



# IDEA October 2005 Newsletter

[www.idea-info.net](http://www.idea-info.net)

## Section 1: Greetings from IDEA!

This newsletter beats with the emotions and resolve of IDEA's elected officers, inspired by more than 30 hours of meetings inside an educational conference at UPC – the University of Applied Sciences in Peru. But we did not just sit in intensive meeting! As our attached 'Portraits of Peru' reveal, we also worked as theatre educators, artists and theoreticians together, and with educators, artists and young people from Lima's different worlds, exchanging methods and visions, and learning about ourselves and Peru – through wordless workshops, panel discussions and performances – and about the responsibilities of being an intercultural world association.

We have a constitutional responsibility to try to alternate our General Council meetings and these meetings of elected officers between the Northern and Southern hemispheres for good reason. The concentrated power of our international presence (the expression of the voices of all our members), has considerable pedagogical and political potential. Quotations from the spontaneous thanks from our Lima host, IDEA's Vice President and the Dean of Psychology at UPC, Liliana Galvan, offer some insight into IDEA's emerging world authority, and the very human effects of our visit:

*Dear friends, brothers of the world, amigos de Peru! Our teachers and artists won't forget the image of a group of drama teachers, of people from all around the world with a strong conviction of transformations, of human development, of affective links through education, of unity and diversity... My university even now cannot stop commenting on your presence. In the general meeting of all the members at our university, we saw a part of the congress video, and most of it was about our non-verbal workshops! I was so surprised and happy that those images were watched by 500 people of our university in a big theater... At the National School of Theater, the director asked me to sign the diplomas they will give to the students that participated with us. They feel so proud of this first exchange with IDEA. They want to continue with us...*

But our internal meetings were equally as important, for it was the first time since our election in Ottawa that we were able to really work together as elected officers, continuously and collectively, solving issues, making decisions, and continuing to build an organisation capable of responding to the challenges of our time. Our minutes are now available, and will be posted on our new website in 2006.

We studied the outstanding report we received from the IDEA 2004 World Congress committee, to focus proposals for the next World Congress in IDEA 2007. We scrutinised IDEA's past accounting, to further develop our transparency, accountability, professionalism, and spending policy. We diagnosed and analysed IDEA's potentials and challenging difficulties, to create new structures of internal and international communication, of decision-making between our Directors, and of collaboration between members so that IDEA really can become a project-centred and youth-focussed world association.

And we took careful decisions about how to develop our collaborations with UNESCO, InSEA, ISME and the World Social Forum, to strengthen our guiding objective: to contribute to the building of arts-based pedagogies for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For we continue to believe that such pedagogies are essential to making a democratic and human world. We now offer the essential details, members' reports and latest invitations that we possess – including our request for your perspective on the UNESCO position paper that defines its forthcoming 2006 World Conference on Arts Education – to ensure you can contribute to this global and community challenge.

**We attach 'Portraits from Peru' written by the elected officers of IDEA. Inquiries about IDEA should be directed to the Secretariat: [idea@dramaaustralia.org.au](mailto:idea@dramaaustralia.org.au)**



**Left to right:** Steven Clark: Executive Committee (EC) Director of Projects, Tintti Karppinen: General Meeting Committee (GMC) Vice President, Ghonche Materego: EC Director of Young IDEA, Dan Baron Cohen: EC President, Manoela Souza: Finance Working Committee, Ram Parasuram Ramamoorthi: EC Treasurer, Asa Peterson: EC Director of Solidarity, Monica Silva Macher: Communication Working Committee, Vlado Krusic: GMC President, Catherine Kariuki: Dramatool, Julie Vaudrin: Communications Working Committee, Janinka Greenwood: Accountancy Committee (AC) Secretary, Lili Galvan EC Vice President, Aud Berggraf Sæbø: AC Vice President, Larry O'Farrell: AC President, and (not visible), Laura McCammon: EC Director of Publications.

