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# IDEA Quarterly Newsletter

## 2022 - Issue 1

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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.

# CREATING AN ONLINE IDEA CULTURE

## ***Introduction Letter by IDEA Vice President Liliana Galván***

*"The more constraints you have, the more creative you can be", is the paradox of creativity that has challenged us in the context of this new world, which requires us to be more creative, innovative, and consistent with our purpose, which is,*

*to provide an international forum for communicating about, promoting, and advocating for drama/theatre and education in schools, communities and all fields of endeavor and to support development of drama/theatre practice and theory as part of a full human education (IDEA Constitution).*

Many questions arise in this context. How to sustain our organization when Covid closes borders? How to save our planet from ecocide? How to work as leaders while schools and students change their ways of learning, socializing and protecting themselves? How to create a new culture that shortens the virtual distance?

As IDEA elected officers, we are creating a new online culture that strengthens our relationships, helps us to cross boundaries, spark interest, and provoke action. That is why we have ended 2021 with the satisfaction of having carried out multiple activities in productive and great interaction with our members and beyond, and have the energies to start this 2022.

Although our nature as drama teachers is to relate to each other in a direct, organic, and close way, we have been able to adapt to new communication platforms, as well as to use new applications to interact in different ways. Democracy needs tools that allow us to regulate time and space to express, debate and reflect on our own discourse.



*Avatars of Liliana Galván and participants of her Interactive Workshop I, 2021*

Working remotely is a great challenge when you lead a multicultural organization, coming from different regions, with different generations, perspectives, and points of view, over 30-year history of sustained face-to-face and eventual virtual communication. Despite this, we have had the opportunity to systematically hold monthly international meetings with our members (webinars, workshops, celebrations, etc.). In general, our frequency of meetings with our members was every three years during congresses, or through projects or Young IDEA.

One statement that inspires us since Evora 2017 is "*Rehearsing the Future, Remaking the Past*". For me, this is like our organizational mantra, a common thread for our plans. This 2022, we have started remaking the past, learning from leaders who have left their footprint on IDEA's history. On the other side, we are constantly changing and rehearsing the future,

To rehearse future, we need to work with a systemic approach, articulating our three main committees with autonomy, such as the Executive Committee, Accounting Committee, and the General Meeting Committee. We meet monthly to exchange strategic developments. But we also do cross-systemic work for strategic projects such as the IDEA World Congress, the celebration of IDEA's 30th anniversary, new

concepts and projects and events for members through IDEA Online, etc. The exchange of experiences, perspectives and regional cultures is part of everyday life in IDEA. Each officer has several monthly working meetings. The willingness to work is always driven by the love and dedication we all have as volunteers advocating for art education.

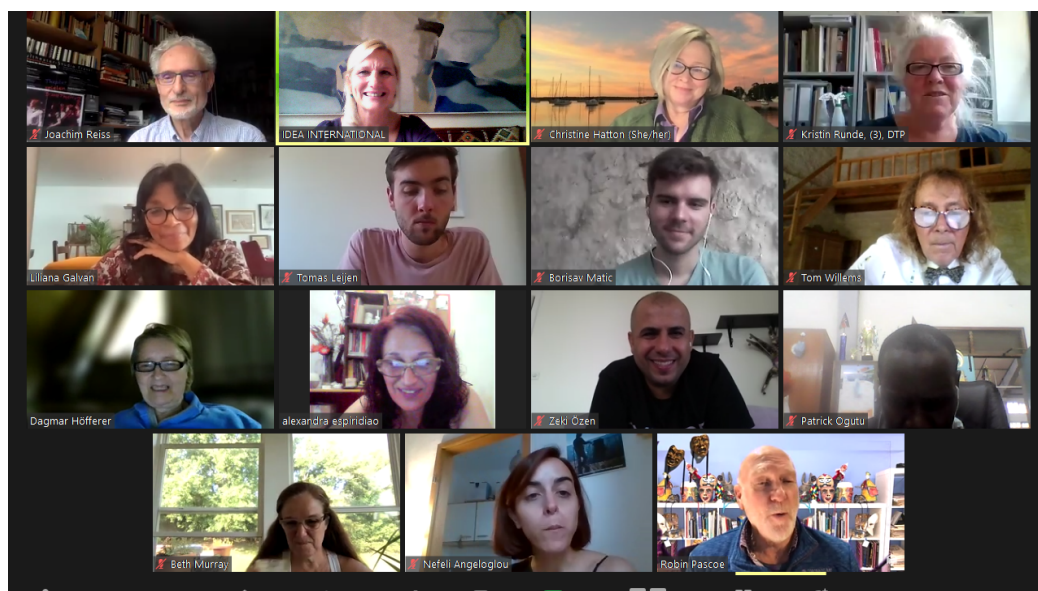
Since the strategic planning that took place in Evora 2017, one of our main goals was to become a *learning organization*, one that transforms itself through listening and learning from experiences within our institution. Furthermore, to be efficient and agile, not to get blocked down in bureaucratic processes, but in democratic and inclusive processes. For this reason, we have held an evaluation of the last General Assembly 2021, which was online, to learn about how we make decisions in critical contexts and how we deal with the consequences. Therefore, to be a learning organization we need to be open, inclusive, with a permanent listening and democratic attitude.

