A MODEL OF SUPPORT FOR THEATRICAL RESEARCH *Collection of Essays and Theatrical Research Award* Juan Cervera

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The activities of an association and the implementation of different projects often resemble the tangle that occurs in a basket of cherries because as you take a bunch the next one gets caught with the previous one and so forth. ASSITEJ Spain has been organizing for four consecutive years in the environment of FIT (Latin American Theatre Festival) in Cádiz, the forum of the Latin American Network of ASSITEJ, with the participation of countries such as Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, Nicaragua, Mexico, Portugal and Spain. From the special collaboration and points of common interest between Spain and Argentina have emerged projects like the creation of the Latin American Virtual Library of Theatre for Children and Young People. It is important to encourage this relationship between countries and people in order to enable the exchange of professionals and experiences, so that the creation of common projects can be easily promoted. This collaborative relationship with María Inés Falconi and

Carlos Urquiza, the Argentinian representatives, and with the members of the Board of ASSITEJ Spain has been strenghtened since the ASSITEJ International Congress, Quebec 2005, with the commitment of directing the support and boost of the associations of Latin American countries.

In the interest of organizing and coordinating common activities that could strengthen the promotion and development of theatre for children and young audiences arises the invitation to participate in the I International Forum of Researchers and Critics of Theatre For Children And Young People, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The invitation has been received with affection and gratitude, being the answer by ASSITEJ Spain of total support and cooperation in the Forum. which fully fits with our approaches, goals and lines of work in the field of research.

This Forum is an ideal setting to display two of the international activities organized by ASSITEJ Spain: The Research Award *Juan Cervera* and the Collection of Essays. Both activities are open to all papers presented in Spanish regardless of the nationality of their authors.

Research Award *Juan Cervera*

The award is announced every two years, which assigns the 2010 announcement the fifth edition. It includes a single award with an endowment of 3,500 euros and the possibility to have the awarded research published after receiving the previous report from the jury and the approval of a reading committee.

The award comes along with a name, Juan Cervera. This name has not been chosen randomly: we aimed to honour the dramatic and research career of Juan Cervera Borrás, as one of the characters in which we could summarize the historical leap carried out in Spain in the second half of the twentieth century in new approaches to dramatic literature for children and young people.

When we study thoroughly his work we realize about the parallel between his scientific and professional live with the development of the Children's Dramatic Literature in Spain, marked by a constant concern and curiosity about the world of children. He started making his debut as an actor, which he later took up again, and continued his career as a screenwriter, director, teacher, playwright and researcher, among many other trades and contributions.

All these values together with the tenacity and perseverance developed throughout his life are extremely remarkable and we want them to serve as an introduction, guide and model for this incipient award.

We think this start-up of the award was absolutely necessary and, in fact, bridges the gap of the abandoned children and young people theatre research. In this short period of implementation, its development has been very positive from the very beginning; the acceptance of the research community, creators, playwrights, etc... There has been a gradual progress in the quality of the presented pieces of work, in the number of participating countries and also in the amount of presented woks. Therefore, a high quality scientific level has been obtained and may be compared to

other researches in the social and humanities field.

The subject matters addressed by the researchers are also varied; some examples of the presented pieces of work are authors biographies, text analysis, production designs, programmes of social assistance, proposals of educational methodology, etc...

The awarded pieces of work are the best example:

Edition	Year	Author	Title
I	2002	Miguel Pacheco (Spain)	*El asombro de Mnemosine*
II	2004	*Not awarded*	
III	2006	Berta Muñoz Cáliz (Spain)	*Panorama actual de los libros teatrales para niños y jovenes en España*
IV	2008	Xabier López Askasibar (Spain)	*Tocar el teatro con las manos o el teatro para niños de Luis Matilla*
V	2011	Evelyn Goldfinger (Argentine)	*Teatro-TV: Modelos de producción televisiva en el teatro para niños*

Hence, the competition guarantees a stable and renowned promising future.

Rules 2010 for V *Juan Cervera* Research Award of Theatre for Children and Young People

1. Authors from any nationality are allowed to participate with pieces of work related to theatre for children or young people and they must have been written in Spanish.

2. The subject matters are free, however curricular proposals, adaptations or reworking will not be accepted. The jury will specially consider the projects that examine the development of a research paradigm with a well differentiated methodological structure in their phases. The pieces of work must be original, unpublished in any type of hardware and they must not have been awarded in any other previous contest. These requirements have to be followed, for the contrary the contestant will be left out of the competition. Only one piece of work is permitted.

