



PYA England Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 14 December 2021 @ Zoom

#24 Seasonal Session

Present (12)
Wendy Harris, tutti frutti
Mosa Mpetha, tutti frutti
Emma Killick, tutti frutti
Joanna, Full House
Stefanie Reyno
Tina Williams, Pied Piper
Ginni Manning
Pilar Santelices
Chris Elwell, Half Moon
Katerina, Clod Cuckoo Land
Vicky Ireland
Jake Goodwin
Apologies
Michael Judge

1. Welcome and Updates - Wendy

Welcome to International PYA England Coffee Meeting! A bit of protocol:

- Turn your screen off if you want to
- Keep your sound on mute whilst others are talking
- This is a friendly, open and sharing space. Please feel comfortable to contribute and share.
- Use the chat to feedback on what is being said or share thoughts.
- Zoom provides live captioning which you can turn on at the bottom of the screen
- We aren't resourced to facilitate access requirements every meeting, but do contact us if you need something and we can see what we can do

PYA England (Performance for Young Audiences) is the England sub group of [ASSITEJ UK](#), which is part of a global network, [ASSITEJ International](#). The PYA England sub group welcomes its Irish, Welsh and Scottish colleagues to the zoom café's. ASSITEJ UK is a membership organisation and we would be delighted if any people new to this network want to become members. Wendy Harris is chair of PYA England, Pilar Santelices is the Vice Chair, Kate Cross is ASSITEJ UK Chair [*Information at the end of the minutes*]

We have a PR subgroup and a Lobbying sub group. There is also a PYA England steering group. Let us know if you would like to get involved with anything. Everything that we do happens because you are a part of it. Get in touch! wendy@tutti-frutti.org.uk



Some of the things we are doing is:

- Speaking to Arts Council England about showcasing opportunities for the PYA sector
- Speaking to Arts Council England data analysis staff to be able to better identify our sector in ACE stats

2. Notices

In February is the Spark Arts festival. On Friday 11 February ASSITEJ UK is hoping to hold a live meeting there in Leicester. <https://thesparkarts.co.uk/festival/programme> Info will come around on the newsletter.

A group of us have started meeting every few months, anyone is welcome to join who is ethnically diverse and who experiences racism in our society. We talk about whatever we feel like, and it is a private and secure space. If you want to join, or you know someone who might, please email mosa@tutti-frutti.org.uk. The next gathering is Wednesday 19 January 2022 11am – 12pm Global Affinity PYA Group

DTEA is encouraging 20 March 2022 Take a Child to the Theatre Day Campaign – more info to follow in the newsletter <https://www.dtealliance.co.uk>

IIAN's first international inclusive PYA festival, Catch the Wave! In Denmark 28th-2nd April. Please get in touch with Vicky Ireland for more info. vicky.ireland@virgin.net

Contact Pilar if you can help with comms or social media! Pilar Santelices pilar.santelices@gmail.com

3. Questions for Breakout Rooms & Feedback:

- What would you like to the 2022 topics to be?

Sharing of ACE data after analysis has tailored it for us

New members host and say what they see the PYA sector is going forward

Creative conversations, scratch work and processes

Venues session hosted by Chris (postponed from 2021)

Employing disabled artists

Write Local Play Global – The place of playwrights in PYA

PYA and kickstart and training young people to work in our sector

Quality management – more people making work for children than are in PYA. Perhaps they need guidance.

Job shadowing for young people from the global majority. Trying multiple roles within the industry, does an initiative already exist or is kickstart the right route?

Can we or should we be making covid safe work? Safe = financially, health, access.

Daryl could present his new resource on working with disabled artists and audiences.



- Choose a glow moment you would like to share

Chris – Audiences of Half Moon are turning up and it feels positive and full

Emma, Tina and Joanna – All have shows on the road, employing lots of audiences

Stefanie – Stefanie has had two amazing commissions with Tamasha (Radio Play) and Box of Tricks in Manchester for 16+.

Wendy – tutti frutti have done global majority digital stories recruiting global majority artists.

Ginni – Lalu (South African) and I wrote a play and finally able to take it to Bath.

4. AOB

5. Next Meeting Dates

- Wednesday 19 January 11am – 12pm Global Affinity PYA Group
- Wednesday 19 January 2pm – 4pm PYA England Steering Group Meeting
- Tuesday 15 February 10.30am – 11.30am PYA Coffee Morning

6. Zoom Chat

ASSITEJ UK Membership

This may seem like a weird time to be parting with cash, but please do read on....

Without support from our members, the PYA/TYA sector could have been cut adrift from one another and from our international colleagues. We may also have lost sight of our commitment and passion for high quality live performance for young audiences as being our sole and single-minded concern. On the Edge, Quality of Difference, Assitej regional showcases and countless opportunities for members to participate in Assitej International events would not have been made possible.

At a time when arts organisations are making tough choices and freelancers are facing an uncertain future. We understand how a membership fee is not going to be a number one spending priority. And yet, since lockdown began at the end of March, here are some of the things the **Assitej UK** network has achieved:

- Welcomed 15 new paying members.
- PYA England has reconstituted, recruited a new, diverse steering group, set out a marketing campaign, and hosted 3 coffee mornings, to which more than 30 people have attended each time.
- Members across the UK have contributed to articles in national newspapers, such as the recent article by Lyn Gardner in The Stage
- Members have lobbied their respective Arts Councils regarding the special case for young audiences.
- We have secured £555 funding from Action for Children's Arts Emergency fund.
- Submitted two bespoke PYA letters to Oliver Dowden, Culture Secretary.

Meanwhile, **Assitej International**, of which all Assitej UK members are by default a member, has hosted a raft of global coffee mornings, at which there has been representation from all continents. This is something you could not safely say about international festivals that are largely populated by delegates from wealthier countries and organisations.

It is quite possible that Corona Virus and Zoom have changed our idea of what is possible as a networking organisation, and our capacity to both celebrate our unique characteristics as individuals whilst staying well connected is looking rosier than it ever did! Could you consider joining the network at this time: for solidarity, a future facing approach, seizing the moment and making the next decade that of the child?

Covid-19 has hit our industry hard, therefore in 2021 if you are unable to pay your annual standard subscription of £70 for an Organisation or £25 for individual members, we are offering you the option to pay £25 as an Organisation and £5 as an individual member for the year.

- [Organisation Subscription Covid-19 Discounted Rate: £25](#)
- [Organisation Subscription Standard Rate: £70](#)
- [Individual Member Covid-19 Discounted Rate: £5](#)
- [Individual Member Standard Rate: £25](#)

Alternatively, please contact us by emailing info@tya-uk.org if:

- the cost of membership is too much for you at this time but you wish to make a one-off donation in lieu of your membership fee
- you would like to take a payment holiday for one year
- If you require an invoice

We very much hope that you will recognise the benefits of membership, and thank you in advance.