Another major focus was to make IDEA a place of Exchange and Creativity, where members enjoy processes of transformation during meetings and gatherings. This is how from my role of Vice President I have been engaged in new online applications creating interactive online experiences that allow everyone to feel included, active and collaborative. Last year, I offered two Interactive workshops, in which participants discovered their digital identity, their communicational styles, how to expand their voices using post-its, design thinking, and visual resources among others. I will offer in the second part of this year, two more workshops.

To find new ways to link with our Latin American members, to coordinate with our Congress hosting in order to have a permanent communication, to be part of the 30 years IDEA anniversary organizing team, to be part of the executive committee, to design workshops for the community of members, to rebuild with a team our webpage, to organize our IDEA archives in our Google drive and Padlet, or to send a 20 minutes video for a forum to Shenzhen Kids Drama Education Technology, are some of the challenges I have assumed as IDEA Vice President, with great interest, willingness and passion. As you can see, nothing can be done by one



person, everything we achieve is done by working teams. This is part of our new online IDEA culture.



*IDEA Elected Officers monthly meeting*

With love and admiration for each one of our IDEA officers and colleagues and to every member that joins our events, thanks forever!

Keep on working!

Liliana Galván  
IDEA Vice President

## **BENEFITS OF DRAMA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEARNING**

*By Silvia Vammaro, an individual IDEA member from Argentina*

Throughout these years of teaching, I've noticed that my students magically changed their attitude, their critical thinking after some classes of Drama. I've been teaching English through Drama techniques for

almost 30 years. I remember that my first Drama trainer told me: "You will see that you are not going to teach just a language, you will see changes in your students' attitudes that you won't be able to believe". In fact, I was rather skeptical to believe but time is wise and it showed me it was absolutely true! However, not everything was plain sailing... quoting George Orwell in *Animal Farm*, "we are all equal but there are some MORE EQUAL than others" I noticed that not everybody had access to Drama classes, these students belonged to an "elite".



*Silvia Vammaro*

Spreading this new method, I traveled to the provinces and to small villages where I was very welcomed by the students who were eager to work in this way but not so by the authorities.

"Lo único que nos salva de lo cotidiano es la hermosa locura que nos ofrece el drama. Gracias, Silvia" This was written by a student who was very happy to act, to play, to laugh, to sing, to dance...

Translation: "The only thing that saves us from the routine is the craziness that Drama offers us. Thanku, Silvia".

Drama is for all! That's why I am looking forward to the next Congress in Iceland! We are one, no matter where you live, we must gather, reunite for a better education for everybody.

