

Candidates for the board of ASSITEJ Belgium 2017-2019

General Assembly 14 June 2017

Gilles Abel

I'm involved for 15 years at the crossroad of both philosophy for children and TYA practices. I believe that my experience in the field of cultural mediation (with children and teenagers) and in creation and training (with adults), as a freelancer, allows me to have a nice overview upon the issues and challenges of TYA in French-speaking Belgium. Moreover, my commitment to cope with TYA and P4C (philosophy for children) issues on a more institutional level (with a certain degree of 'expertise' to 'connect the dots'), might prove to be a good incentive and a great asset to contribute to the projects of ASSITEJ Belgium. Eventually, my connections to the TYA networks in North America (namely Canada and Quebec) and to research networks (with regard to an ongoing - though slowly - PhD project) might appear useful as well.

Koen Bollen

Koen Bollen is the administrator of the company 'DE KOLONIE MT'.

DE KOLONIE MT (where the 'mt' stands for musical theatre as a trademark) is one of the youngest musical theatre companies in Flanders and is based in Antwerp. Since 2008 DE KOLONIE MT has produced shows targeted at two audience segments. Besides the adult shows performed in the evening circuit, artistic director Bo Spaenc – who has extensive experience in youth theatre – creates performances for children 4 years and over and their family.

New text and music is created and composed for each production and although the content and themes of the KOLONIEshows are very different, even eclectic, the special unity between music, image and word is characteristic of the company.

As a board candidate, Koen Bollen wants within the Assitej-network to build bridges between the creators and the public of performing arts for young audiences, no matter where they operate or what language they handle.

Yannick Boudeau

I have been working in the field of TYA as the producer of Compagnie de la Casquette for 10 years. As a deeply convinced European citizen, I think culture is the best means to unite people. For me Assitej Belgium should foster the information and cooperation between the three communities of Belgium. Moreover, the Belgian TYA scene has an extraordinary potential to show amazing performances all over the world. We have done much work for the past 2 years. Now Assitej Belgium has to continue what it is standing for: promotion of BE TYA, networking, a place for discussion and opportunities for artists and other professionals in the field of culture.

Caroline Cornélis

Danseuse et chorégraphe, je suis active dans le secteur jeune public depuis plus de 15 ans mais ma compagnie (Nyash) existe depuis bientôt 10 ans. J'ai eu l'occasion de faire mieux connaissance avec Assitej lors de mon séjour à Cape Town pour le congrès mondial. J'ai réalisé le magnifique travail déjà accompli et toute l'énergie à mettre en oeuvre pour le développement et la richesse du secteur jeune public. En tant que danseuse et chorégraphe je pourrais partager mon expérience et aider au développement et aux questionnements propre au secteur jeune public. Nourrir de nouvelles collaborations, se rapprocher des cultures et démarches différentes sont un des moteurs liée à l'envie de rejoindre le CA d'Assitej.

Peter De Bie

For more than 25 years involved in the youth theatre in Flanders and his international context. The first 5 years active at the VTC / Flemish Theatre Institute (documentation and department of children's and youth theatre), for 5 years financial manager, sales and promotion for Blauw Vier and the last 16 years I share with Jo Roets Laika's artistic leadership. Since 1998, I 'm responsible for the sensory-culinary projects in Laika.

I hope that this experience can help to support the Assitej projects.

Marijke De Moor

I am working in international relations for performing arts in Flanders Arts Institute / Kunstenpunt and in that function I develop international collaboration, communication and exchange between artists, art professionals and policy-makers. We work for the whole arts field in Flanders but collaborate as much as possible with our French-speaking partners in the country.

I would be very happy to serve on this board again and to take the project a step further. I see it as my mission to connect people and I would like to reinforce more collaborations in the field of TYA between artists, organizations and audiences from the different communities in Belgium. I think more than ever it is important to gather, share and exchange knowledge, expertise and contacts. Furthermore, I would like to work on the international level. I think ASSITEJ Belgium should support exchange and cooperation on an international scale, and build sustainable relations with other countries and ASSITEJ centres. I would also like to contribute to a project that increases the visibility of Belgian companies on an international scale.

Having participated in 3 international gatherings and having been on this board, I think I understand what ASSITEJ is about. It is about 'sharing' and 'giving'. As secretary general Marisa Giménez Cacho put it during the world congress: 'the more you put into it, the more you receive'. That is why I would be happy to be a board member and to be the secretary of the organization again.