## Section 2: Life of our members

### IDEA News



The main aims of this section are to inform you of what some IDEA members have been doing in 2005, and to stimulate new dialogues and collaborations towards IDEA 2007. Topics which are related to the next section's action deadlines **are headlined in red.**

#### **IDEA finally enters the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!**

In Lima, the EC agreed IDEA must now prioritise the completion of a new fully interactive website. It was decided that it should be closely connected with the Dramatool website, for several historical and practical reasons. The project of Dramatool started out from the Solidarity Fund for IDEA 2001 (Bergen) with the objective to create a meeting-place and empower theatre practitioners around the world by networking using internet as a tool. This means it will be possible to integrate an already developed understanding of IDEA's culture, database and needs into its design.

In the past, the IDEA's website has been difficult to update due to its construction and dependency on specialist technicians. By creating a new website, linked to the expertise of Dramatool, its management will be easier to handle. As it will be built upon the database of Dramatool, the possibility for all members to communicate between themselves and with IDEA's officers will radically increase, as will the communication between elected officers of IDEA. And IDEA will also benefit from this cooperation with Dramatool financially, as the database is already built. The designers thank Robin Pascoe (of Drama Australia) and his son Ben for their contributions to the design, and the professional proposals facilitated by Susan Battye of NZADIE (New Zealand).

The new IDEA website will be launched on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2006. From then, you will be able to post your own news, needs, and newsletters! Our newsletter will become dialogic, continuous and regularly updated by IDEA's Directors. Any questions or proposals should be sent to Asa Peterson ([asa.peterson@dramatool.org](mailto:asa.peterson@dramatool.org)).

#### **Young IDEA: Young creative voices in Lisbon!**

Intercultural exchanges between existing groups of young people committed to Drama throughout the world are being increasingly encouraged within our IDEA network. The recent August 2005 Lima meeting with IDEA elected officers reaffirmed our priorities and aims in the next two years by asking the Directors of Young Idea, Projects and Solidarity, and their Working Committees to elaborate and launch an official Young IDEA World Project based on Intercultural Theatre called "Young creative voices in Lisbon".

In this first step in this world process towards our approaching IDEA 2007 Congress, we aim to bring a small number of Young IDEA groups from Europe and other regions to meet in Portugal during the World Conference on Arts Education organized by UNESCO and the Portuguese government from 6 to 9 March 2006. We propose to invite one group from each continent to work together as an international intercultural drama workshop and give a short "performance" in front of an audience of world delegates, voicing the powerful impact Arts Education has had, is having, and is bound to have on young people across the world. For details of how to participate, see the enclosed letter from the Young

IDEA/Project Directors Ghonche Materego & Steven Clark ([gmaterego@yahoo.com](mailto:gmaterego@yahoo.com) and [carosteveclark@hotmail.com](mailto:carosteveclark@hotmail.com)).

### **Contribute to the UNESCO World Conference on Arts Education!**

In March 2005, the IDEA President Dan Baron Cohen (a member of the UNESCO Scientific Committee for its 2006 conference), participated in a 2-day UNESCO meeting which ended up using pedagogical concerns rather than classical art language categories as the structuring principle of the world conference.

In Lima, IDEA's elected officers unanimously reaffirmed the Association's commitment to contribute in every way possible to enable UNESCO realise its aims. The new draft structure and key speakers for the conference have now been passed to IDEA, with an invitation to the President to chair one of the panel discussions and to participate in the selection of presentations and workshop facilitators.

In collaboration with InSEA and ISME, we now invite your members to respond to UNESCO's position paper (attached) so that their views can contribute to the debates at the UNESCO conference. All responses will be integrated into a position document by the three Associations' Presidents and studied at the InSEA World Congress of Arts Education (1-3 March 2006, Viseu, Portugal), as preparation for the UNESCO conference (6-9 March 2006, Lisbon, Portugal).

