I INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF RESEARCHERS AND CRITICS OF THEATRE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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INTRODUCTION
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The publication in Spanish and English that I have the pleasure to present below consists of a collection of papers, reports and experiences presented in this first Forum of Researchers in Buenos Aires 2010. This has come into reality thanks to a good job of organization, a professional collaborating atmosphere and the interest and high quality of the presented researches. The friendly atmosphere that we all have enjoyed during the days of the forum has also been a crucial aspect.

The Forum coincides with the winter holiday period, therefore, the long queues of family audience crowd every single entrance of theatres in Buenos Aires, particularly in the so-called Broadway of Buenos Aires, where the well–known Avenida de Corrientes has the greatest concentration of theatres per square meter than any other big city could ever have.

The city is one of the most beautiful in the world, its people are extremely friendly and hospitable, especially

with the Spaniards after winning the Football World Cup and I can confirm it at first hand. However, what impressed me the most was to be immersed in the time of the great premieres, to have the possibility to enjoy the great variety of publicity boards, the high quality of shows and see by myself that the extensive experience in theatre for children and young people that Argentina has developed can leave anyone flabbergasted. This was one of the best surprises that I enjoyed the most during this experience.

Nevertheless, I have to admit that some tiny doubts can always emerge when an event is organised for the first time especially in an innovative field such as theatre research for children and young people. Therefore, I would like to firstly confirm that all the initial doubts have been dispelled and that the expectations of the event have far exceeded in all aspects of its programming.

Between the 19th and the 23rd of July the I International Forum of Researchers and Critics of Theatre for Children and Young People has been held in the city of Buenos Aires (Argentina). The Forum has been organised by the Association of Independent Artists for Children and Young People (ATINA) with the collaboration of the Argentinian Association of Research and Dramatic Criticism (AINCRIT), the International Theatre Network of Researchers for Children and Young People (ITYARN) and the sponsorship of the International Theatre Association for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ International).

The main goal of this Forum has been to boost the research of the field of Theatre for Children and Young

People providing theoretical support to theatre professionals in order to encourage the development of new tendencies as well as to integrate the researchers into the Latin American international network of researchers.

The key theme of this I Forum has been "The taboo subjects in theatre for children and young people". Lectures have been held as well as presentations, round tables, workshops and the attendance at shows for children and young people. The lectures and presentations have been made both in Spanish and English switching from one language to the other; in other words, if the presentation was in Spanish it was translated into English and if the presentation was originally in English it was also translated into Spanish simultaneously and live. This way of working has benefited the gathering of professionals and the creation of a collaborative atmosphere with a very colloquial and pleasant involvement. Various theoretical frameworks have been raised and the roles of theory in practice and practice in theory have been debated as an exchange platform always from a critic and constructive point of view.

The official activities have taken place in the Cultural Centre of Cooperation, Avenida de Corrientes 1543, Buenos Aires.

The organization has carefully taken care of the attendees providing at all times the necessary material and accommodation which was located in the hotel next to the Cultural Centre, fact that has facilitated our work tremendously.

The selection and programming of shows that we have had the pleasure to attend has been very cared, both in the variety of formats which varied depending on the targeted age groups and in the proposals, theatrical language and staging.

This publication is a way to announce the brilliant research work that is starting to be introduced in different countries, common paradigms used and personal contributions. This collection of experiences offers us an interesting tool to spread and it can be adopted by creators, artists and researchers.

I can only encourage the youngest to continue with this interesting task and congratulate the organizers of this I Forum also encouraging them to create the next forum with the same quality level and cordiality that we all have experienced in the first one.

PAPERS IN ENGLISH