

Activities

Benin Centre of ITI (Africa)

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International Meeting of Monodrama Theatre in Lokossa

Activities of the Benin Centre of ITI

The present report that covers the period 2012 – 2014 is built around 4 main elements:

- Organization of the meeting of the ITI's Regional Council for Africa
- Benin Centre's contribution to the organization of the 4th and 5th Meetings of the International Monodrama Theatre
- Celebration of the World Theatre and International Dance Days
- Restructuring of the Benin Centre

Organization of the Meeting of ITI's Regional Council for Africa

Held in Cotonou on 4 April 2012, this meeting was organized by the Benin Centre marking the 11th edition of the Benin International Theatre Festival. Participants included the ITI Centres in Benin, Cameroun, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Togo and Senegal, as well as ITI General Secretariat represented by Petya Hristova. Niger and Gabon, two countries-observers also took part.

International Meetings of Monodrama Theatre

From 18 to 20 October 2012 and from 14 to 16 November 2013 the 4th and the 5th edition of International Meeting of the Monodrama Theatre (RITM) took place in Lokossa, a town located 100 km to the east of Cotonou. This festival was marked by the participation of actors from different African countries, such as Togo, Burkina Faso, Niger, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Cameroun, Congo Brazzaville.

As a privileged partner, the ITI Benin Centre actively contributed to the organization of both editions in terms of logistics. The 6th edition of 2014 is currently under preparation.

World Theatre Day Celebrations

Like the entire international theatre community, ITI Benin Centre celebrates World Theatre Day on 27 March each year. Since 2012, the Benin Centre has launched a yearly rotating celebration in the main cities of Benin. So the events dedicated to the Day

are concentrated only in one city per year, aiming at raising people's awareness of this celebration.

Thus, the celebration has migrated from theatre of Lokossa (100 km from Cotonou) in 2012 to the theatre of Parakou (400 km from Cotonou) in 2013 and to the theatre of Natitingou (600 km from Cotonou) in 2014. Carnivals, storytelling, poetic, danced and theatrical performances made up the list of cultural events as well as intercultural exchanges and the reading of the international message.

International Dance Day Celebrations

The celebration of the Day on the 29th of April in Benin is organized by the two Dance Associations with the participation of ITI Benin Centre. In 2014 the celebration took place in three cities: Cotonou, Porto-Novo and Abomey. The Benin Centre always manifests its presence at these celebrations. This year, the delegation together with its president arrived at Abomey, historic city of Benin (130 km from Cotonou) to contribute to the events transmitted for the first time on national television. Representatives of numerous ministerial and regional authorities participated in this celebration.

Restructuring of the Benin Centre

On 28 September 2013, the Benin Centre met for a congress in Parakou, a northern city of Benin located in 400 km from Cotonou. It was an occasion for the members to exchange their ideas on the future of the Centre, to revise its statutory documents and to bring in a new dynamic.

After the restoration works, the Executive Council of the Benin Centre was restructured:

- President: Pascal Wanou (actor, festival director)
- Vice President: Gaston Eguedji (actor, festival director)
- Secretary General: Arsène Kocou Yemadje (actor, festival director)
- General Treasurer: Innocent Aniwano (actor, storyteller)
- Secretary for Education and Cultural Activities: Farouk Abdoulaye (actor, scenographer)
- Secretaries for Organization: Raphaël Hounto (actor, dance troupe director) Hermas Gbaguidi (author, scenographer, producer).

Submitted by Pascal Wanou