You can also read papers for UNESCO's art education site which will contribute to the political and pedagogical debate of this invitation-only conference for ministers and advisers, and lobby your own ministers of education and culture to convince them of the importance of their participation. These are exceptional opportunities for IDEA to influence the ways in which governments understand arts education and create national policy, and will generate international motivation throughout the world. Please urge your members to offer their responses to UNESCO's paper by December 15<sup>th</sup> 2006 and send their responses directly to Dan Baron Cohen ([danbaronmst@hotmail.com](mailto:danbaronmst@hotmail.com)).

### **ITI : African Regional Bureau (Burkina Faso)**

The African Regional Bureau of the International Theatre Institute is prioritizing Education and training opportunities for African performing artists, and the Mobility of artists and their works within the continent. For those interested in learning about its 4 major projects (training and research into performing arts; theatre residencies; a network in Africa for the circulation of artists and their productions; and 'computers for Africa' to equip African ITI centers with IT resources), please contact the African ITI President, Professor Jean-Pierre Guingané ([jp.guingane@liptinfor.bf](mailto:jp.guingane@liptinfor.bf)).

### **Internet exchange gives birth to performance! (Kenya/Sweden)**

An exchange of ideas via the internet finally lead to physical contact in Nairobi, Kenya where four students from Kungsbacka Culture School in Sweden traveled to rehearse for a week with their Kenyan counterparts, giving birth to a play entitled 'Silent Voices'. This play was presented at the Swedish School in Nairobi, and later went in as one of the items presented during the third EATI (Eastern African Theatre Institute) festival that was held in Kenya's port city of Mombassa. This play concentrated on the problems that are common amongst the youth both in Kenya and Sweden, and their common quest to be heard.

As a follow-up to the Mombassa performance, further discussion occurred between the two groups of youngsters. This was enabled by the dramatool website which opened an intranet where the young artistes exchanged their ideas and developed the performance even more. The team was expanded to include more than 40 other students from the music, dance and theatre departments of the aesthetic programme within the Kungsbacka Culture School. This discussion brought about the play 'Under Livet'. The Kenyan youth then travelled to Sweden for one week of rehearsals, after which they staged the performance of 'Under Livet' (9-15 May) to great public acclaim from the people of Kungsbacka Commune in Sweden. A project that sprouted on the internet gave birth to a sizzling musical that sweetly combined Swedish, English and a sprinkling of Kiswahili! For more details, see the report posted in Dramatool library.

## Voices of Women through Theatre & Puppetry (India/Netherlands)

An IDEA exchange project between Natya Chetana (Theatre for Awareness - artistic director: Subodh Pattnaik), Orissa, India and IDEA Nederland (Project coordinator Maria Van Bakelen). From October 2004 to July 2005: in Orissa about twelve women were trained in theatre writing and directing. The first tryouts were presented in the 10th People's Theatre Festival, February 2005. A report on this training process is available as a CD-rom with visual materials is available from Subodh Pattnaik: [naatya@sancharnet.in](mailto:naatya@sancharnet.in)

From September to December 2005 Subodh will travel to the Netherlands with 2-4 of the participating women. The puppet theater play *Abhayabara* (The Blessing of Not Being Afraid Anymore) and the theatre play *Reboti* will be performed, with workshops in theatre writing and (Orya) dance and an introduction to Community Theatre in secondary schools (15 +), theater teacher colleges and small theatres. The project has received grants from three Dutch subsidy programs: ICCO, Mama Cash, NCDO. Further information from Maria Van Bakelen ([mariap@knoware.nl](mailto:mariap@knoware.nl)).

## Learning through Practice: European Congress on Cultural Education

More than 650 German and nearly 50 European participants came to the cultural factory "Kampnagel" in Hamburg, Germany, joining a congress from 22-24 September, organized by the Cultural Foundation of the German States. Lots of presentations, lectures and statements reported very different projects, concepts and opinions on cultural education. Royston Maldoom presented a Dance Performance with eighty young students, the Venezuelan Brass Ensemble gave a marvellous concert. Projects like the british "Bookstart", the Austrian "Theatre as an experimental field for developing new methods of educating young children" or "Reading Finland" and the "Krater dance and theatre Project" in Amsterdam as well as Theatre in Education from Sheffield, the big Swedish "Kulturskolan" model and other local or national programmes with musical education were presented to the audience on big stages.