Stef De Paepe

Personal History with ASSITEJ:

Since my visit to the Krokusfestival in 2014 where my company Beeldsmederij DE MAAN premiered "The Stilt Walker" and where I was present at the Belgian ASSITEJ meeting where a new boost was found, over my attending the gathering in Birmingham (2016) and Capetown (2017), where I have spoken on the international conference about research/performance and my latest performance Futur Simple, my interest is triggered in all issues related to ASSITEJ and its world wide network with which I became familiar. I also pitched my company on the Belgian ASSITEJ meeting in Sint-Gilles on the 11th of November 2016. So my company and myself are already greatly involved as an ASSITEJ member.

Ideology:

Also the ideological grounds upon which the organisation ASSITEJ was grounded – I refer to the UNESCO background – do coincide with my work as an artist, director of a company and teacher/researcher. I worked in difficult circumstances giving workshops in Congo at the theatre school of Lubumbashi. What struck me during the last ASSITEJ meeting in Capetown was the instrumentalisation of theatre as a tool for empowerment and social consciousness in the African context. I would like to be of a bigger importance for the organisation by becoming a board member in order to strengthen the link between the youth theatres in Belgium (also the link with Wallonia and Brussels) and abroad. Exchange of practices and knowledge have become unavoidable issues in a globalized world, even on the mere Belgian soil.

Experience and skills:

Since I speak 4 languages besides my mother tongue, this knowledge could be helpful in the international context. I work for 27 years in the theatre world, as a theatre maker (director, writer, actor, teacher, dramaturge). Since my company is a visual theatre venturing itself sometimes within the more experimental field, it could emphasize this part of theatre landscape for the youth....

Johan De Smet

As theatre maker and artistic director of KOPERGIETERY, I was privileged to get the trust and support to create 30 productions for children and youngsters and connect with more than 20 countries through the years in this specific field. I would love to share the international experiences of the company, learn from the others and create a context, where the Belgian scene can take the benefit of...

Marie-Odile Dupuis

Je suis la directrice du théâtre des 4 Mains. Le théâtre des 4 Mains est une compagnie TJP créée en 1984, elle est contrat-programmée depuis 1996 et a acquis une renommée en Belgique, aussi bien en Wallonie qu'en Flandre par ses nombreuses co-productions (FroeFroe/ De Kolonie), ainsi qu'à l'étranger.

Je crois en l'importance de notre rassemblement culturel Wallonie-Flandre car j'estime que nous avons vraiment des terrains communs, une belle complémentarité, et une force lorsque nous nous mettons ensemble.

Depuis la re-création de l'Assitej Belgium, je m'intéresse à toutes vos initiatives. Je suis par ailleurs membre du CA de la CTEJ, et connaît bien le secteur jeune public en Wallonie.

Zita Epenge

Zita Epenge is administrator of theatre company De Spiegel.

I feel strongly about a strong international presence of the Belgian companies abroad. As a music theatre company that is also rooted in object theatre we have a wide network in both the music, theatre and puppet theatre field. Because of my work I have a wide international network of contacts and I would still be willing to take responsibility of the budget and administrative work load of Assitej.

Roger Hilgers

Bonjour,

Le 14 juin se réunit l'assemblée générale de l'ASSITEJ BELGIUM. J'aurais beaucoup aimé être parmi vous pour cette journée d'échange et de réflexion. Malheureusement, c'est impossible, car je suis en répétition en tant qu'acteur pour notre compagnie AGORA Theater. Nous mettons en scène „Animal Farm“ de George Orwell. C'est bouleversant et intense. La première aura lieu en septembre.

Chez AGORA, si je ne suis pas sur scène, j'assume le rôle de directeur administratif. La compagnie cofinancé majoritairement par la Communauté Germanophone de Belgique a été fondé en 1980 et est basé à St.Vith. Nous créons en moyen un spectacle par année que nous proposons en deux langues – allemand et français. Ponctuellement s'y ajoute le Néerlandais, comme pour notre dernière création „Aardappelsoep“ qui est une coproduction avec LAIKA d'Anvers.

Ceci nous donne un grand rayon de tournées possibles aussi bien en Belgique qu'en France, Allemagne, Luxembourg, Autriche, Suisse, etc. Nous sommes beaucoup en déplacement avec nos spectacles avec en moyenne 200 représentations sur l'année.

La compagnie est depuis 15 ans membre de l'ASSITEJ Allemagne. Nous étions très heureux d'apprendre deux années précédentes l'initiative du projet de refondre une ASSITEJ BELGIUM, un projet que la compagnie soutient à 100 % et que j'ai rejoint avec enthousiasme en venant membre du conseil d'administration.

J'aimerais bien renouveler ce mandat car c'est tellement riche et important d'avoir un plateau d'échange commun des trois communautés en Belgique, au delà de tout ses frontières linguistique et culturelles. Durant ces deux premières années, nous avons réaliser quelques beaux projets et bels initiatives, mais nous sommes toujours au début et j'aimerais bien contribuer à la réalisation des idées et projets que nous avons pour le futur de l'ASSITEJ BELGIUM.

