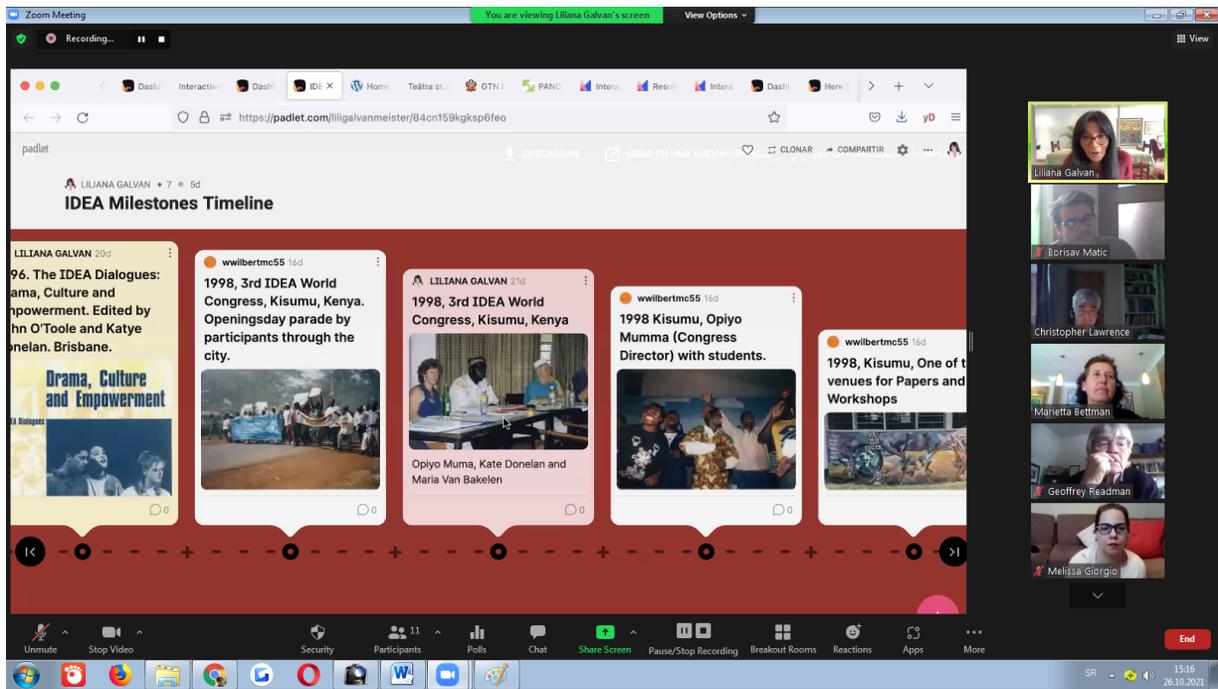
African Theatre Webinar Series is a Project of IDEA in cooperation with the Department of Performing Arts and Film, Makerere University Kampala, Uganda, and Hochschule für Musik und Theater Rostock, Germany. The

series gathers theatre practitioners, researchers and educators from 12 African countries who speak about both traditional and contemporary theatre forms from their countries.

Stay tuned for November and December editions of the Webinar!



# SHARING IDEA(S) WORKSHOPS: The Interactive Workshop II



*The history of IDEA milestones shown in Padlet during The Interactive Workshop II*

The Interactive Workshop II is the fourth online workshop in the series Sharing IDEA(S) and it took place on 26th October via Zoom. Liliana Galvan, Vice-President of IDEA, drama teacher, educational psychologist and researcher, facilitated the workshop with the aim of training participants in a creative and playful way how to use digital platforms such as Padlet, Mural, Mentimeter, Jamboard and Storyboard. The participants also discussed how to use those digital tools in their drama/ theatre and

education practice. The Interactive Workshop II gathered people from Peru, Argentina, Kenia, Uganda, the UK, Serbia, and Latvia.

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## IDEA EUROPE MEETING: NORWAY

The 2021 IDEA Europe Meeting has just finished and it took place in Sandens, Norway from October 29th until October 31st. Members from 13 European countries gathered and had the opportunity to see the rehearsal of the musical *Chicago* that is being created by the students of the Vaagen upper secondary School of Performing Arts in Sandnes/Rogaland. The meeting was hosted by the School, as well as the IDEA member Drama- og teaterpedagogene/Norwegian Association of Drama in Education region Rogalan, and Kristin Runde, the GCM President of IDEA.



*IDEA Europe Meeting 2014, Sandens, Norway*

During the IDEA Europe meeting an IDEA Exchange project took place, with the title "Spatial Costume Installation with Theatrical Expressiveness". 12 Students of the Academy for Theatre and Dance Amsterdam from the Department Theatre in Education and 8 students of the Vaagen Videregaende Skole in Sandnes, Norway, met each other from October 27th until November 1st 2021 in this exchange.

