



Report on the AITA/IATA Council Meeting 22 April 2025 by Zoom

Dear National Centre & Associate Members

Introduction - On 22 April 2025, 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. *Finance and legal* – Council noted that finances were on track and the books were now closed for the 2024/2025 Financial Year. Because AITA/IATA is registered in Belgium as an asbl, external legal advice is essential to ensure that the Association is compliant with Belgium Law. The former advisor has moved on, and AITA/IATA is considering a new advisor who comes highly recommended.
2. *AITA/IATA General Assembly (GA) 23 August 2025* – Council agreed that Dirk De Corte will be offered to the Members as the Presiding Chair of the GA. Two notices of candidacy for the roles of Councillor had been received and Council were advised that several more were in the pipeline. Council have invited the Mayor of Lingen to attend the Festival and GA and report in person on the AITA/IATA World Festival of Children's Theatre held five weeks earlier.
3. *AITA/AITA International Amateur Theatre Festival February / March 2027 Wellington, New Zealand* – Council noted the proposal submitted by Paul Percy of Theatre New Zealand to host the International Festival in Wellington. Because of the timing of the event, it will not be possible to hold a GA. The proposal suggests an AITA/IATA Conference and celebrations of AITA/IATA's 75th Anniversary. Four Councillors will consider in detail the nature and subject matter of the Conference and how the Anniversary should be celebrated.
4. *Online events – Masterclass and Curtain Up!* – The next Masterclass is planned to be in Spanish, but no date or subject has yet been selected. It is hoped that a Curtain Up! event will be held in October.
5. *Denial of visas* – the rejection of visa applications to travel for cultural reasons has become an issue of concern and Council is keen to be part of the discussion about how this might be resolved or at least challenged. Council is gathering information and will consult with other international cultural organisations to see what action they are taking.



6. *Children & Youth* - although funding had been obtained for a small number of young people from AITA/IATA Members to come together to create theatre alongside those attending the EDERED Encounter, the funding was agreed too late to make the project viable this year. It is hoped to take this project forward to next year.
7. *Digital capability* – Council agreed that AITA/IATA should register as an NGO with Google to take advantage of reduced price / free options. AITA/IATA Members will be encouraged to pin their theatre to the World Map on the Home Page of the website and to sign up to host the Instagram account [weareamateurtheatre](https://www.instagram.com/weareamateurtheatre).
8. *Fundraising and finance* – Council explored the option of adding a ‘Donate Here’ button to the AITA/IATA Website using the PayPal account already in use to accept fees from Members. Once achieved, it will be widely advertised.
9. *New members* – organisations and individuals continue to respond to the online application form for those interested to join AITA/IATA. Council considered each application who will either receive an invoice requesting payment of the annual fee or be asked for more information. Only one organisation was not deemed an appropriate match for Associate Membership of AITA/AITA. Delegates at the GA will be asked to accept each new Member.
10. *Any other business* – President Aled Rhys-Jones reported that while in the Far East on his way to his recce visit to New Zealand, he had signed a Letter of Intent between AITA/IATA and the only NGO in Indonesia dedicated to the performing arts. He also noted that through the contacts made in Morocco and the FITAS Festival, it was hoped that towards the end of the year, a meeting will be held with the Gulf States to encourage them to join AITA/IATA.
11. *Raising the profile of AITA/AITA to members of AACT* – AITA/IATA will take a table at the AACTFEST 2025 to be held in Des Moines in June to help raise the profile of AITA/IATA and international Festivals in the US.
12. *Future meetings* – the next AITA/IATA Council meeting will be held by Zoom in early June before the full in-person meetings in Monaco.

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

The Council of AITA/IATA

April 2025