

# Activities – Project Groups (Committees)

## Young Practitioners' Committee

### Report of the Young Practitioners Committee YPC

#### World Theatre Day 2012

The US Centre of ITI invited the YPC to join its efforts to engage a younger generation of theatre practitioners by organizing an international essay competition on the theme of "Generations without Borders" to explore the vision for the next generation of globally minded theatre practitioners. Submissions were then viewed by a panel of TCG/ITI-US staff and published in American Theatre magazine and on the TCG blog.

In April 2013: Kevin and Taiwo held a Skype meeting - they both spoke about the need to revitalize the YPC and how it has been difficult to remain connected without concrete projects. Kevin proposed the possibility of passing his role as leader of the YPC onto a next generation.

#### Changes in YPC Leadership

Since Kevin Bitterman and Valerie Cordy's departure from the YPC, the core members have tried to assess the future of the committee with its only remaining active members residing in Nigeria (Afolabi Taiwo Okunola) and Zimbabwe (Lloyd Nyikadzino). Unfortunately, none of these members have access to funds to facilitate in-person meetings, so they have relied on Skype, Facebook, and email to remain in contact. Both Lloyd and Taiwo have made significant impact within their communities to rejuvenate the presence of ITI and remain the key players in managing programs and services for the committee.

#### Committee Meetings

Considering the fact the YPC is in a transitional phase, there have been no in-person meetings. The active members Taiwo Afolabi (Nigeria) and Lloyd Nyikadzino (Zimbabwe) alongside the liaison officer Tatjana Ažman (Slovenia) have maintained conversations and meetings via email, Skype and Facebook.

#### Update on YPC Activities:

The Mentorship Group, led by Jonathan Man, UK and Junaid Eusuf, Bangladesh seeks to develop a mentoring initiative within ITI and Centres which will allow for the transmission of ITI's mission, vision and values and the emergence of the next generation of cultural leaders and performing artists.

Proposed projects include:

- **Member Profiles.** YPC Members propose to interview and publish profiles of ITI Members via the ITI Website and Newsletter to facilitate intergenerational dialogue and provide a "face" that reflects and inspires the ITI network.
- **Living Legacy Project.** YPC proposes to unite its committee members, Centres and Founding

Members for this video archive project that will document the multigenerational aspect of ITI and preserve the legacy of its history. It was also suggested that a written text accompany this project, which may make this an appropriate collaboration with the Publication committee - interviews may also feed into the Member Profiles mentioned above.

- **The Networking Group** led by Taiwo Afolabi, Nigeria; Nicole Brown, Jamaica; and Valerie Cordy, Belgium seeks to create a social network/database, in tandem with the new ITI website, to promote younger practitioners and access to opportunities to further their artistic and professional development.
- **YPC Web Portal.** It makes most sense to use an existing platform like Facebook, Google+, or LinkedIn to create a platform to share resources for all and help to facilitate communication among the YPC network. How might the ITI Website serve as a platform for this? We need to consider the importance of equal access to the platform.
- **The World Theatre Day Group,** led by Kevin Bitterman, USA in conjunction with the General Secretariat and YPC Members worked closely with the General Secretariat, YPC Members and National Centres to create a set of WTD activities for members around the world to engage with and respond to the official ITI World Theatre Day message, including a more focused press release to announce various ways for Centres and Individuals to participate.

Activities led by the YPC include:

- **Generations Without Borders.** YPC, via TCG/ITI-US, solicited responses from the international community based on the topic of this essay theme. US entry winners were published in the May/June 2012 international issue of American Theatre magazine while other submissions are now posted on the TCG/ITI-US blog, The Circle.
- **I AM THEATRE Video Project.** YPC requested members of their community to create additional videos from international theatre practitioners. TCG/ITI-US was able to interview colleagues visiting from Uganda.
- **Promotion of other WTD/YPC Activities** in your communities or ideas for our committee to organize via the official WTD Map.

YPC has no official board: Taiwo Afolabi and Lloyd Nyikadzino currently serve as contact persons; Tatjana Azman is the liaison officer for the Executive Council.

Submitted by Lloyd Nyikadzino, Taiwo Afolabi and Tatjana Azman