Most of the projects focussed on the cooperation between formal education at schools or private institutions and professional artists or mediation institutions like museums or socio-cultural centres. Of course all of the official actors and participants raised their voices to proclaim the educational effects of cultural learning. Questioned was the use of projects and their ability to bring continuity into cultural education and how they may reach all children everywhere. At last the secretary of the inviting Foundation published a so-called "Hamburg Declaration". It proposes more cooperation between arts institutions, artists, ministries of culture/arts and schools, teachers, ministries of education. The time has come for a new culture of learning at school and new curricula, integration arts in education. German schools should open their doors for artists and cultural mediators. Teachers should be trained to create artistic projects and to cooperate with artists. Local cultural networks should be founded and funded by private and public initiatives.

Unfortunately the congress did not integrate the big national associations for cultural education in Germany, so the congresses impact into the German school systems and cultural networks may be less influential than it could have been. For further details, please visit the Cultural Foundation website of the German states: [www.kulturstiftung.de](http://www.kulturstiftung.de) or the site [www.kinderzumolymp.de](http://www.kinderzumolymp.de).

## 21<sup>st</sup> National Festival of Theatre in Schools in Germany

450 pupils, theatre teachers and 'multipliers' spent one September week in the middle-sized town Pirmasens in southern Germany. They met for their annual festival, watched performances from each of the 16 German states and joined workshops, discussions and a special forum for theatre teachers. The theme focussed on theatre projects concerned with creative work on literature for children and youth.



Photo: Günter Frenzel

The presentations showed innovative performances based on "Alice in Wonderland", "Dracula" or "Le Petit Prince" or fairy tales as well as Oscar Wilde's "Rose and Nightingale". They showed that all literature has to be adapted by the pupils' theatre group in a long and creative process. It doesn't matter, if the texts are coming from special literature for children, youth or adults, new literature or historical. The outcome of all the workshops and discussions is immense and we are looking forward to a next big documentation called 'Fokus Schultheater', edited by the sponsor of this unique national school theatre festival, the 'Körper-Foundation'.

They have funded this festival since 1985, together with the ministries of education in the 16 German states. The big event is organized by the National Drama/Theatre in Education Association *Bundesverband Darstellendes Spiel* (BVDS) whose site carries more details. Please visit [www.bvds.org](http://www.bvds.org) or contact Joachim Reiss, President BVDS ([jr@schultheater](mailto:jr@schultheater)).

### **European Performers House (Europe)**

The multidisciplinary European Performers House has been prepared over the last three years in meetings, with the financial support of the European subsidy program Grundtvig. The partners are the foundation 'European Performers House' (Denmark with Allan Agerbo and Lars Illum as coordinators); Outil Théâtre (France – Lucien Nicolas + Jean Michel Candela); Folk High School in Budapest, Hungary; Theater Studio Maria P (Maria Van Bakelen, Netherlands), the Theater Teaching College in Amsterdam (AHK), and the Dance and Music College in Rotterdam (Codart).

A pilot project *Space and Rhythm* has been prepared during four weeks in January 2006. National and cultural mixed groups of youngsters (18 - 25 years old) from the participating countries will work with three couples of teachers of mixed disciplines: music/dance; theatre/design; theatre/music. We hope to get additional subsidy for the pilot project from the European Cultural Foundation. The House will be established in Silkeborg, Denmark. In September 2006 and will be opened with a Festival. This European Performers House may well become a model for a future IDEA regional academy, presently being discussed by IDEA's elected officers. More information is available from [mail@performershouse.dk](mailto:mail@performershouse.dk) or [www.performershouse.dk](http://www.performershouse.dk).

