



International Drama/Theatre and Education Association  
Association Internationale d'Art Dramatique/Théâtre et  
Éducation  
Asociación Internacional de Drama/Teatro y Educación

## Summer-Autumn 2014 Newsletter

### **IDEA Executive Officer Meeting in Rostock, Germany**

From 31st October-4th November 2014, the elected officers of IDEA and its various committees will meet at Hochschule für Musik und Theater Rostock in Rostock, Germany alongside the Ständige Konferenz Spiel und Theater. This event will be an opportunity to discuss and plan for IDEA's ongoing work. We sincerely wish to thank Prof Marion Küster, Aline Menz and their institution for hosting, as well as IDEA Administrator Anne Winterton for helping to plan this event.

### **New IDEA Member Dr Persephone Sextou**

IDEA would like to welcome its newest Associate Member Persephone Sextou. Dr Sextou is a Senior Lecturer in Drama at Newman University and leader of the Drama and Education JH programme of the BA Drama course in Birmingham, UK. She is also the founder and artistic director of Community/Applied Drama Laboratory (CADLab). Her passion is to produce practice-as-research with communities in the UK, Europe and Africa.

### **Congratulations to John O'Toole**

IDEA congratulates long-time IDEA member John O'Toole, who recently became a Member of the Order of Australia in honour of his work and significant service to Drama Education as a lecturer, author, mentor and researcher.

### **IDEA Membership Drive**

IDEA is looking to expand its membership base and is calling on current members to help us. If you know of organizations that may benefit from joining IDEA, please encourage them to contact the IDEA Secretary at

[kimsnider27@gmail.com](mailto:kimsnider27@gmail.com) for membership application forms.

Please note that the 'membership portal' on the IDEA website (<http://www.idea-org.net>) is no longer up-to-date and applicants must submit their applications to the Secretary directly.

### **New IDEA web site**

Work continues on the development of the new IDEA web site.

Stand by for its launch.

### **IDEA Land and Home Project Update**

The "Land and Home" IDEA project was conceived immediately following the 2013 Paris Congress and has generated some very positive responses from around the world. Significantly, at the 5 May 2014 meeting of the International Network for Research in Arts Education (INRAE) in Hong Kong, the International Arts for Peace Research Symposium signed a declaration calling upon educators to:

- explore ways in which they can contribute to sustainable development;
- create partnerships that promote collaboration between educators in the arts and in sustainable development; and
- declared its intention to actively promote the shared goals of arts education and education for sustainable development in cooperation with UNESCO and through partnerships such as the International Arts for Peace Festival. IDEA's "Land and Home" project fulfills the mission of the Hong Kong declaration.

To date, we have several exciting projects that engage with environmental and sustainability concerns, as well as with various types of development, and how they have impacted or changed cultures and their relation to the land. See the Appendix for a brief description of several of these projects.

The expected duration of this project is two to three years, and it will bring together up to two hundred people. The objectives of the project are to give young adults (from 16 years old) an international platform to express and share their ideas about the relationship between humanity and the land we inhabit, and to foster regional and international arts collaboration between a variety of populations and groups on this central theme, using a wide variety of media.

Teachers of Art who were trained in Interdisciplinary work will prepare short performances in their home countries, leading up to an exchange in Portugal, during which the partners will share these performances.

Through the development and sharing of these various projects, the international team of leaders will document, reflect, and explore how the act of artistic expression could make a difference in the lives of the people in these communities. Can the act of sharing these concerns between people from a variety of countries help to strengthen their voices, and grant them a hearing in the global conversation?

Our next task will be to develop ways for all these artists and project leaders to share the fruits of their work with one another, and with the IDEA Congress in Ankara in 2016.

#### **Reminder - Payment of Fees and Membership Update Forms**

This is a friendly reminder to IDEA members who have not yet submitted their membership payment to IDEA for 2014-2015 to contact the IDEA Treasurer at [gudnymariajons@gmail.com](mailto:gudnymariajons@gmail.com).

For those who have not yet submitted their Membership Update Form, which will be used to list IDEA members on our new website directory, please send them to IDEA Administrator, Anne Winterton at [abwinterton@gmail.com](mailto:abwinterton@gmail.com) and IDEA Secretary Kim Snider at [kimsnider27@gmail.com](mailto:kimsnider27@gmail.com).

#### **Call for Spanish Translators**

IDEA is looking for volunteer translators to translate our documents and e-bulletins from English to Spanish. Interested parties should contact the IDEA Administrator, Anne Winterton at [abwinterton@gmail.com](mailto:abwinterton@gmail.com).

#### **Upcoming Conferences**

Drama Australia – *Evolve '14* – 2-4<sup>th</sup> October, 2014, Hobart, Tasmania.

CODE (Council of Ontario Drama and Dance Educators) – *Mirrors in Dance and Drama: A Journey to Identities* – 17-19<sup>th</sup> October, 2014, Ottawa, Canada.

WAAE (World Alliance for Arts Education) Global Summit – *Transform: From Inception to Innovation in Arts Education* – 26-28 November, 2014, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia.