## ***LAWS FOR CREATIONS***

*LAWS for creations,  
For strong artists and leaders, for fresh broods of teachers and  
perfect literates for America,  
For noble savans and coming musicians.*

*All must have reference to the ensemble of the world, and the  
compact truth of the world,  
There shall be no subject too pronounced—all works shall illustrate the  
divine law of indirections.*

*What do you suppose creation is?  
What do you suppose will satisfy the soul, except to walk free and  
own no superior?  
What do you suppose I would intimate to you in a hundred ways,  
but that man or woman is as good as God?  
And that there is no God any more divine than Yourself?  
And that that is what the oldest and newest myths finally mean?  
And that you or anyone must approach creations through such  
laws?*

Walt Whitman, from *Leaves of Grass*

## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

IDEA community is growing every month thanks to organizations and individuals who are dedicating their important work to drama/theatre education in all parts of the world. In that name, we wish a very warm welcome to **Vichama Teatro** (Peru), our new member organization, and several individual members who joined IDEA during the last 3 months: **Chen Dahong** (China), **Jovana Pavičević** (Serbia), **Yuan Yuan** (China), **Saroj Aryal** (Nepal), **Margaret Ismaila** (Ghana) and **Nancy Franco** (Colombia).

# IDEA ACTIVITIES

## NOVEMBER 2021 - FEBRUARY 2022

### IDEA DAY - 27th NOVEMBER

The 27th of November is traditionally celebrated as IDEA Day that reminds us of the importance of drama/theatre education and its role in the struggle for the universal right to cultural life.



In 2021 IDEA members celebrated IDEA Day worldwide with in-person and online activities. You can hear their beautiful messages on the links below:

[Happy IDEA Day 2021 from Elected Officers!](#)

[IDEA Members Celebrating IDEA Day 2021!](#)

#### **IDEA Day Message by IDEA President Sanja Krsmanović Tasić**

I want to address this IDEA Day Message to all those around the world believing that art education can change a person's life for the better.

To all those who feel alone in these hard pandemic times, knowing that our art belongs to live performative art.

To drama teachers who feel that real work, face to face with children, youth, adults, elderly is endangered.

To all those who fight from day to day for their right to teach drama and theatre in schools, in classrooms, in cultural spaces, on the fields and in courtyards.

To children who have learned from an early age to express, analyze, synthesize through the language of drama, understanding how beneficial it is for them.

To children and all who have not had that privilege and chance, but hopefully will.

To parents and guardians who patiently and with love bring children to drama classes, support and watch them develop and learn humanity through our noble form.



*Drama/Theatre education community with IDEA members during the IDEA GCM in Lima, Peru in 2019*

Also to all those thinking there are more important things than drama/theatre and art education in this world in turmoil. Who see no hope and only darkness.

Next year our IDEA association is celebrating 30 years since it was formed. We shall celebrate this important milestone together in July at the IDEA Congress in Iceland.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in Evora, Portugal, Jovana Mihić from Serbia, a nineteen-year-old participant of the Young IDEA project that was part of the celebration, wrote and performed a story, that Maria van Bakelen also cited in her speech on that occasion.

The story is of a little boy who was the only one able to climb a very high tree in his village. When they asked him in wonder how did he do it, he answered: "I did not look up, I did not look down. My eyes were straight." I share with you Jovana's story.

I wish you all to keep climbing your tree, keep working, day by day, moment by moment, being aware of how important our mission is in this world. Let us not be stuck in the past, or too worried about the future. Let us be alive, giving our best to every moment.

Let us bring happiness and sense to the world through drama theatre education. Let us celebrate IDEA Day 2021!

*Sanja Krsmanović Tasić, IDEA president*

### **From Here to the Sky,** by Jovana Mihić

There is a story about the tree with branches that had grown up to the sky.

They were touching the clouds and it was a miracle.

Everyone wanted to climb to the top of the tree and to feel the softness of the clouds. Many of them had injuries because of that adventure, but one boy made it.

He said it was the happiest moment in his life. Maybe it is because he made his wish come true only by his efforts. Maybe it is because he did something that nobody had done before.

People from his town were so jealous. They were saying: "We couldn't understand how can a little boy do such a great thing."



*Jovana Mihić performing her story in Evora*

There was a woman who was fascinated by this boy, and she asked him, without any jealousy in her voice: "How did you make it?"

And the answer was simple:

"I didn't look down, I didn't look up, my eyes were straight. My look was focused on the presence, on that very moment. I didn't care what have I been through nor what is waiting for me, I was just trying to be the best I can in presence. And like that, I was changing the future and remaking the past."