### **IDEA 2005 Planting Ideas Conferences Asian Cities (PIAC)**

As a means to generate support for IDEA 2007 and to promote IDEA's aims, the Hong Kong Drama/Theatre and Education Forum (the IDEA member in Hong Kong and host of IDEA 2007) initiated the 'PIAnting IdeAs' Conferences, held in Shanghai (July 15-16), Hong Kong (July 19-21) and Taiwan (July 22-28). The 3 mini conferences were well-received and in each city, Dan Baron Cohen (IDEA President), Robin Pascoe (IDEA Secretary) and Gloriosa Santos-Cabangon (PETA) acted as IDEA's ambassadors, giving keynotes and workshops which were well-attended by teachers, social workers and educational theatre practitioners. Papers were also presented by experts from the 3 cities as well as local practitioners, and performances were staged as part of the conferences in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Shanghai does not have an education theatre organization, so the conference was built by those organised the International Children's Theatre Festival. In Hong Kong, the conference was held at the Hong Kong Arts Centre, the site of the 2007 IDEA Congress Secretariat and partner-organizer of the Congress. The IDEA representatives also met government officials and theatre education practitioners to discuss IDEA and various aspects of the 2007 Congress. In Taiwan there were 2 conferences, one on Community Theatre and the other on Educational Theatre, organised by ADAT (Association for the Development of the Arts in Taiwan) a member of IDEA. The success of the 2005 'PIAnting IdeAs Conferences in Asian Cities' (PIAC) has led to decisions to re-invite Dan Baron Cohen to the Asian cities he visited to extend his popular 'Transformance' workshops, and to launch a second PIAC in 2006, in Kaosiung (Taiwan) and perhaps Manila. Those interested in further details, please contact the IDEA 2007 co-directors (see below).

## **IDEA 6th World Congress: July 16-22 2007 (Hong Kong)**

The IDEA 2007 Congress theme 'PIAnting ideAs' (Humanizing Culture for Cultivating Humanity) may be defined by a series of questions which would appeal to educators, theatre workers and community cultural development workers: What is the drama-educator in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? How do we build communities with theatre in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? We want the 2007 Congress to be focused, with distinct identity and a sense of engagement. It may even be concluded by a 'Hong Kong Declaration'.

The venues of the conference have already been confirmed. Most of the activities will happen at Hong Kong's Academy for Performing Arts, Arts Centre, and Cultural Centre. A full time secretariat will be set up by the beginning of 2006 to support all the congress committees. The opening ceremony will take place in the afternoon of July 16, followed by performances and/or boat trip to an outlying Island of Hong Kong. We are still considering keynotes and are proposing a 'Brazilian-Philippine' keynote *workshop* as the first session during the second day of the Congress to create bonding between delegates. We are also interested in the 'keyhole' approach developed in IDEA 2001, where presenters perform instead of just presenting a paper. Suggestions from IDEA members are welcome, though we guarantee the program will reflect the Hong Kong, Chinese and Asian-ness of the Congress!

The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) may be used to create a polycentric Congress with SIGs as its centers. This would mean all the activities – keynotes, presentations, workshops etc – can become organised into 10 mini-conferences. Plenary sessions of the 10 SIGs can also be organized where proposals can originate and then be submitted to the General Meeting Council, and formulated as new IDEA project proposals.

There will be 3-6 days of continuous showing of videos and films parallel to the paper presentations, keyholes and workshops, and delegates will have the chance to see Cantonese opera and other Asian performances. The Congress coincides with the annual International Arts Carnival, so we are hoping some of the carnival program can be part of the IDEA Congress. The organizers are prepared to accept a Young IDEA program formulated by the Congress, rehearsed by Hong Kong's artists, with participation of young people from different continents. We plan to work closely with the International Young IDEA Project, to ensure IDEA 2007 is a platform for demonstrating their work. We may organize a keynote panel with young representative from every continent. We would like to ask all invited Young IDEA groups to come prepared on the theme of the Congress, and to perform during the Congress. We are aiming at having 35 performances revolving around our Congress.