The students worked together to create new theatrical work based on costumes. They investigated existing costumes as an object and did spatial research. They used the results together with Norse Myths to create short performances.

The performances were shown to the delegates of the IDEA Europe Meeting 2021 in Sandnes.

The project was guided by Kristin Runde ( Norway), Elian Smits and Tom Willems (Netherlands).



*IDEA Europe Meeting 2021; It is the first IDEA Europe Meeting that happens both in person and online*

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# NEWS FROM WORLD ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

## MOOC “Arts, Armed Conflict and Humanitarian Aid”

The massive open online course in English language "Arts, Armed Conflict and Humanitarian Aid", organized by Ateliers du Rêve; [WAAE](#) and APECV at NAU platform, took place on 15 September, 2021.



Curso

nau SEMPRE A APRENDER

DISPONÍVEL

**Arts, Armed Conflict  
and Humanitarian Aid**

ENTIDADE PROMOTORA



CORFINANCIADO POR



The MOOC offered a 4 weeks training space dedicated to different professionals of the humanitarian or artistic field concerned by artistic practices in humanitarian emergencies. The course aimed to bring theoretical knowledge in Humanitarian aid contexts through different topics, and to link this knowledge with a more practical part, allowing the participants to become aware of real situations lived in the field, as well as

bringing expertise and sharing experiences of real contexts of artistic practices in humanitarian emergencies contexts.

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## World Alliance for Arts Education Virtual World Summit

During the WAAE Virtual World Summit the presidents of the four associations that form WAAE, and are part of the WAAE Executive Forum, Teresa Eca from [INSEA](#), Emily Achieng Akuno from [ISME](#), Sarah Knox from WDA and Sanja Krsmanović Tasić from IDEA, gave their inputs and comments on the International Guiding Principles for the Assessment of Arts Education. The document itself was the focus of the discussion groups of the Summit.



*IDEA President Sanja Krsmanović Tasić in a discussion at the WAAE Virtual World Summit*

The World Alliance for Arts Education partnered with the University of Florida and SEADAE to host a [Virtual World Summit](#) from October 11-15, 2021. This event invited primary and secondary school arts educators, out-of-school time practitioners, higher education professionals, arts education researchers and policymakers, national, state and local education officials from across the world to attend the summit to network; share research; and examine quality structures, processes and practices. With notable keynote speakers, session presenters from all six continents, and provocative ideas on timely topics, this conference aimed to shift the dialogue about arts assessment in the global context.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT OF IDEA ACTIVITIES

### IDEA CONGRESS IN ICELAND 2022

FLISS – The Icelandic Drama in Education Association and The University of Iceland, School of Education will host the 9th IDEA World Congress in Reykjavík from July 4-8, 2022.

By hosting the congress FLISS and the UI aim to celebrate drama as a subject in its own right in compulsory education as part of the curriculum. We welcome all drama educators, cultural workers, theatre artists, researchers, teachers and students from all over the world to this common arena for inspiration and development.

It is an honour for FLÍSS and UI to have the opportunity of hosting an international congress on the subject of drama/theatre and education in collaboration with IDEA. The website is now open <https://ideaiceland.com>

The call for papers and workshops starts on 1st November and early bird registration begins on 1st January, 2022. On the website you find information about registration, call for papers and workshops, conference programs and solidarity.

**Conference Dates:** July 4 - 8, 2022.



### Important Dates for DRAMA4ALL 2022

<b>01.11.2021</b>	Submission starts for papers and workshops
<b>15.01.2022</b>	Submission ends for papers and workshops
<b>01.01.2022</b>	Registration starts – early bird
<b>01.03.2022</b>	Review results announced
<b>01.04.2022</b>	Early bird ends
<b>15.04.2022</b>	Registration Deadline for presentations
<b>01.06.2022</b>	Presentation times announced
<b>04.07.2022</b>	Conference starts

## **Solidarity fund**

As a part of the preparation for the congress a solidarity fund has been established. The aims of the Solidarity fund are to enable as many colleagues as possible from every part of the world to participate in the IDEA world congress. By supporting participants who otherwise would not have been able to participate due to financial constraints, IDEA wishes to ensure and strengthen the intercultural exchange that the congresses in particular can offer.

Information about the solidarity fund and applications are on the congress website: <https://ideaiceland.com/>

We are looking forward to seeing you in Reykjavík, Iceland July 4 - 8, 2022.