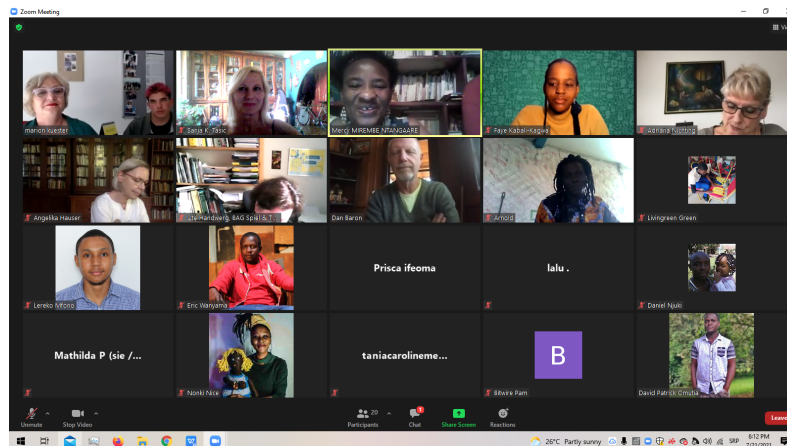
The woman told him that she wished she had his focused look, his eyes.



# AFRICAN THEATRE WEBINARS

## NOVEMBER 2021 AND JANUARY 2022

The African Theatre Webinar series, organized by Dr. Mercy Mirembe Ntangaare and Prof. Marion Küster, continued in November 2021, with a holiday break in December, and in the new year of 2022. The series has aims to **share** concepts of African drama and theatre globally, to **establish** closer contacts and professional relationships among drama/theatre and education practitioners in Africa with the rest of the world, to **contribute** towards efforts to mainstream Africa into world debates and agendas and to **contribute** towards decolonization and liberation of Africa from perpetual dependency on the West for cultural values and identities.



*Screenshot from the African Theatre Webinar*

The participants of the November edition of the Webinar had a chance to learn about drama/theatre in Tanzanian primary education with Dainees Nicodem Sanga, Senior Lecturer from the Department of Creative Arts at the University of Dar es Salaam. The topic of the January edition was creating professional communities of practice through arts/theatre associations; featuring guests were Dr. Christiana Deliewen Afrikaner, the President of Africa Arts Association – AfrAA, and Mclaudy Muyuni Munanzwa, the Founder of Mclaudy Creations, Zambia.



# THE (HI)STORY OF IDEA

## FIRST SESSION - JANUARY 2022



*A screenshot from Miao Bin's presentation at the January THE (HI)STORY OF IDEA event*

To mark the 30 years of IDEA, every last Saturday of the month in 2022 an online event is taking place, organized by the IDEA Online Working Group led by Sanja Krsmanović Tasić and by the IDEA 30 Years Anniversary Working Group, led by Tom Willems, IDEA Director of Projects and Concepts.. The event consists of the presentation of significant figures that have formed and built IDEA as a worldwide association, through an encounter and dialogue with younger IDEA members from over the world. The event has the purpose of tracing IDEA's 30 years journey through the form of oral history and through building a bridge between generations, the featured members presenting IDEA's past, present and future.

The first session took place on 29th January at noon UTC as an intergenerational and intercultural dialogue between Maria van Bakelen (Netherlands/France), the Honorary President of IDEA and IDEA

President from 1992-1998, and Miao Bin (China), Drama Teacher & Head of Art Education of Tianfu No.7 High School Primary Section, Chengdu, China. The session host and moderator was Sanja Krsmanović Tasić, IDEA President, while the technical host was Borisav Matić, IDEA Administrator.