Now your practical needs: We will ensure simultaneous interpreters, competent in the languages and in the area of education and theatre. If the good simultaneous interpreters can be found within IDEA's members, we will invite them to Hong Kong as volunteers. We will offer them special arrangements, including the waiving of their registration fee and other attractive perks. We are already identifying accommodation for all our international visitors around the Congress venues, where there are many hotels from 5 stars to YMCA. We will be seeking cheaper university hostel accommodation and exploring home-stay, though limited living space may make this difficult.

Finally, it is our intention to organize extended workshops lasting from 3 to 5 days before and after the Conference so that local and international delegates can participate in Hong Kong, China and other Asian cities, and learn more about our cultures. You'll hear all about this on a good, regularly updated Congress website, available in the new year. Any inquiries should be directed to Mok Chiu Yu and Cheung Ping Kuen, Co-Directors of IDEA 2007 ([pkcheung@hkapa.edu](mailto:pkcheung@hkapa.edu) and [mokchiuyu@yahoo.com.hk](mailto:mokchiuyu@yahoo.com.hk)).

## **Hellenic Theatre/Drama Education Network (Greece)**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Theatre Camp took place in Spetses Island, Greece, in August 2005. For seven days, 85 people from different contexts came together to explore the dramatic language and its capacity to be combined with forms of education. Teachers, theatre students, artists, facilitators and teenagers, experienced a combination of 7-hour workshops a day, with time to relax, swim (the venue was by the sea!) and enjoy the

warm atmosphere created by all the attendants. A special workshop for Young People who worked on the specific theme of "how we see ourselves in a rapidly changing world", explored issues of identity, collaboration, lack of communication, etc. The group was named "Imagine-Nation", and was the contribution of the Hellenic Theatre/Drama Education Network to the creation of the YOUNG IDEA Project. We have posted a project report in the Dramatool Library for those who are interested in more detail.

TiENet-Gr is now stepping into the second phase of this project, Imagine-Nation II, inviting groups to work on these issues, the outcomes of which will be presented in a small festival later in 2006.



Our next Athens International Theatre/Drama Education Conference will be held in Athens on the 17-18-19 March 2006. Its main theme will be around the issues of "theatre/drama and education in a changing troubled world". More information can be found at [www.theatroedu.gr](http://www.theatroedu.gr) or from Nassia Choleva ([nassiacholeva@gmail.com](mailto:nassiacholeva@gmail.com)).

### **Polyscenes 2006 and innovation by Outil Theatre (France)**

Outil Theatre is becoming more and more developed! Our professional school is now well known and we have students coming from different countries. We now have a cooperation contract with Tunisia and the Philippines, and the French embassies in both countries are really involved. Marc Nicolas, the artistic director of Outil Theatre, has just met the cultural attaché of the French embassy in Seoul (Korea), and we will soon sign a new agreement.

The "Polyscenes" this year will be different from other years, because we have had to respond to a demand from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who want to bring 60 to 90 students from 62 different countries to France! So we are working on this project with the French national association, ANRAT. Outil Theatre will probably receive 16-20 students from July 7<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 2006. We will recruit an equivalent number of French students and we will have theatre activities with them including a visit from the Festival of Avignon and the presentation of a theatre performance. If IDEA's members are interested in participating, they can either contact Outil Theatre ([contact@outil-theatre.com](mailto:contact@outil-theatre.com)) or the Cultural Attaché of the French Embassy in their country. Any young people who want to come must be between 18 to 25 years old and speak French! Please write to Lucien Nicolas ([lucien.nicolas@wanadoo.fr](mailto:lucien.nicolas@wanadoo.fr))

### **A World Meeting of Children's and Youth Theatre (Chile)**

Between 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2006, the Chilean association OCARIN will be holding its first international event, bringing practitioners from more than 15 countries together to share workshop skills, perform, and debate the formative role of theatre in the development of children and education. Drawing on more than 40 years of experience, the Director of Meeting, Ruth Baltra, has just secured government support, following the dialogues between ministers and the IDEA President. There are growing expectations that the event will also host a meeting of the regional IDEA Latin American & Caribbean Network, and discuss possible proposals for a Latin American IDEA 2010 World Congress. Those interested in the OCARIN event should contact Ruth Baltra ([ruthbaltra@yahoo.com.ar](mailto:ruthbaltra@yahoo.com.ar)).