#### **Save the Date**

SDEA (Singapore Drama Educators Association) Theatre Arts Conference – *Standing Still: Still Standing* – 26-28<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.

IDIERI (International Drama in Education Research Institute) 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Institute, Singapore – *Open Culture in the Asian Century: Reimagining Drama Education* – 30 June-5 July, 2015.

Do you know of a conference or event that might be of interest to IDEA members? Email your organization's information to the IDEA Secretary at [kimsnider27@gmail.com](mailto:kimsnider27@gmail.com) for inclusion on our Facebook page and in our next e-bulletin.

## **Appendix – Summary of Land and Home Projects**

Submitted by IDEA Director of Projects Sonya Baehr

From **Taiwan** we have: “If We still Have Tomorrow,” a project proposed by Dr. Wan-Jung Wang, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Drama Creation and Application, National University of Tainan, Taiwan. Dr. Wang will be developing a production of an original musical theatre piece involving collaboration between Taiwanese, Philippine and Japanese artists, exploring the tension between flood crisis and economic development in these countries, with an after-show discussion at her university.

From **Indonesia** we have “Akibat Kapu-Kapu, The Butterfly Effect,” a project sponsored by Yayasan Konservasi Sawah, Bali. The production is a collaboration between Ariel Ashwell, an American director and choreographer, and Wayan "Dedik" Rachman, a Balinese ethnomusicologist who composes and directs several gamelan orchestras for both children and adults. The cast is composed entirely of Balinese performing artists whose farming families live on the outskirts of Ubud. Using traditional Balinese Temple dance constructs, shadow play and original music, the piece explores the decision to sell sawah land (the rice paddies) for a great deal of money or to maintain the land and the cultural heritage interwoven into the fabric of the rice farm community. The project is supported by local government agencies as well as Balinese television and will tour villages throughout Bali. Each performance will include an extensive “talk back” session during which the local community can discuss the issues raised by the performance.

From **New Zealand**, we have: “Turangawaewae Rua Tekau ma Tahī,” a project led by Bianca Till, Drama Teacher and a Dean at Waiuku College, in South Auckland. Over the next year, she will devise a piece focusing on Turangawaewae, the

Maori concept of how we are connected to our Place, our relationship with where we live. With the participation of students, community elders, and teachers from a pool of secondary schools, primary schools, and universities across the North Island, the group will explore the cultural myths of place and belonging that each participant brings with them to the project, including current issues like climate change and population density, as well as the complexities of cultural identity in a community which includes Chinese, Samoan, Tongan, Maori, Pakeha (NZ European), Indian and, recent immigrants from Europe, Asia, Middle East and Africa. The Turangawaewae Rua Tekau ma Tahī project hopes to connect a performance at the 2016 Avignon Fringe Festival with participation at the Ankara IDEA Congress.

From the **United States** we have: “Cotton & Collards: Unearthing Stories of Home Through Kitchens and Closets,” led by Beth Murray, Assistant Professor of Theatre Education at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. In a project currently conceived to include approximately 8-10 teacher participants, 40-60 student participants, and 80-120 family/community participants through interviews, “Cotton & Collards” will explore how the historical and contemporary stories surrounding the greens people eat and the clothes they wear weave stories of land and home, then and now. Using interviews, oral history strategies and research, students will gather stories and information and explore multiple perspectives filtered through theatre and storytelling strategies. Each group will capture their emerging story or stories through video. The video segments will be woven into one, for distribution within their schools and communities and beyond.

From **Australia** we have a proposed “ethno-drama” to be collectively devised by students at the Australian Catholic University in Ballarat and led by Gillian Schroeter, who is a lecturer in Education and Arts. Undergraduate “pre-service” teachers at the Ballarat campus come

from rural and city areas, forming a great cross-section of future teachers. They will collaborate on the creation of a performance piece concerned with the severe effects of drought and poor water quality in their community. These young teachers are passionate about giving their future students the tools to make sound environmental choices and many have stated that their reasons for choosing teaching as a profession stemmed from their desire to make a difference in the lives of the children in their communities by raising awareness of these global issues. Australian curriculum requires that children be taught to become global citizens, who are aware of their environments and the effects their actions have upon their own well-being and those who live in more vulnerable circumstances. This ethno-drama will be performed at the university and Ballarat theatre venues in the local community. It will teach young teachers how to examine important issues with their students through the performing arts. It will fulfill Australian curriculum requirements and help the local community to better understand what draws young people to the profession of teaching, and how this can benefit the world at large.

**IDEA Europe** has developed its own “European Exchange project *LAND and HOME*” as a part of the ERASMUS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP. The exchange will include 10 Partners:

- MOVEIMENTE – PT, Coordinator of this Exchange Project *LAND and HOME*
- UCK – The Netherlands, General Coordinator of all CONNECT UP activities
- BDD – NL
- AAA Fabre Vieux – FR
- CEDEUM – Rep. of Serbia
- CDA – Turkey
- IDEA NEDELAND - NL
- Un. of STAVAGER – NO
- Un. of EVORA – PT
- IDEA