



DRAMA /THEATRE IN EDUCATION

Drama in Education Conference 2024

IDEA AUSTRIA

SHARING & CARING

Every Child Matters: The Place of Young People in the World



International Drama/Theatre and Education Association
Association Internationale d'Art Dramatique/Théâtre et Éducation
Asociación Internacional de Drama/Teatro y Educación
國際戲劇教育協會



**25th International Drama / Theatre
in Education Conference 2024**

March 22nd to 27th, 2024 at Retz, Lower Austria

Dear members and sympathizers,

in addition to a brief report, this publication is also intended to give interested people a little more insight into the Drama in Education-Conference 2024. Of course, nothing can replace personal participation. However, we want to convey a little of the content and the atmosphere - and explain why the conferences have been so successful in recent years.

The conference in Retz 2024 was an anniversary event that focused with theoretical and practical aspects of drama / theater in education. For 50 years there have been events in Austria dealing with "Method Drama". The participants were confronted with this year's topic in a variety of ways - SHARING & CARING Every Child Matters: The Place of Young People in the World. In doing so, we made clear reference to the challenges of the years after 2020 and to the UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals (1); the reference to practical experience was present, theoretical elements complemented the practical aspects - and vice versa. In our opinion, this feature is part of the success, as confirmed by the feedback we received.



Abb.2 Althof Retz - A wonderful place for a Conference

The conference was aimed at drama and theatre teachers from Austria and Europe, from all pedagogical context. We were really pleased to welcome a total of 95 participants from four continents. The aim was to explore the topics from as many different perspectives as possible, in theory and practice.

(1) The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. (look at sdgs.un.org/goals; September 2024)

As with all conferences that IDEA AUSTRIA is allowed to host, we also expected an intensive exchange between colleagues that would have a positive impact beyond the conference itself. In line with a motto coined by a theater teacher at the 2017 conference: "You come as a participant, you leave as a friend!" Fortunately, projects were planned this time and have meanwhile been launched.

CONTENT

The use of drama pedagogical methods in lessons of all ages, all school types and all subjects is the focus of our events and is our central concern. It has become clear in recent years that holistic methods are needed in order to rethink learning and to take social and personality-building educational steps. This theme was foreshadowed in the title and was pursued throughout the conference and beyond.

Since April 2024, teachers have been provided with comprehensive documentation via a data platform, so they have access to the whole content and exercises from all short and long workshops and the key content from the evening presentations. This ensures that teachers can easily follow up on the individual modules. Participants usually take notes or organize these notes in some other way. We believe that we are offering a special service here (included free of charge in the conference package). This is also rare - and therefore a unique characteristic.

In addition, a booklet / reader was created; it contains general thoughts on drama / theater pedagogy as well as statements from invited persons. It is not to be understood as a systematic review of the history of Drama in Education in Austria - but as an example.

We would also like to include some feedback data and thank you very much for your appreciation and exciting ideas for further development.

our next Online-Conference
7th/8th of March, 2025



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Thanks for cooperation and support

PH Niederösterreich

AITA / IATA

ÖBV THEATER

Zukunftsfonds Österreich

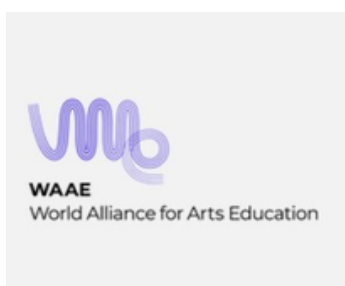
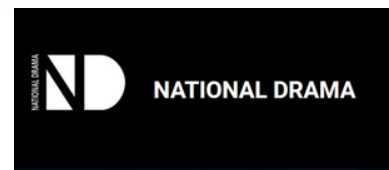
IDEA

ALTHOF Retz

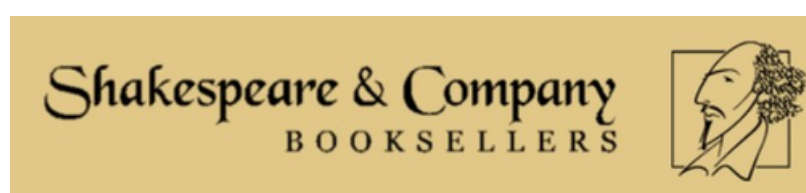
National Drama, WAAE, NATD, Bookshops in Vienna and Retz



Zukunftsfonds
der Republik Österreich



International Drama/Theatre and Education Association
Association Internationale d'Art Dramatique/Théâtre et Éducation
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國際戲劇教育協會



★ PLEASE SAVE THE DATE ★

**26th International Drama / Theatre
in Education Conference 2026**

27th of March to 1st of April, 2026

PROGRAM

The anniversary was accompanied by a change in the structure of the program. In general, it was very important to us to allow the participating theater teachers to get to know each other quickly. A central focus for us is to enable sufficient communication in and beyond the workshops. This need influences planning and organization - such as the choice of the "right" venue.