### **Practitioners needed by Stop-Klatka (Poland)**

In Poland, there is no good training or courses on drama method and its use. There are some drama experts but they present a rather traditional attitude to drama practice which is understood mostly as school education medium. Our young Association is more interested in a versatile and deep understanding of drama method. We are eager to use drama in many social contexts; in therapy, education, prevention but also a project concerning local communities or addressed to professional groups. We would like to create a drama course that would contain as many aspects of drama and many forms of using it as possible. We are sure that the project has great potential! So we need to

create a list of drama practitioners who would run workshops and lectures in a frame of the course and would be recommended by IDEA. Any IDEA practitioner interested should write to Aldona ([a.zejmo@stop-klatka.org.pl](mailto:a.zejmo@stop-klatka.org.pl)) sending in their curriculum, availability, their minimum fee and the number of students they are used to working with!

### **International action in Bosnia & Herzegovina!**

The Mostar Youth Theatre (MTM) and the Centre for Drama Education of Bosnia & Herzegovina (CDO BiH) held their *26th International Festival of Authorial Projects*, festival on experimental and original forms of theatre, between the 18th and 31st August 2005, in Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina. Once again, the parallel educational activity of this Festival, the *Alternative Academy*, met with strong creative enthusiasm. The *Alternative Academy* comprised of 12 weekly workshops for young actors, students of drama and young people interested in drama. Drama educators from Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil/France, Croatia, France, Greece, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, Russia, taught physical performance forms, like clown and mask, Butoh dance, Forum Theatre, dance and movement, body and voice training (Grotowski disciplines), Pentjak-Silat, Meyerhold's biomechanics, Gonzales chorus method, as well as creative writing and training on Stanislavski and modern acting concepts.

The workshops had multinational participation, with the majority of participants coming from ex-Yugoslavian countries, but also with participants from other European countries. All 12 workshops had their open presentations (middle of festival-end of festival): the presentation days were unforgettable! The young workshop participants and the audience - participants and teachers of other workshops, theatre friends - celebrated together their new learning in performative arts in a creative and youthful atmosphere. For information on the program of workshops of the next *Alternative Academy* (August 2006), please write to the secretary of CDO BiH, Armin Joha Hadzimusic ([bihcdo@cob.net.ba](mailto:bihcdo@cob.net.ba)).

Another part of the *Alternative Academy* was a week-long drama workshop with young people from Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia & Montenegro, as the contribution of CDO BiH and CEDEUM (Serbia and Montenegro) to the International Young IDEA Project. The subject of the workshop was *East and West Inside Us: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow Inside Our East and West*. The young performers explored their heritage of Eastern and Western cultures as inhabitants of the Balkan region, but also their understanding and learning from Eastern and Western cultures around the globe. A short performance piece was also devised by them with sensitivity, imagination and caring, a physical, rhythmic, non-verbal journey into varying cultural approaches on being *human*, national clichés, emotions, unity, pride, rules, cultural clashes. For more details, please contact Hristina Mouratidou ([cmouratidou@gmail.com](mailto:cmouratidou@gmail.com)).

