



Report on the AITA/IATA Council Meeting 17 January 2025 Brixen, Sud-Tyrol

Dear National Centre & Associate Members

Introduction - On 17 & 18 January 2025, AITA/IATA Council members held a Council Meeting hosted by AITA/IATA Councillor Heidi Troj, in Brixen Sud-Tyrol. President Aled Rhys-Jones chaired the meeting. Contact details of Council Members are on the AITA/IATA Website [HERE](#).

1. *AITA/IATA New Members* - Council reviewed the applications for Membership of AITA/IATA. Two wished to become Associate Members and they were approved. A third application was for National Centre Membership and Council asked for more information about the organisation.
2. *AITA/IATA events: Masterclasses 2025* - Council reviewed the Masterclass proposed for January 2025 from Jean Paul Alègre and noted the good response from French-speaking delegates. Council considered how the event could be evaluated and how the session would be opened and closed.
 - a. The arrangements for a Spanish language Masterclass were in hand through Councillor Carlos Taberheiro and Alejandro Cavadas López, President of ESCENAMATEUR, the Spanish National Centre of AITA/IATA.
 - b. The Council noted that NEATA Members had collaborated to produce a one-day Masterclass with each country offering one session. This one-day monolingual English event was very successful, and it is hoped to repeat it.
 - c. *Curtain Up! 2025* – following the success of the 2024 Curtain Up! event, Council considered arrangements for the 2025 event. It was confirmed that translators were in place. It was agreed that a budget of €500 would be sufficient to run the event, for which a donor had been secured.
3. *AITA/IATA General Assembly, 23 August 2025, Monaco* – regarding the elections to President and Council, Aled noted he was at the end of his mandate and there would be an election for President: Council considered several options. They also noted the four vacant Councillor posts: three of the current Councillors needed to confirm if they were standing and there was a vacant post.
4. *AITA/IATA Festival February / March 2027, Wellington New Zealand* – Aled confirmed he would travel to New Zealand in February 2025 and noted the cost of his flights

and accommodation would be met by New Zealand Tourism. He wanted to see where events would be held, get a feel for the arrangements and what the organisers would be able to deliver.

a. *The 75th Anniversary of AITA/IATA* – 2027 was a milestone for AITA/IATA and New Zealand wanted to celebrate the event with AITA/IATA. Given that a majority of AITA/IATA members were based in Europe, Council voiced concern about the number of groups that would be able to fund travel to New Zealand, but it was recognised that holding an AITA/IATA Festival in the Southern Hemisphere for the first time would open the event to new organisations in Oceania and Asia.

5. *AITA/IATA events – World Theatre Day* – In 2024, AITA/IATA had been delighted to receive a personal message from Sir Ian McKellen about the value of World Theatre Day and amateur theatre. A message from a Spanish speaker was planned for 2025, but this was proving problematic and Council agreed, because of the tight timescale, to limit the arrangements in 2025 to the ITI message and a message from Aled.

6. *AITA/IATA Festival Handbook* – three Councillors agreed to take forward the drafting of an AITA/IATA Festival handbook. It was agreed that the handbook needed to include legal aspects, as well as photographs and an outline of a typical budget.

7. *AITA/IATA Festivals: Lingen Children's Festival 2025 & Antwerp Children's Festival 2026* – Aled had no further updates to report to Council. The Lingen organisers had everything in hand and Opendoek were still waiting for confirmation of funding for the 2026 event in Antwerp.

8. *AITA/IATA support to a playwriting competition* – an Associate Member had approached AITA/IATA seeking support for an award for Amateur Theatre. Aled had been clear with the Member that AITA/IATA did not as a matter of custom and practice, endorse amateur theatre performance competitions. He had suggested that if the event became a Playwriting competition, it might be possible, given certain caveats, for AITA/IATA to support the event in some way. Council endorsed this approach but asked for more information.

9. *Sub-groups discussion* – during the rest of the weekend, Council would discuss Children & Youth matters and AITA/IATA's digital capability and how it could be improved.

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

The Council of AITA/IATA

March 2025