



Report on the AITA/IATA Council Meeting Friday 21 February 2023 by Zoom

Dear Members (National Centres & Associates)

An online AITA/IATA Council meeting was held via Zoom on Friday 23 February 2023. President Aled Rhys-Jones chaired the meeting. For information, the names and contact details of Council Members are on the AITA/IATA Website [HERE](#).

Council discussed the following:

1. Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting held by Zoom on 20 January 2023.

2. **21-25 February** (extended to 15 March)

AITA/IATA Online Festival Saint John

Council thanked Councillor Stephen Tobias and the Saint John Theatre Company for their considerable work on this project. The extended deadline for applications had reduced the time available to select groups and work on their presentation and the different time zones and language and copyright issues had proved challenging. Whilst many of the submissions presented good theatre, the poor presentation quality of the video made them unsuitable for inclusion in an online festival. Six groups were selected to be part of the festival. Saint John had established good links with schools and some of the performances were broadcast into classrooms. Both Saint John and AITA/IATA had learned a lot from this experience. President Aled Rhys-Jones congratulated the Saint John team and hoped that the experience gathered would be used to support future AITA/IATA events.

3. **5 March**

CYTheatre Conference: Curtain Up! The Kids are Back

Council discussed ways of addressing the relatively slow sign-up for the free workshops via Eventbrite. Council agreed various free marketing initiatives with particular focus on organisational friends and partner organisations. Edith Coen, a graduate student at the University of Antwerp, currently pursuing a master's in arts and cultural management and undertaking work for AITA/IATA, would make a presentation during the conference about her survey, the link to which remains online and is [HERE](#). Council noted the considerable amount of work undertaken to curate the event which had proved a great learning experience for AITA/IATA.

4. **27 March**

World Theatre Day (WTD)

Aled Rhys-Jones had asked Councillor Carlos Taberheiro to progress work to update the WTD website and to relaunch the initiative for 2023. It was recognised that in launching the

event for 2023, we would be familiarising ourselves with the technicalities of the website with a view to reviewing our involvement and presentation for 2024. The website is [HERE](#).

5. **19-25 June**

AITA/IATA International Festival, Debrecen Hungary (Supported by Theatre Olympics)

Council noted that at their mid-January meeting in Debrecen, the Joint Committee had selected 12 groups to perform and a further three groups to be held in reserve. One group had already had to withdraw and one of the reserve groups had been invited to take their place.

6. **24 June**

AITA/IATA General Assembly (GA)

Council noted the draft Agenda and discussed key issues. It was agreed to convene a further one item Agenda Council Zoom meeting to discuss any potential Constitutional issues.

Council agreed that the Call for Nominations and timeline, together with the draft Agenda should be circulated to Members. Secretariat Anne Gilmour reported that she was working on the first draft of the 2023 Forum Book, which would be circulated to Council in due course.

7. **Finance & Legal** – Councillor and Treasurer Anna-Karin Waldemarson had held a successful Zoom meeting with the representative from Belfius Bank to resolve the outstanding matters following the change of AITA/IATA Treasurer. She thanked Councillor Ksenia Nesterova for identifying sponsorship from the German Goethe Institute for the CY Conference. Council noted the high percentage of processing fee on small amounts and that from hereon in all Members paying by PayPal would be asked to pay an additional fee of €2 to cover the cost of the transfer. They also noted that Membership Fees had now been billed and that payments were starting to come in.

8. **Crowdfunding** – The Council Finance and Fundraising Sub-Group have been tasked with identifying ways to raise additional income. Crowdfunding has been considered as an option and it was reported that options for this are limited for an international organisation. It was agreed that further research and testing would be undertaken to feed into an online meeting of the sub-group to be organised with minimum delay.

9. **UNESCO** – Councillor Patrick Schoenstein had attended the NGO UNESCO meeting in December. Councillors were urged to read his very useful report which had helped him better understand the relationship between the two organisations. The President stressed the importance of AITA/IATA maintaining a pro-active involvement with UNESCO.

10. **Any other business** – The President reported on correspondence from organisations in Sweden on the matter of National Centre membership. Counsel had been sought on clarification of Belgian Law in relation to the Constitution. The President agreed to correspond further with Sweden on the matter.

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

The Council of AITA/IATA

21 March 2023