

ASSITEJ Australia Report March 2019 – Sue Giles

Update from Sue Giles, Vice President and Australian Representative

(Sue Giles was first elected as an Executive Committee member of ASSITEJ International in Warsaw in 2014 and as Vice President in Cape Town in 2017).

As one of the Vice Presidents of the Executive Committee of ASSITEJ International, I have the responsibility to advocate for the sector globally and to keep our region abreast of trends, changes, partnerships and projects that are opportunities for us to share, learn and exchange. This is a volunteer position, for which I seek funds to cover travel and costs associated with the meetings. I am grateful to have had the support of The Betty Amsden Trust for my first term and Polyglot Theatre's support for the second.

2018 Activity Overview:

Support of the sector

- Letters of support for Australian artists and organisations;
- International introductions and championing work;
- Mentoring young leaders;
- Sharing information upon individual inquiry and to the sector as a whole through TNA,
- Attendance at Arts Front two-day discussion in Brisbane – Rights of the child;
- Working with TNA to create strategic goals for the years ahead;
- Collaborated with TNA to devise process of call out and selection for International Directors seminar hosted by ASSITEJ Germany – successful placement for Thom Browning, QLD.

Platform Paper 54 – Young people and the Arts: An Agenda for Change

- Authored Platform Paper #54 for Currency House with contribution and support from the sector;
- Launch events organised by TNA: February 2018 in Melbourne at Malthouse with 120 attendees, second launch in Sydney in May 2018 hosted by ATYP with a panel, keynote and firecracker reports from young people. Over 100 attendees;
- Media coverage.

ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering in Beijing

- Supported a delegation of Australian practitioners to the Gathering in Beijing, August 2018.
- Liaised with Creative Victoria, and with Tamara Harrison, successfully applied for funding to support of independent artists to attend Beijing.
- Organised an Australia network function in Beijing supported by Creative Victoria and City of Melbourne.
- Reported back to funding bodies, TNA and the sector.

Regional report to ASSITEJ Executive Committee (EC)

- Reports presented on the Oceania region (Australia and New Zealand) at each Executive Committee meeting.
- Report delivered to TYAsia meeting in Japan and proxy Jenny Wake (NZ PAYPA) attending for the region.

Executive Committee tasks

- Champion for IIAN (International Inclusive Arts Network),
- Policy and protocols working group,
- Fundraising group,
- Facilitated Artistic Gatherings and group discussions during Artistic Encounters,
- Workshops and panels,
- Work between meetings in the Policy and Protocols working group: National Centre tool kit, IIAN tool kit, developed a process for 'Call for Ideas'.
- Wrote ASSITEJ Newsletter introductions.

About ASSITEJ

ASSITEJ unites theatres, organisations and individuals throughout the world who make theatre for children and young people. ASSITEJ is dedicated to the artistic, cultural and educational rights of children and young people across the globe and advocates on behalf of all children regardless of nationality, cultural identity, ability, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or religion. ASSITEJ brings people together so that they can share knowledge and practice within the field of theatre for children and young people in order to deepen understandings, develop practice, create new opportunities and strengthen the global sector. The members of ASSITEJ are National Centres, Professional Networks, and Individuals from around 100 countries across the world.

TNA's Role with ASSITEJ

Theatre Network Australia is the National Centre of ASSITEJ for Australia. Since the agreement was put in place, TNA has communicated and collaborated with the sector, partnered and hosted sector-specific events, brokered international opportunities and application processes, written letters of support, worked on strategic planning and setting goals for advocacy and placed our sector at the heart of industry, government and policy discussions.

For any questions regarding the ASSITEJ Network, please contact [Bethany Simons](#), Program Director of Theatre Network Australia.