3. The original copies have to exceed 70 pages, folio size or A4, typed double–spaced and they have to be written only on one side. Each page must have from 28 to 30 lines and the lines should count on from 65 to 80 characters. They will be presented sewn or bound, in quadruplicate, unsigned and under a slogan, at the ASSITEJ Spain Secretariat (Av. de Baviera, 14. 28028 Madrid. Spain). The heading must only consist of the title and the slogan. The copies must be presented in sealed bid and the outside shall include the title and the slogan and the inside shall include the name, address, a photocopy of the ID or passport and a brief bibliography of the author.

4. The deadline of the original pieces of work cannot be extended and it will finish on the 30th November 2010 at 13:00h. The pieces of work sent by email will be admitted in case the postmark does not exceed the aforementioned deadline.

5. There will only be one and indivisible award of 3,500 euros and a commemorative trophy for the best piece

of work presented in the contest which the Jury will decide upon and can declare it not awarded but cannot divide it. No second prize will be awarded. This award is not on account of the royalties. The awarded author will be the only responsible for the tax obligations arising from the award which are subject to legal holds.

6. The author will be the owner of all the rights of the awarded piece of work. In case of publication, the legend "V *Juan Cervera* Research Award of Theatre for Children and Young People" should appear in the cover and in an outstanding place in the inside. The author is bound to give six copies to ASSITEJ Spain.

7. ASSITEJ Spain will not notify the Jury composition until the decision is made.

8. The members of the Board of Directors of ASSITEJ Spain and the awarded authors in the two previous editions are not allowed to participate in the contest.

9. The decision of the Jury will be unappealable and it will be announced for the public before 28th February 2011.

10. The awarded piece of work may be published by the Association within its Collection of Essays ASSITEJ Spain and it will follow the regular conditions for its publication.

11. ASSITEJ Spain will not return the presented pieces of work; however they can be collected directly by the author or an authorised person at the Secretariat of the Association within three months from the day the Jury gives its decision. After these three months the original

pieces of work that might not have been collected will be destroyed.

12. The participation in this contest means the full acceptance of the aforementioned Rules and the Jury's decision which will be unappealable.

Collection of Essays

In the same line as the award Juan Cervera, ASSITEJ-Spain publishes the Collection of Essays, with three texts already published and two more to be printed this year:

Panorama actual de los libros teatrales para niños y jóvenes en España. Berta Muñoz Cáliz. Madrid, 2006.

Suzane Lebeau: Las huellas de la esperanza. Itziar Pascual. Madrid, 2007.

Tocar el teatro con las manos o el teatro para niños de Luis Matilla. Xabier López Askasibar. Madrid, 2011.

Pedagogía teatral. Guillem D'Efak. Madrid, 2011 (to be printed).

Teatro–TV: Modelos de producción televisiva en el teatro para niños. Evelyn Goldfinger. Madrid, 2012 (to be printed).

Panorama actual de los libros teatrales para niños y jóvenes en España. It is a guide that provides extensive information on almost all the plays for children and young people published in recent years in Spain. It is not limited

to the indispensable bibliographic references but, in most cases, it is rich in the analysis of every single play.

Suzane Lebeau: Las huellas de la esperanza. In the words of the author, "we have taken the proposals and imaginations of Suzanne Lebeau, an essencial author in the scene of theatre for children and teenagers, as an object of study." This is a dialogue between two authors who experience a great complicity in the way they understand and live theatre.

Tocar el teatro con las manos o el teatro para niños de Luis Matilla. Xabier López Askasibar is a young author who presents a detailed study of the works of Luis Mattilla, a contemporary and versatile Spanish author who provides a vision of children's theatre that takes into account the creation of sensitive viewers since childhood.

Pedagogía teatral (Guillem Defak). In this case we wish to publish an original typescript essay of a proposal of a theatrical pedagogy by making an exercise of archeology, since this piece of work has been one of the first well–structured teaching methods in the field of performing arts.

Teatro–TV: Modelos de producción televisiva en el teatro para niños. It is at the moment under revision by the reading committee. The author describes and analyzes in detail a television production model of an Argentinian highly specific theatre and especially of its capital Buenos Aires. This is a production model which perfectly comtrols the world of marketing and merchandising taking advantage of the recent fame of teen idols on television.

I must admit that the expectations I had put in this first Forum have been overcomed for the good in all aspects: organization, quality of the papers, quality of the research community, collaborative environment and, most important, the desire to continue working and collaborating in this line of work.

The collaborative engagement acquired in this Forum by ASSITEJ Spain and myself has been the publication of the proceedings in a monographic print run of the Boletín Iberoamericano edited by our association, in order to enhance the scientific value of all the pieces of work presented.

I want to finish this presentation by encouraging young researchers to continue working and sharing their experiences as well as participating in future forums organized with this same way of critical thinking.

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