*Adriana Nichting's drawing of the first (HI)STORY OF IDEA session*

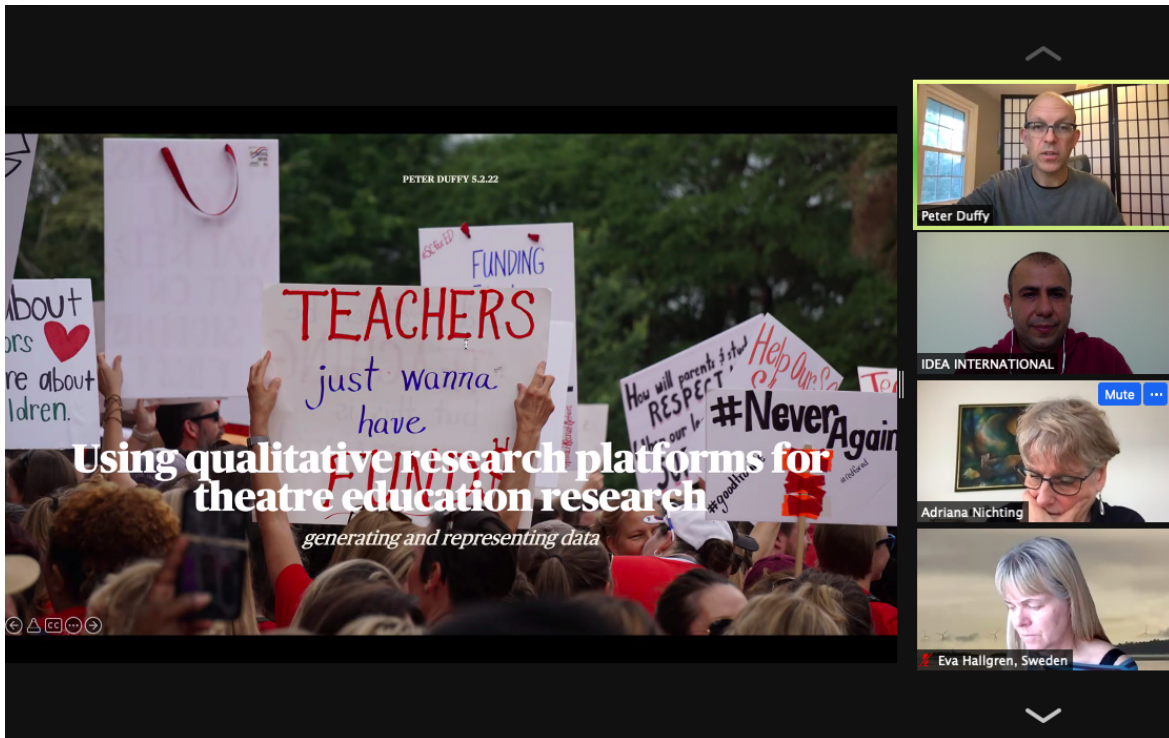
You can watch the recording of the event at [the following link](#).

Stay tuned for more THE (HI)STORY OF IDEA events that will happen every month. There will be more information soon about near future sessions.

## WEBINAR WITH PETER DUFFY

## On 5th February

### Using qualitative research platforms for theatre education research - generating and representing data



*Screenshot from the Webinar with Peter Duffy*

This workshop, held online via Zoom, had an aim of demonstrating how researchers can utilize technology to organize, visualize and represent data. Peter Duffy shared the process for using a program called MAXQDA to organize coded data into themes, and then transform those themes into scenes for his play based on teacher interviews. There are a variety of digital qualitative platforms that can be used such as NVIVO, Dedoose, Quirkos, Atlas.ti, WebQDA, and many others. The general research and representation principles are similar across platforms, but for the purposes of this workshop, only the MAXQDA platform was used. By the end of the workshop, more than 30 participants from all across the world became familiar with the basic notion of coding, organizing data into

themes, and starting to think about how to shape themes into theatrical scenes.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF IDEA ACTIVITIES

### NEWS ABOUT IDEA CONGRESS In Iceland, July 2022



Preparation for DRAMA 4 ALL, IDEA Congress in Iceland next summer is in full swing. Registration began on 3rd January and is going well. The situation with Covid is starting to improve and we are now looking forward to brighter times.

