



CRADLE OF CREATIVITY 2019 INVITATION

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ASSITEJ SA invites delegates to attend the Cradle of Creativity, an international festival of Theatre for Young Audiences from 20-25 August 2019, in Cape Town.



Magnet Theatre's Rockin Mbokodo

In May 2017, ASSITEJ South Africa hosted the 19th ASSITEJ World Congress and Performing Arts Festival in Cape Town – the first time that this event had been hosted on the African continent. The event was given the original title of “Cradle of Creativity” which spoke to South Africa and Africa as the cradle of all humanity, and the cradle of all things creative. The Cradle of Creativity was designed to spark creativity in artists, teachers, researchers and academics, as well as creativity in the children and young people who encountered performances, and in the broader audiences who experienced the event. The festival undoubtedly had an enduring and important impact. The feedback from delegates was overwhelmingly positive, with around 80% of delegates saying that they would come to something like this again.

The success of Cradle of Creativity, the fact that it has become a globally recognised brand, and the lack of any dedicated international festival of theatre for young audiences in South Africa has inspired ASSITEJ SA to host a biennial Cradle of Creativity, which retains certain key components on a smaller scale. We intend this initiative to embed and grow the impact of intercultural exchange on theatre for young audiences in South Africa, and be a continued mechanism for energising the field and building greater sustainability for TYA artists in Africa.

As a result, ASSITEJ SA will host the Cradle of Creativity 2019 in Cape Town from 20 to 25 August 2019. This veritable feast of Theatre for Young Audiences will be held at the Baxter Theatre Centre in Rosebank; Theatre Arts Admin Collective and Magnet Theatre in Observatory; and Guga S'Thebe in Langa. It will showcase a selection of theatre, dance, and puppetry from South Africa, the greater continent and the world. International artists will come from as far afield as Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Botswana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda, USA, Australia, UK, China, India, Brazil and Russia to engage with the festival.

About the Productions:

There is a gentle introduction to theatre for the very, very young: *Babah* by PuppeTrix Theatre is literally for babies, a multi-sensory experience for babies 4 to 12 months old and their caregivers. *Sail Away* has been created by Storywood Theatre for children from 0 to 2 years, and there is a version for those on the autism spectrum, and *The Tree Song* by See Think Wonder is for 1 to 4 year olds who are hearing impaired. We are also pleased to welcome Carré Blanc Cie's *Lumière ! So jazz* from France, for audiences aged 1 and up. With the intertwining of dance, music, singing and body percussions, *Lumière ! So jazz* is fundamentally jazz. Another dance piece for 1-4 years is *Chiffonade*, a delightful exploration of the worlds that fabric and the imagination can create, performed by Lulu Mlangeni, in collaboration with the same company.

Other work for the Early Years, little people aged 2 to 7, includes Magnet Theatre's *Sh!* and *Rockin Mbokodo*; Pillowfort and Janni Young Production's *Lumka* and *The Mermaid from Zanzibar* by one of our favourite storytellers, Pedro the Music Man. From further afield, we welcome *Transform* with a cast from Botswana and Mozambique and *Plasticka* from Botswana and Uganda, as well as an extraordinary and imaginative dance work from the Dutch company, De Stille called *Hi Ha Hut Builders*.

For children at primary school there will be much to keep them entertained and intrigued as well as challenging new ways of thinking. *Night/Light* by Blank Canvas Kollektive in Johannesburg uses live music, video projection, shadows and light-play to explore when we feel alone and afraid of the dark. *Dream* by LunchBox Theatre is the engaging story about a girl who goes missing and the little boy who won't give up on her, and *Galela* by Wellworn Theatre Company shows us that children with the biggest imaginations will save the world.

High school audiences can prepare to have their minds blown wide open! *Basmala* is a dance troupe from Germany who asks the questions: How do Hip Hop and Islam connect? Between gangster rap and ISIS? Between the Islamophobic stereotype and the heroic image of jihad? *Evil* is a multi-award winning play based on the autobiography of French-Swedish author Jan Guillou and performed by Johannesburg actor Jacques de Silva; produced by the National School of the Arts, it is a shocking story about abuse and oppression. *Hani: the Legacy* is the Standard Bank Gold Ovation award-winning musical by the Market Theatre Laboratory Alumni. Inspired by hit American musical *Hamilton*, the Chris Hani story is told through the contemporary song forms of hip-hop, rap and ballad by a dynamic and energetic young cast.