With an extensive opening ceremony, the introduction of all participants and the day's guests and a twinkling review of aspects of the past years/decades, we were able to get the people talking to each other very quickly. The five short workshops that were offered in the afternoon made it possible to do things together - and were also an excellent occasion to create opportunities for discussion through togetherness. Last but not least, the conference started with a get-together dinner and a city tour ("night watchman") on Friday - invited by IDEA AUSTRIA.

The 95 participants were offered a particularly wide range of content in the anniversary year. There were five workshops to choose from on Saturday afternoon; the sixth short workshop was offered at the end and once again stimulated the participants' enthusiasm for playing. The one-day workshops were reduced from four to three. This change was received very positively overall - and the majority of participants found the brief immersion in one aspect of the overall topic very exciting, not least because the day guests were able to get a taste of the conference atmosphere and take away some impressions. All in all, this concept can be described as a success.

three Main Workshops

Joe Winston (University of Warwick, UK): *Storytelling as a practice for democracy*

Nicola May Abraham (Royal School of Speech and Drama, UK): *Exploring Wonder – Virtual and Fantastical Innovations in Applied Theatre to support Wellbeing.*

Katrin Janser Fors (President of Swiss Amateur Theatre, President of EDERED European Drama Youth Encounter): *A course in Physical Theatre. Sharing and Caring!*



Abb. 3, 4 und 5 – from the One-Day-Workshops
(Joe Winston, Nicola May Abraham, Katrin Janser Fors)

Six Short Workshops

Tomas Andrasik, PhD (University of Brno, CZ): Mental Health & Drama. *How do we achieve that every Child/Youth/Person FEEL they matter?*

Eva Göksel (Pädagogische Hochschule Zug, CH und University of Uppsala, SWE): History & Politics. *History/Herstory/Their-story: Who gets to tell the story?*

Maria Lodjn (Bildungsdirektion Wien, A; Certified Trainer Veto Principle, D): System Maïke Plath & Drama. *Veto Principle and democratic leadership*

Eliot Moleba (PhD, Research fellow at The Oslo National Academy of the Arts, KhiO NOR / SA): New Theatre Systems & Drama. *The Things we left behind. What would you pack if you only had a moment's notice to leave?*

Nad'a Rumanovsky Uherová (direktor, dramaturg, Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava SK/A): Visuals, Performing Art, Music & Drama. *Introduction to the philosophy of visualization.*

Ursula Silaen (Theaterlehrerin, Bildungsdirektion Wien, A): *A Surprise Workshop. Escape by drama.*



Abb.6 Escape by Drama

Twelve Presentations

Margaret Branscombe (Drama Practitioner and Author, UK): *"Bullying is not ok: Using drama and poetry to highlight the issue of bullying"*

Alexander Hoffelner (Dr., Universität Wien, Zentrum für Lehrerinnenbildung, A): *"ACIIS - Academy for creative, innovative and inclusive schools"*

Kevin Holland (PhD, University of Sussex, UK): *"Mantle of the Expert and Democratic Schools - A Case Study"*.

Rathitharan Kathiresu (Senior Lecturer, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka): *"Perspectives of Drama in Education in Sri Lanka"*.

Veronika Korinkova (Head of Edu Drama, SK): *"Drama & Graphic Novels" - Enhancing Classic Literature through Graphic Novels: A Pilot Program for Modern High School Cultural Education.*

Bob Selderslaghs (Royal Conservatoire, AP University of Applied Sciences and Arts Antwerp, BEL): *"Mantle of the Expert: A View of the Possible".*

Yasukao Shiozawa & Yuka Kusanagi (and Aiko Saoito) (Bunkyo University, Tokyo, Tsurumi University, Yamato-shi, Kanagawa-ken): *"Storytelling Workshops for Children".*

Harald Volker Sommer (Theaterpädagogin, TPZ Augsburg, D): *"The Art of the Choral Theatre Principle – how do Collectives become creative?"*

