



## **Report on the AITA/IATA Council Meeting Saturday 6 March 2021, by Zoom**

Dear Members

An online AITA/IATA Council meeting was held via Zoom on Saturday 6 March 2021.

The meeting was chaired by President Béatrice Cellario. Christel Gbaguidi did not attend.

For information, the full names and contact details of Council Members can be found on the AITA/IATA Website [HERE](#).

Discussion covered the following areas:

- a) President Béatrice Cellario presented Council with a revised timetable for the Mondial du Théâtre, the Regional and Council meetings, the Open Forum, and the General Assembly (GA). The timetable is on the Mondial du Theatre website [HERE](#). A decision would be taken in early May on whether the event would take place.
- b) Council discussed if Members (NC) would be able to vote at the GA only if they were there in person (and / or by proxy), or would it be possible for Members (NC) to attend and vote online. A final decision on this to be made at the next Council meeting in early May.
- c) Voting rights for Associates was discussed by Council. A solution to this long-standing debate was difficult – did Associates want a vote? How did Members (NC) view this matter? Aled Rhys-Jones had drafted a paper on the way ahead for AITA/IATA (para g) below) and he would include this issue as part of the wider way ahead for AITA/IATA.
- d) The May Forum on 22 May 2021 had been announced in the previous Note to Members as being for both Members and Associates. Council debated and discussed at some length if both should attend and finally agreed it would be **for Members (NC) only**. This would provide an opportunity for Members to have an open and honest exchange of views on issues such as at c) above.
- e) Council agreed that in preparation for the May Members Forum, all Members (NC) would receive a paper offering options for discussion, all of which had the support of Council. The views expressed at the online Forum in May, would be captured and refined and discussed further at the August Open Forum prior to a vote at the GA.
- f) Treasurer Villy Dall reported that the 2021 accounts were likely to show a very small surplus. Council noted the importance of keeping expenditure to an absolute minimum.
- g) Aled Rhys-Jones presented his paper *A Case Study in Financial Security for AITA/IATA*. This internal document was only for Council but showed how he would like AITA/IATA to

move forward through growth, development, and a more pro-active approach within the limits of the budget. It was well received by Council.

h) Villy Dall had put four finance questions to the 2020 GA and two of these would be incorporated into Aled Rhys-Jones' paper.

i) Aled Rhys-Jones also presented a paper on the *Strategic Development Fund* (formerly the Solidarity Fund) which he agreed was too technical and he would re-draft and present to the next Council meeting. Council, however, agreed in principle with the issues raised in the paper.

j) Council confirmed that a Member (NC) would only be granted one Payment Holiday (formerly a Waiver) if they were unable to pay their fee. If the Fee was not paid for the second year, the Member (NC)'s details would be removed from the AITA/IATA Website by the payment deadline of 31 March.

k) Anne Gilmour presented a paper on the first four Spanish session of the online Workshops presented by CLT (Corredor Latinoamericano de Teatro) & AITA/IATA. While nearly 100 people had signed up to take part in a session only 56 attendances were recorded from seven countries. The videos of the four sessions had been viewed over 300 times. Feedback from those who had completed a Form praised the sessions and the tutor. Sign-up to the first session of the Workshop for English-speakers was now open.

l) Theatre is My Love 2021 – Aled Rhys-Jones reported on two Zoom Meetings with Alla Zorina, (Russian National Centre, who had organised the first online festival in 2020) and her team and Kristiina Oomer, Estonian National Centre and Anne Gilmour. Alla was very happy to organise a festival in 2021 which it was agreed would be held 19 – 28 November 2021. It would be in two Parts – Part I for Children over 12 years and Youth and Part II for Adults. Council agreed that AITA/IATA would support this event and looked forward to receiving further details.

m) Despite a number of attempts to contact ITI – International Theatre Institute – about World Theatre Day on March 27, no replies had been forthcoming until the formal announcement had been made. This had come too late for AITA/IATA to hold and publicise its own event.

n) President Béatrice Cellario reported on her productive meeting with ESCENAMATEUR at which she had been able to clarify several important issues.

o) Regarding future possible International Festivals, Council confirmed that the door should be left open for future co-operation but in the current COVID climate it was too soon to make any concrete decisions.

The Council of AITA/IATA offers best wishes and good health to all Members.

The Council of AITA/IATA

13 January 2025