The deadline for early-bird registration is on the 3rd of April. The deadline for paper and workshop proposals was on the 15th of January. Many interesting proposals were sent, and the directors of projects have started to plan further the academic program. The deadline for applications for the Solidarity Fund was on the 1st of February when those who are in need had the chance to apply. Venues for the Congress opening ceremony and performances have been secured and it is a pleasure to announce that the opening ceremony will be held in the Reykjavík City Theatre, and for those interested in social gatherings, the Congress club will be in the basement of The National Theatre. The Congress committee looks forward to the summer. Here is a link to the congress website: <https://ideaiceland.com/>

## **YOUNG IDEA LAB 2**

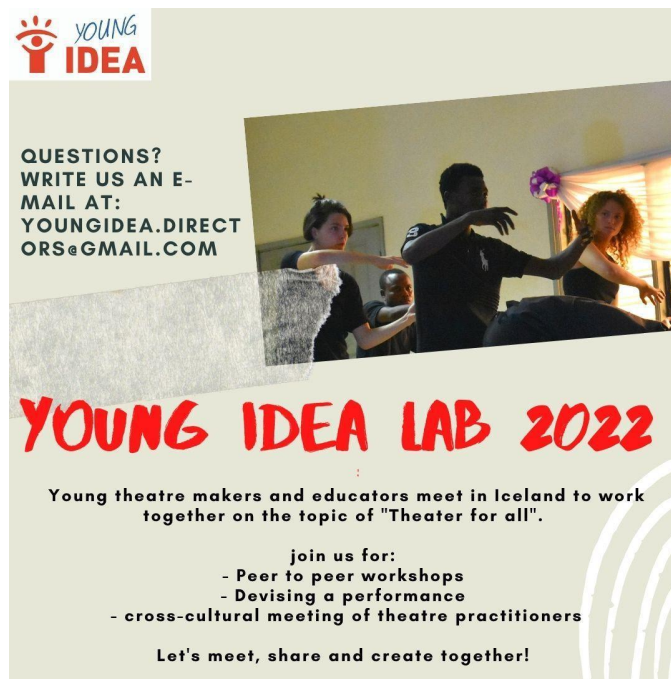
### **June 24 - July 6 in Reykjavik**

We are looking for participants for the next young IDEA Lab in Iceland between June 24 and July 4th, 2022! The participants can be young theater educators, theater makers and practitioners, or students in those fields aged between 20 and 32 years old, that are interested in taking part in a cross-cultural exchange with other young professionals on the topic of Theater for all!

The Lab 2022 will be a place to meet, work and learn from each other, while artistically researching the topic of "Theater for all: "Reclaiming our physical body: How can we make theater for all possible in times of a crisis?"

The participants will explore cross-cultural theater practices through peer-to-peer workshops, will artistically research the topic of the conference and create a performance of the generated artistic material.





If you are interested in participating, you can find more information [here](#) and apply by filling out [the following form](#). The deadline for applications is 25th February.

## THEATRE EDUCATION TO STOP ECOCIDE AND START GOOD LIVING!

### **Save the date!**

### ***Theatre Education to Stop Ecocide and Start Good Living!***

Theatre education in schools and communities enables us, students and teachers, to create, produce and perform the futures we envision. Can we each act, together, on time, to save our world?

This series of three webinars places performance at the heart of South-North dialogues to achieve three aims in times of ecocide and climate collapse:

- To view an Amazon-German students-theatre project collaboration as an example, to see how we might work in the space between Ecocide and Good Living.
- To view a Global project collaboration and six communities in crisis to see how students' theatre projects in schools might act globally in our local place, between Ecocide and Good Living.
- To identify diverse strategies and develop plans for theatre education for Good Living through collaborative projects in and between different regions across the world.



*Young Brazilian dancers of the group "AfroRaiz" in Germany 2019 - ABRA and BVTS in collaboration*

**Webinar 1** - Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 14 CET

***Context and Example of Global South-North Collaborative Projects***

**Webinar 2** - Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

**Webinar 3** - Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>

# NEWS FROM IDEA MEMBERS

## 50 YEARS OF FIDEA



*50 Years of FIDEA logo*

FIDEA was founded on 17th February 1972 ( registered 1973) to promote and advocate drama and theatre as an independent art subject as well as method in education - not only in art education but other subjects, too.

FIDEA is bilingual - official languages are Finnish and Swedish.

It is the national association for Finnish drama teachers, researchers, directors and students and acts for its members in educational drama and theatre policy.

