



Report on the AITA/IATA Council Meeting 2 September 2024 by Zoom

Dear Members (National Centres & Associates)

Introduction - On 2 September 2024 AITA/IATA Council members held a Council Meeting by Zoom. President Aled Rhys-Jones chaired the meeting. Contact details of Council Members are on the AITA/IATA Website [HERE](#).

1. *AITA/IATA Online General Assembly (GA) 15 June* – Council reviewed the General Assembly and noted the good atmosphere and the approval of the increase in Membership Fees.
2. *Finance & Legal* – Council noted the balance in the two Belfius accounts and noted that the Bookkeeper Sue Pound was working well with Secretariat Anne Gilmour over the process of Membership Fees received. A few Members were finding payment difficult for a range of reasons resulting in a small reduction in total membership, but AITA/IATA was attracting new Members, both National Centre and Associate.
3. *New Member procedure* – Council noted that Anne had created a link to an online Membership Form on the AITA/IATA Website which enabled those interested to join AITA/IATA could provide necessary details. At the time of the meeting, 10 applications had been received. Anne had also drafted a policy document outlining the process that Council should follow when they consider new Member applications to decide if interim Membership agreement could be given before formal approval by delegates at the next GA. Council reviewed the new applications received and agreed that six should be accepted and two needed to submit more information.
4. *AITA/IATA French and Spanish Masterclass* – The Spanish National Centre, ESCENAMATEUR were interested to host a Masterclass in Spanish on Intimacy Direction and their President would take this forward with Carlos Taberheiro.
5. *Curtain Up! event* – funding for this event had not yet been found and it would not now be held in 2024 but postponed to 2025 provided a source of funding had been achieved.
6. *AITA/IATA World Festival February / March 2027, Wellington New Zealand* – Council noted that support for this festival had been received from the New Zealand Tourist Board and Aled too had received support to make an initial visit to New Zealand in early 2025. Initial ideas on workshops etc had been discussed and would be developed over the coming



months. Council noted that 2027 was also the 75th anniversary of AITA/IATA and the festival offered an opportunity to create something different.

7. *Lingen Festival of Children's Theatre 27 June – 4 July 2025* – Aled, Sofia and Heidi would represent AITA/IATA on the selection committee, which would take place November / December 2024. Joke Quaghebeur had also been invited to attend because Opendoek would host the AITA/IATA Children and Youth Festival in Antwerp in 2026 (see 9 below).

8. *Mondial du Theatre, Monaco 2025* – Aled Sofia, Kelli, and Patrick would be the AITA/IATA representatives on the joint selection committee which would take place in November in Monaco.

9. *Antwerp Children's Festival 14 - 23 August 2026* – time constraints had prevented Joke Quaghebeur from presenting this event to the 2024 AITA/IATA GA. Council noted it would be a Children **and** Youth Festival which would require careful organisation given the different demands and requirements of a festival participants aged from around 8 – 20 years of age. Joke had also invited ITAC – International Teaching Artist Conference – to hold their 8th Conference during the event. Joke was about to visit New Zealand to attend the 7th ITAC Conference. Aled will had ongoing discussions with Joke about taking this event forward.

10. *Visas – raising the issue with ITI / UNESCO / CAE* – Aled noted the rising number Visa refusals for artists attending cultural events. Participants from Morocco and Algeria to European Festivals had been refused Visas to attend the festival in Spain along with a participant from Uganda who had been offered an AITA/IATA bursary to attend the Drama in Education in Austria. Aled would follow up with other international cultural organisation to see if concerns could be formally raised, perhaps with UNESCO.

11. *Future meetings* – a face to face Council Meeting would be held in January 2025 hosted by Heidi Troi in Brixen. A Zoom meeting would also be held in late spring to confirm arrangements for Monaco.

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

The Council of AITA/IATA

13 January 2025