Je vous souhaite une excellente assemblée générale!

Tot ziens, a bientôt, bis bald & have a good time!

Roger Hilgers

Isabel Joly

I'm new in Zonzo Compagnie so interested to learn more about Belgian companies creating for young audiences and to advocate for the sector. ASSITEJ Belgium seems the right place to learn and share. Before being responsible for Zonzo Compagnie international relations and the Big Bang Festival coordinator at EU level, I've been managing RESEO (European network for opera, music and dance education) for the last 15 years. This has developed my interest for working in a network system where members share good practices, work in a collaborative way, put their competences together and lobby in a powerful way for their area of interest.

It seems to me a priority that Culture gives the example of a united sector, where languages are not an obstacle for exchanges but stimulates creativity. This will make our sector and the companies members of ASSITEJ Belgium stronger in the international context.

Veerle Kerckhoven

Marij Denys and I are the artistic directors of BRONKS. As a theatre house for young audiences in the heart of Brussels, we always try to reach a very diverse, multilingual audience. One of our goals is to build a bridge between the French speaking part of Brussels and the Flemish speaking part. With our new project Ménagement à deux we want to present a selection of Belgian youth theatre because we think it's time that the Flemish, French and of course also the German communities in our country really meet and start to exchange all their artistic experiences. I want to be part of Assitej Belgium also to help to promote the Belgian youth theatre nationally and internationally and to realize new projects which will stimulate artistic production in a Belgian context!

Cali Kroonen

Cali Kroonen is artistic director of La Montagne Magique in Brussels, that programs Belgian and international shows among other things.

I'm very interested by Flemish and international theatre, Assitej is the best place to discover a lot of shows, to meet partners, to organize international events, to reflect together about the Belgian theatre for young audiences ...

Séverine Latour

Séverine Latour is project leader in Wallonie-Bruxelles Théâtre/Danse.

Already member of the board I work to promote and support artists abroad by the governmental agency Wallonie-Bruxelles Théâtre/Danse. I wish to continue the collaboration with the members of the board which is highly important for the international relationships of youth theatre.

Gaëtane Reginster

I joined the Théâtre de la Guimbarde in 2004 as communications manager and for the diffusion of the company. I developed all projects related to the early childhood and the International festival Pépites "the Art and the Toddlers". At the end of 2011, I went to Burkina Faso to give the first artistic training (workshop) about the theatre for toddlers.

Having become co-artistic director of La Guimbarde in January 2012, I share the management with Pierre Lambotte.

I intend to unite the different projects (creation of shows, diffusion of these shows in the crèches thanks to the subsidy of ONE "Art at the nursery - Cultural Awakening", training of professionals, animations, festival Pépites, Small Size European Network) related to early childhood.

I was assistant on the creation for toddlers "Etc." before introducing the project "King of Clay" in Belgium and Burkina Faso. In 2015, I co-staged the creation aimed at the toddlers: "Sweet & Swing". I'm currently working on a creative project for toddlers bringing together an African singer and a violinist: "Taama".

I co-lead regularly artistic formations aimed at the professionals of the early childhood. I lead also workshops in crèche and for parents and their toddlers (artistic exploration in all its forms).

Tom Rummens

Tom Rummens is artistic coordinator at HETPALEIS.

I would love to prolong my membership of the ASSITEJ Belgium Board. I strongly believe in the agenda of uniting TYA within the three communities in Belgium, as well as on an international level. I hope I can be a good ambassador for Belgian TYA on many international occasions, not only (but

also) the official ASSITEJ Artistic Gatherings and World Congresses. With hetpaleis we are happy to host the National Gathering on the 10th of October 2017.

Vincent Van den Bossche

In the field of young audience, I have been primarily working with fABULEUS, dance and theatre company based in Leuven. As such I have been in contact with members of Assitej Sweden / Denmark and Assitej Austria and Italy to develop artistic exchanges when playing abroad with fABULEUS. Earlier, I have been collaborating some years with L'L, workspace in the French speaking part of Brussels, which fascinated me a lot. I would be interested in sharing some thoughts and helping Assitej Belgium, as it would combine 2 of my previous work experiences: the French speaking part of Belgium and the field of young audience, and I am looking forward to open up debate and help within the organisation.

Gerhard Verfaillie

I have been TYA-presenter and producer for a long time in CCHA, artistic director of Krokusfestival and damaturg of youth dance performances. I was one of the founding members and have been part of the board and president of Assitej Belgium. I have always strongly believed in our mission and I believe we can and should make a second step in the development of our organisation. Assitej is for me absolutely not about showcases but about mutual exchange, research and (artist) development, about knowledge and collaboration, both in a Belgian and international context.