The Congress committee

Ólafur Guðmundsson, Congress Director

Jóna Guðrún Jónsdóttir, Director of Finance

Ása H Ragnarsdóttir, Director of Academic and Pedagogic Program

Dr. Rannveig Björk Thorkelsdóttir, Director of Academic and Pedagogic Program

Aníta Ómarsdóttir, Director of Young IDEA

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**IDEA DAY - 27th NOVEMBER**

Let Us Celebrate IDEA Day Together!

A special day for our association is approaching, a day that every year reminds us of the importance of drama/theatre education and the universal right to cultural life and full participation within it – IDEA Day on 27th November.

We would like to use the month of November as an opportunity to strengthen the IDEA community by showing creative ways our members celebrate IDEA Day all over the world. We invite you to send us your messages and wishes regarding this special day and its relation to drama/theatre education. We ask you for the messages to be in a visual form – short videos or photographs – so we can edit and collect them in a joint work that we will share on our platforms on 27th November. Be free and creative, we don't have any other limitations in terms of form and content. We want to hear your voices and showcase them together on IDEA Day, building on a premise that we can connect, hear each other's voices and build a stronger international community even in these challenging times!



Please send us your works no later than 24th November at noon UTC.

For information about the history of IDEA Day, visit [our website](#).



## 30 YEARS OF IDEA

Next year our Association will celebrate thirty years of its existence, since it was founded in Porto, Portugal in 1992. The 30 Years IDEA working group is closely collaborating with past and immediate Elected Officers in conceptualizing the year-round events that will happen in 2022 and that will celebrate IDEA through intergenerational, intercultural and critical dialogue. The dialogue and reflection on IDEA will take place in at least two forms: 1. Verbal transgenerational interviews between IDEA members, regarding IDEA's past, present and future; and 2. Printed publication written by a group of authors.

The first activities will start in January, culminating during the IDEA Congress in July and will continue until the end of 2022.

Let us celebrate IDEA together!



*IDEA 30 years logo design: Anastasia Tasić*

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## QUESTION QUEST INITIATIVE

We are still looking for team members. Every region needs a voice. Please share yours. Let us ask questions, together.

IDEA is launching the QUESTION QUEST INITIATIVE, online initiative that would propose and then answer inquiries about drama/theatre education

and share them on IDEA platformes. It's imagined as a crowd-sourced, multi-media publication including every region, representing a democratic space for targeted community-generated common questions to be taken up by practitioners, researchers, organizations and artists in their work, with responses/answers/new questions shared on a platform designed to honor a wide array of "answer stories".

It has four phases. We will:

- (1)ASSEMBLE a team. We would love to have voices from every region.
- (2)GATHER the important questions for drama/theatre education today from IDEA's members and their communities.
- (3)SELECT several questions and CHALLENGE IDEA members to answer them—through creative and/or research projects.
- (4)COLLECT, CURATE and SHARE the answer project artifacts in an online gallery space.

If you would like to join the Question Quest team or have other inquiries, please email Beth Murray, IDEA Director of Publications - [emurra17@uncc.edu](mailto:emurra17@uncc.edu).

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## NEWS FROM IDEA MEMBERS

### **BITEF POLYPHONY: “Play for Life”** **September 2021; Belgrade, Serbia**

Our Serbian member, Center for Drama in Education and Art - CEDEUM, successfully organized the joint 21st and 22nd BITEF Polyphony editions that occurred during the Belgrade International Theatre Festival (BITEF), perhaps the most important theatre festival in South-East Europe.

Traditionally held every year since 2000, BITEF Polyphony showcases performances that promote new theatrical tendencies and are made

through collaboration with young people. These two editions in 2021 – brought together thanks to last year's unstable epidemiological situation – presented theatre works created under the pandemic circumstances of isolation, uncertainty and multiple limitations.

One of the performances played during the Polyphony was *2100: A tale of Aska* directed by IDEA President Sanja Krsmanović Tasić at the Youth Theatre PATOS from Smederevo. The story of the performance is set in 2100 when clean air is a distant memory and art is banned, but a group of young people create their community where they can share and perform stories such as *Aska and the Wolf*, a story of resistance through art by the Nobel laureate Ivo Andrić. The performance tells us that even in the darkest times there's reason for hope, resistance and change.



*2100: A Tale of Aska*, PATOS Theatre, directed by Sanja Krsmanović Tasić

You can read more about the whole program of the 2021 BITEF Polyphony at the [following link](#).

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## FESTIVAL “MATER TERRA” 27th and 28th November; Belgrade, Serbia

The eight edition of the Children’s and Young People’s Theatre Festival “Mater Terra” will take place in Belgrade on the 27th and 28th November. With this Festival CEDEUM, its organizer, will join the celebration of IDEA Day-

Participants of the festival “Mater Terra” (lat. “Mother Earth”) will present the result of the work of different school drama groups as well as drama studios from Serbia, with themes of: “**Ecology**” and “**Ecology of the soul**”.