Lucie Šváblová (Drama Teacher, The Art School Popelka, CZ) – *"Drama family, tribe, ritual. Concentration and cooperation of the whole group".*

Silvia Vammaro (Drama & Theatre Teacher, Argentina): *"Drama Techniques for children. Seen from my personal point of view."*

William Yip (Ximalaja FM Theatre, Shenzhen, China): *"10 distinctive lessons we find in the arts".*

Kateřina Žarniková (PHD applicant, EDU Drama, University of Brno, SK): *"Drama-Education in the Distance?! Ways of adapting Drama Education during the first COVID-lockdown in spring 2020 in Czechia and Slovakia - and inspiration for the present"*



Abb.7 enthusiastic participation in the Workshops und in Plenum

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

We thank AITA/IATA for covering all costs for one participant (Rathitharan Kathiresu; University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka).

We thank Joco Hollos for covering the costs for two participating teachers from Romania.

We would like to thank the University College of Teacher Education Lower Austria for sponsoring the artistic contributions to the opening.

We would like to thank the Austrian Future Fund (Zukunftsfonds Österreich) for their financial support, especially for the reports, documentation and reader.

We thank ÖBV THEATER for providing the registration procedure and covering the costs for technology, photography and image processing.

We thank IDEA for support the event as Regional Conference.

We would like to thank our friends who have been loyal to us for years, the new participants and all the day guests who were able to get an impression of the Conferences.

We would also like to thank all our colleagues, organizations and individuals who have been involved in the development and organization of the Drama in Education Conferences. We can build on their long time of preparatory work and continue to develop. .

In addition to the workshops, the participants also had the opportunity to explore the region. As a small town in the northern Weinviertel, Retz is regionally very important for the producing of excellent wines. We would like to thank the Mayor, Stefan Lang, for donating wine to the speakers of the short and long workshops.

We would like to thank the Municipality of Retz for their excellent support of the organization (city tour / cellar tour).

We would also like to thank the staff of Althof Retz seminar hotel, especially Mr. Bernd Kleinschuster (Hotel Management) and Ms. Klaudia Graf (Event Manager) and the entire team for their excellent support before and during the conference.

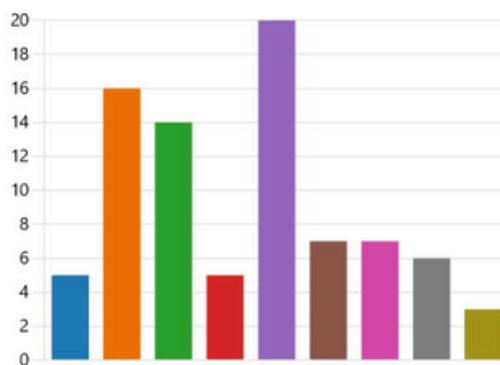
EVALUATION

Extensive feedback is provided on many parameters. The feedback on the individual workshops belongs to the speakers. Of course, we ask for personal critical comments and suggestions for improvement - and for magical moments.

1. From where did you hear about the Conference?

[Weitere Details](#)

● I am kind of a "Urgestein" / "Din...	5
● I was there minimum once.	16
● Someone who was there ahead...	14
● I am part of an involved / partici...	5
● I got information from IDEA AU...	20
● from Social Media	7
● from a Newsletter	7
● another way of communication.	6
● Sonstiges	3



2. Where do you come from?

● Austria	32
● European Country	22
● Non-European Country	7

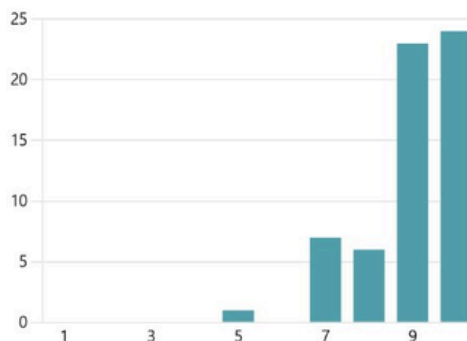


6. **If you want to rate the content orientation** (1 is the lowest, 10 the best rating): ALL TOGETHER - Warm ups - short and long workshops - Evening Presentations. Maybe you tell us WHY in #28 and #29 in details.

