



Report on the AITA/IATA Council Meeting Friday 20 January 2023 by Zoom

Dear Members (National Centres & Associates)

An online AITA/IATA Council meeting was held via Zoom on Friday 20 January 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 by Zoom of 10 December 2022.
2. **AITA/AITA Festival 19 – 25 June 2023, Debrecen Hungary** – President Aled Rhys-Jones travelled to Debrecen, Hungary 13 – 15 January 2023 and was accompanied by Vice President Sofia Wegelius, Councillor Stephen Tobias and Secretariat Anne Gilmour. In Hungary they were joined by Janos Regős, Dr Zsigmond Lakó and Alexandra Mihály. The Joint Committee selected 12 performances from the over 60 that had applied, to take part in the Festival.
3. The Joint Committee met Debrecen’s Deputy Mayor Dr. István Puskás and the director of the Forum Theatre, Péter Gemza. They visited the newly finished Forum Theatre and the old Csokonai Theatre, currently undergoing renovation, and the University which will be the venue for the General Assembly. All members of the Joint Committee expressed their approval that matters were progressing in a very satisfactory way.
4. The Joint Committee discussed the overall shape of the festival programme and accommodation and refreshment arrangements and noted that it will greatly assist the organisers if groups can arrive at Debrecen Airport, rather than Budapest.
5. **AITA/AITA General Assembly (GA), 19 – 25 June 2023, Debrecen Hungary** – Council confirmed that the 2023 GA will be a hybrid event and agreed with the proposal that Dirk De Corte be proposed as the Independent Chair of the GA.
6. The Joint Committee were pleased to receive confirmation from Debrecen that they have the necessary technical options to host a hybrid GA with full translation to enable delegates to join the event and vote by Zoom.
7. Council noted that the timetable for elections will be finalised and circulated very soon. Two AITA/IATA Councillors will stand for re-election and two will stand down.
8. **AITA/IATA Children’s Festival, Antwerp 2026** – The President and the Secretariat reported on a visit to Antwerp and Mechelen, which had been entirely hosted by

Visit Flanders. During the visit they attended a meeting at the new offices of Opendoek, the AITA/IATA National Centre for Flanders (SGT), with a representative of the City of Antwerp to take forward discussions on a possible Children's Festival in 2026. Opendoek will take this forward with the City of Antwerp.

9. *Finance* – Treasurer Anna-Karin Waldemarson reported on the AITA/IATA Finances and ongoing discussions with Belfius bank. She had finally been able to set up a PayPal account into which AITA/IATA Members could pay their fee. Anna-Karin will hold another meeting with Villy Dall, former AITA/IATA Treasurer to finalise the financial hand-over.

10. The CYTheatre Group reported on progress for the online event *Curtain Up! The Kids are Back* on 5 March 2023. Booking was open, albeit the take-up was slow and publicity for the event would be reinvigorated very shortly. Council was asked to spread the word to theatre pedagogues, especially to those teaching theatre.

11. *World Theatre Day (WTD) 27 March 2023* – The President reported that he had asked Councillor Carlos Taberheiro to take over the running of the AITA/IATA WTD website. Carlos to be given access to the WTD website to see what could be achieved.

12. *Finance sub-group* – reported ongoing research on Crowdfunding as another way for AITA/IATA to raise funds.

13. Council will hold a Zoom meeting in late February 2023. The Council of AITA/IATA offers best wishes and good health to all Members.

The Council of AITA/IATA

21 February 2023