FIDEA is the official representative of Finland in **IDEA** and its ordinary member since 1992 when IDEA was founded.





*Opening of FIDEA Gallery of Honor for remarkable FIDEA members. Find out more about the event [here](#).*

**FIDEA will celebrate its 50 years on IDEA DAY, 27th November 2022.**

This IDEA DAY was a motion of FIDEA and unanimously accepted by IDEA 2007.

Chair of FIDEA 2022-2023: Annemari Untamala  
[annemari.untamala@fideafinland.fi](mailto:annemari.untamala@fideafinland.fi)

International contact and Chair of Honour: Tintti Karppinen  
[tintti.karppinen@fideafinland.fi](mailto:tintti.karppinen@fideafinland.fi)

**WHAT A GREAT IDEA - DRAMA AND FIDEA!**

# ZHIREN THEATRE FESTIVAL

9-17 December; Chengdu, China

Zhiren Theatre Festival was held in Chengdu, China, from 9th to 17th December 2021 and is organized by Tianfu No.7 High School Primary Section (also called Zhiren Academy). We bring you the words and experiences from the festival of our member Miao Bin who is also the chief director of the Zhiren Theatre Festival.



*Improvisational theatre "Annual Rings" at the Zhiren Theatre Festival*

"I quickly built up the entire framework of the theatre festival which consists of four sections: environmental drama, cultural heritage, avant-garde drama, and future world. Each section includes rich content, such as readers' theatre, dance theatre, improvisational drama, environmental drama reading, English drama, science fiction painting exhibition, rain painting exhibition, etc. The entire structure was then not changed since it was designed, but the content had been continuously revised during the preparation process."

You can read Miao Bin's full report on the festival at [the following link](#).

## 8th “MATER TERRA” FESTIVAL

### Belgrade, Serbia



*"Mater Terra" festival program*

The eighth edition of the Children's and Young People's Theatre Festival "Mater Terra" took place in Belgrade from the 22nd until the 28th November. As the festival took place online in 2020, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, all the participants were happy to be able to gather face to face and see performances in a live format. Besides presenting the work of drama/theatre teachers and artists working with children and young people, organizing round tables where an exchange of experiences and feedback about the work, the festival consisted also of a number of workshops for drama teachers. Included in the Festival was a five-day training program of the ERASMUS+ project I-TAP-PD (International Teathear Artist Partnership-Professional Development) in which teachers

and artists from Greece, Ireland, Netherlands and Serbia met and participated in creative workshops.



*The performance Narciss, directed by Sanja Krsmanović Tasić at Theatre PATOS from Smederevo*

The organizer of the “Mater Terra” Festival is the IDEA member from Serbia, CEDEUM, in collaboration with Association Artistic Utopia.

## EDUCATION & THEATRE JOURNAL

IDEA member, the Hellenic Theatre/Drama & Education Network (TENet-Gr), is celebrating 20 years of their **Education & Theatre Journal**. The anniversary **Issue 22 – 2021** of the Education & Theatre Journal is available online on TENet’s website ([www.TheatroEdu.gr](http://www.TheatroEdu.gr)).

See the English version as [WHOLE JOURNAL HERE](#) or each [separate Article HERE](#)





Contributors include Kathleen Gallagher, Eugenio Barba, Antonis Diamantis, Ute Pinkert, Nassia Choleva, Antonis Lenakakis, Myrto Pigkou-Repousi, Christina Zoniou, Katerina Alexiadi, Amalia Giannoutsou.

Please see all Issues [HERE](#) (special interest editions include "Antiracist Education & Human Rights", "Theatre of the Oppressed", "Docu Theatre", "Theatre & Special Needs", "Theatre & the Pandemic" )

Full English Editions: [Issue9-2008](#), [Issue19-2018](#), [Issue21-2020](#), [Issue22-2021](#)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR MEMBERS

As many of you have noticed, we have been having issues with the IDEA PayPal account due to some formal procedures. We send our apologies to the membership because of this issue, hoping it will be resolved in due time. Joachim Reiss, the IDEA Treasurer, recommends membership fees be sent to our CDG Bank account until the problem is resolved.

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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)

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