[Weitere Details](#)

[Einblicke](#)

9.00
Durchschnittliche Bewertung



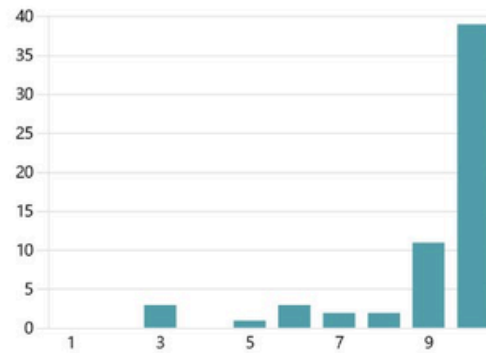
8. **If you want to rate the location** (1 is the lowest, 10 the best rating): ALL TOGETHER - information and registration, suitable for a Drama in Education Conference, support and help, accomodation, meals and drinks, travelling, answering questions and help during the Conference Days.
Maybe you tell us WHY in #28 and #29 in details.

[Weitere Details](#)

[Einblicke](#)

9.03

Durchschnittliche Bewertung



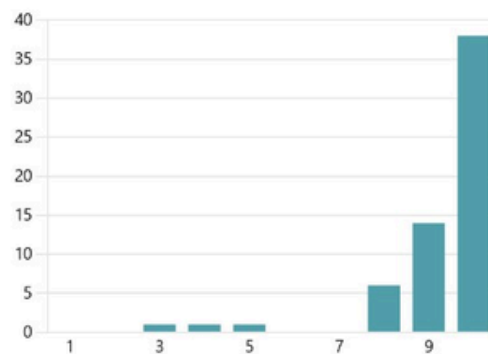
7. **If you want to rate the organisation** (1 is the lowest, 10 the best rating): ALL TOGETHER - Information, registration, support and communication, timetable, travelling, answering questions and help during the Conference Days.
Maybe you tell us WHY in #28 and #29 in details.

[Weitere Details](#)

[Einblicke](#)

9.28

Durchschnittliche Bewertung



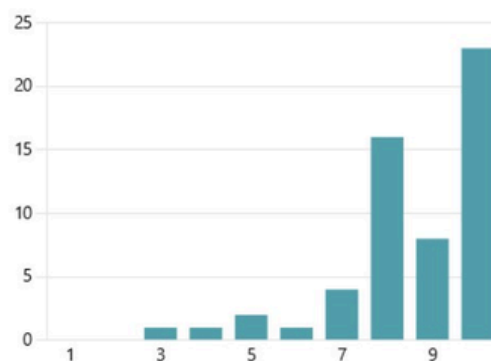
23. What do you think about the **combination between THEORY & PRACTICAL WORK?** (one star is lowest, 10 star is highest rating.)

[Weitere Details](#)

[Einblicke](#)

8.59

Durchschnittliche Bewertung



INTERPRETATION

It is encouraging to see how drama and theater teachers from Austria and all over the world are interested in further developing their methods - they got into conversation with each other in and outside of the workshops. We have made every effort to provide a high-quality program, and we also see the expertise in informal exchange.

Positive feedback and exciting ideas for further development seem to be convincing. There is interest in another conference. The report, script and reader serve as a source for further work.

Theatre methods are already being used in the classroom - by committed theater teachers. Anyone familiar with these methods can understand the benefits for learners. A major step would be the (compulsory) inclusion of these methods in the primary school curriculum.

A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

Attending a Drama in Education Conference live is a great pleasure and extremely enriching. But travel and accommodation costs are often difficult to afford. That is why we are organizing an online conference in March 2025 - current topics and content without high costs. However, we hope to be able to create a little of the atmosphere.

Preparations for 2025 will start in a few weeks; a call for papers will influence the program. Apart from a small administration fee, the conference will be free of charge. People from countries with low purchasing power will be able to participate, and the Online Conference can also be used to "get a taste" of the Conference atmosphere. We also will invite school practitioners and education experts.

We are also considering the organization of the biennial Drama / Theatre in Education Conference 2026. The long-term goal is to incorporate the methods of theater and drama pedagogy into the curriculum of teacher training, starting with the primary level.

→ PLEASE SAVE THE DATE ←

**26th International Drama / Theatre
in Education Conference 2026**

27th of March to 1st of April, 2026

IMPRESSUM

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p.A: Dreifaltigkeitsplatz 2, 2170 Poysdorf / NÖ

ZVR 61943046

Website: www.idea-austria.org

Mail: [info\[at\]idea-austria.org](mailto:info@idea-austria.org)

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