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## FIDEA GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING 24th October; Helsinki, Finland

FIDEA (Finish Drama/Theatre Education Association) annual General Council Meeting was held in Helsinki on 24th October 2021. The new president, **Annemari Untamala**, was unanimously elected for 2022-2023

and she immediately started her role as president after the GCM, because the former president left already on 1st July 2021 - the period ends 31.12.2021. The six new Executive Committee (EC) members and four vice members were also unanimously elected. Plans for 2022 were confirmed by GCM, including cooperation with IDEA, IDEA Europe, other Scandinavian countries, as well as participation in IDEA Congress 2022 in Reykjavik - all very important issues in FIDEA's work.

More info: Tintti Karppinen [tintti.karppinen@iki.fi](mailto:tintti.karppinen@iki.fi)

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## ZHIREN THEATRE FESTIVAL 9-17 December; Chengdu, China



Zhiren Theatre Festival is organized by Tianfu No.7 High School Primary Section (also called Zhiren Academy) which is a primary school located in Chengdu, China, and will be held from 9th to 17th December, 2021. This theatre festival consists of four parts: Environmental Theatre, Cultural Heritage, Experimental Theatre and Future World, and its basis is the daily courses of drama in education of this primary school. The Chinese name of

this theatre festival is "youxi", which means the children's future is full of hope and their lives in schools are warm and interesting. All the content of the theatre festival are from the daily drama courses, but not specifically designed for the festival, so it aims to show a real view for the school's efforts on drama in education. The theatre festival is directed by Miao Bin, the drama teacher and leader of the art education team of the school.

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## Publication

### "Innovative Teaching of Chinese Traditional Culture - Dramatic Classroom Examples"

The new book by our member from China, IDEC, was published under the title "Innovative Teaching of Chinese Traditional Culture - Dramatic Classroom Examples". The book thematizes education in primary and secondary schools and teachers who are enthusiastic about Chinese culture education. The publication aims at improving students' humanistic and aesthetic literacy, as well as strengthening educational abilities of teachers.



*Guests and teachers at the launching ceremony of the book*

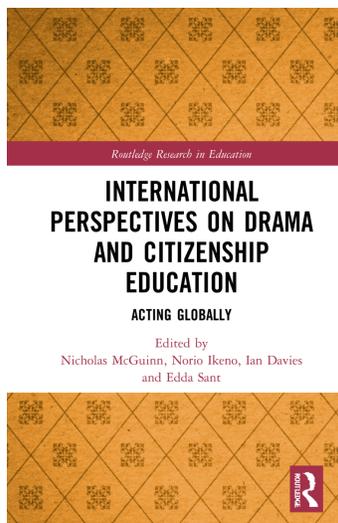
The launching ceremony for the publication was organized at the Foreign Research Institute and some 200 principals and teachers from public schools in Beijing attended the ceremony.

You can find out more about the publication [here](#).



## Two Publications of Jun Xu from China

Jun Xu, IDEA member from Shanghai, China and Doctor of Theatre and Chinese Traditional Opera and Associate Professor, has recently published two papers related to the progress of drama education in China. The first paper focuses on the impacts of the experimental reading project *Hunter Guolie* on migrant children’s reading abilities in drama education with Chinese folktales. You can read more about the publication [here](#). And the second publication is an essay in the Routledge edition [\*International Perspectives on Drama and Citizenship Education\*](#). The aim of this chapter is to consider some of the issues and possibilities presented by recent developments in citizenship education, drama education and theatre in China.



*International Perspectives on Drama and Citizenship Education* edited by Nicholas McGuinn, Norio Ikeno, Ian Davies, Edda Sant

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## IN MEMORIAM Prof. Dr. İnci San

Our members from Turkey **Çağdaş Drama Derneği** have informed us about the sad loss of Prof. Dr. İnci SAN.



“The pioneer of drama in education in Turkey. The Founder and Honoured President of Contemporary Drama Association; groundbreaking professor in arts education, creative drama, aesthetic education and museum education; the pioneer of education through art in Turkey, a contemporary woman of the Turkish Republic. Retired professor from Ankara University Faculty of Educational Sciences

We are in deep, indescribable sadness of losing our teacher.

May her rest in peace...”



*Inci San and IDEA members; Photo from a Congress in Turkey organized by  
**Çağdaş Drama Derneği***

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For further information visit the IDEA website:

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

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

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

\*The last version of the newsletter did not emphasize that the photo from the IDEA Europe Meeting in Sandens, Norway was from 2014, thus confusing it with the meeting in 2021. The current version of the newsletter also contains an additional screenshot from the 2021 IDEA Europe Meeting, as well as news about the upcoming IDEA Day on 27th November 2021.