One of our biggest scoops on the festival is that we are featuring ensembles of two companies, Unga Klara from Sweden and Wellworn Theatre Company from South Africa. Each of the companies will present a range of their work for young people of different ages.

Unga Klara is a world-acclaimed TYA theatre company and the national theatre for young audiences in Sweden. We will feature three of their works. *X* is about Sweden's racist and colonial history and is for young adults, 15 years and up. *Girls will make you blush* is one of the first performances on the theme of menstruation and puberty for young adults, aged 13 years and up. *My true selves* is about identity and norm-criticism for children 9 to 12 years.

South Africa's Wellworn Theatre Company will travel to Cape Town with four productions all featured on the Main Programme of the National Arts Festival. A popup storybook play called *Rat Race* is for 4 to 6 year olds, *Galela* and *Plastocracy* challenge 8 to 12 year olds to think about serious environmental issues: water and plastic waste through a sci-fi adventure, while *Burning Rebellion* is an ecological protest poem that gives voice to a profound sense of injustice, a rightful rage, and a fear of what is to come.



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Finally there will be several special family events over the weekend, including a giant puppet performance, called *River and Redfin* by Net vir Pret based in Barrydale in partnership with the University of the Western Cape's Centre for Humanities Research in Cape Town and an improvisatory and interactive concert performance of Francois le Roux's *Ha!Man*, which has travelled globally for two decades.

Conference & Professional Development:

Apart from the theatre festival, the event also comprises a professional development space and conference programme, for professional and emerging artists and arts educators. The programme is designed to support intercultural exchange and the development of artists working in theatre for young audiences, ensuring that current and future generations are able to benefit from highly skilled, motivated and energised artists who understand the value of the arts in the lives of South African children and young people.

The workshops, seminars and other activities relate to one of several themes including:

- Child Participation in Theatre for Young Audiences - the child as dramaturg, the child as creative collaborator, and theatre mediation for children and young people
- Dance Theatre for Young Audiences - approaches to engaging children and young people with the multiple languages of dance and physicality, and their potential to cross the narrow linguistic borders that can separate us
- Theatre for Young Audiences in Africa - sharing the diversity of approaches from across the continent
- Indigenous languages in Theatre for Young Audiences - exploring the role of indigenous languages in theatre for young audiences, being "at the heart of each person's unique identity, cultural history and memory", as described by the UN in relation to their announcement of 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages.
- Inclusive theatre - focusing on new approaches to ensuring access for all children and young people to theatre
- Eco-theatre - exploring how theatre can empower children and young people to effective action to support the future of our planet
- Early years theatre - considering the aesthetics of theatre for the very young
- Contemporary themes in Theatre for Young Audiences - addressing the taboos, barriers and boundaries that exist and how these may be confronted through innovative theatre.

In addition, there is a special programme for BRICS delegates, which includes

- Professional development through exchanges of experienced artists/ workshops
- Research - sharing of aspects related to TYA relevant to the BRICS countries
- Strategic planning around intercultural exchange between our countries

There is also an exchange programme for emerging artists, focusing on dance for young audiences, in partnership with De Stille from the Netherlands, and child participation in theatre for young audiences, in partnership with the Government of Flanders, Kopergieterij, Bronks and Cie Barbarie from Belgium.

About Delegate Registration:

Registration is available online through our website: www.cradleofcreativity.com

Delegate packages (inclusive of tickets) will be available online through Webtickets as from July.

Delegates can expect the following as part of their delegate package: the Opening Ceremony, 3 shows per day, access to all conference/workshop/networking activities, delegate bag, programme, access to the delegate mailing list, transport between venues. The official event hotel is The Protea Hotel by Marriot Cape Town, in Mowbray. Stay connected to the Festival and book here, where all invited guests will be accommodated.

Affordable meals are available on site, at the hotel and at local restaurants.

International Rate:

Full 6-Day Package: R3450

4-Day Package: R2875

2-Day Package: R1725

1-Day Package: R1150

There is a discounted fee for all African / South African citizens.

Full 6-Day Package: R2300

4-Day Package: R1725

2-Day Package: R1150

1-Day Package: R805

For more information about the programme, contact Akhona Jolingana on comms@assitej.org.za

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