### **Next IDEA General Council Meeting: 26-28 May 2006**

A range of options were considered as the location for the forthcoming General Meeting Council. Attractive invitations were received from the Hellenic Association, the IDIERI conference in Jamaica, the World Festival of Children's Theatre organised by the Europaisches Zentrum in Lingen, Drama Australia, and the Drama Education Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Mostar). In the end, to develop the region's drama education and to ensure the maxim participation of elected officers, Mostar was selected. "*We live in the time when the 'foreigners' have gone and the State has not found the means of supporting organisations like ours. Such a conference would have a strong effect on drama education in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Workshops by guest participants would be precious to us and help the development of our drama education study. You can count on reduced prices for accommodation too! It will be spring time, when the hotel prices are lower, the weather is cooler, and the students are here.*" (Sejo Djulic, Director). Those interested in visiting this region, known for its exceptional beauty and histories, and in participating in this regional conference, should write to the Association's Secretary, Hristina Mouratidou ([cmouratidou@gmail.com](mailto:cmouratidou@gmail.com)).

**Please immediately send new reports or invitations for the next newsletter which will be published to launch our new IDEA website at the beginning of February 2006. The deadline for this will be December 31<sup>st</sup> 2005.**



## Section 3: Action!

### 6 ways in which you can participate in 2006!

The aim of this section is to highlight the deadlines which are relevant to all IDEA members between now and IDEA 2007.

#### 1. Join the Communications Working Committee (CWC):

The final working committee of this 2004-2007 mandate is now being set up to support the Directors of the Executive Committee improve and extend IDEA's communication with its members and with all relevant theatre and educational networks around the world; to translate all communication into IDEA's three official languages (English, French and Spanish); and to develop a publicity and distribution strategy for IDEA's projects and products. Anyone interested in joining the Communications Working Committee should immediately contact the Director of Communications Kim Flintoff (kimbo2@inet.net.au).

#### 2. The call for IDEA 2010 World Congress proposals:

Please remember that the deadline for receiving proposals for the IDEA World Congress 2010 is this May, 2006, at the General Council Meeting. This is the meeting which will approve the proposal, to make sure the future organisers have 4 years to prepare their congress. Please write to the President of the General Meetings Committee, Vlado Krusic (vladimir.krusic@zg.htnet.hr), for any guidance and details.

#### 3. Help to form the IDEA 2007 International Congress Committee:

We would like to ask for suggestions from all members and we hope that we would form the ICC within 2 months after the circulation of this newsletter. We are aware of the need for geographical, gender and perhaps also the age balance of the ICC. The ICC would not actually physically meet but regular consultation and email exchanges would be undertaken. We are looking for people who have had experiences with international conferences, particularly those with fresh ideas. Please write directly to us at: pkcheung@hkapa.edu & mokchiuyu@yahoo.com.hk.

#### 4. Recommend people for the IDEA Advisory Committee:

We would like to build an advisory committee of outstanding practitioners and/or drama education organisers who would support the strategic development of IDEA, particularly in the areas of pedagogical research, project fundraising, and multimedia publicity. We are also keen to invite practitioners whose reputations and knowledges in the field of drama and theatre education would enhance IDEA's world authority as an advocate of drama pedagogy. We welcome recommendations from our members.

#### 5. Join the 2005-2007 International Young IDEA Project

Please study the aims and criteria of the International Young IDEA Project (in the attached letter) to see how your young people might participate in the 2006 UNESCO World Conference and the 2007 IDEA World Congress. The Project Directors Steven Clark and Ghonche Materego need to hear from you by no later than December 9<sup>th</sup> 2005!

#### 6. Contribute to the UNESCO World Conference on Arts Education:

Please invite your members to send their perspectives on the UNESCO's position paper to our *UNESCO Working group in IDEA* (danbaronmst@hotmail.com) before December 15<sup>th</sup> 2005 so that they can be integrated into a collective position document for the forthcoming InSEA World Congress (1-3 March 2006) and the UNESCO World Conference (6-9 March 2006).

**Translation:** Thanks to Julie Vaudrin and Julie Champagne (Vichama Theatre), Monica Silver Macher and Carola Caverio (Arte y Vida), and to supervisors Steven Clark and Lili Galvan, for their careful work. Anyone interested in this area, please contact the CWC.

Dan Baron Cohen  
On behalf of the Elected Officers of IDEA