

To all Sections of
ASSITEJ International
(national centres and networks)

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

March 2026

DIRECTORS IN TYA – An International Exchange
23rd – 30th May 2027 in Cologne, Germany

Dear colleagues,

we invite every ASSITEJ centre and ASSITEJ network to nominate one director* for participation in DIRECTORS IN TYA – An International Exchange. A full week is dedicated to an exchange about directing in the performing arts for young audiences. You can meet other directors from all over the world, share your ideas, learn from other professionals and experience TYA in Germany.

DIRECTORS IN TYA – An International Exchange, known globally also as the “International Directors’ Seminar”, takes place every other year. It addresses directors as independent artists in the field of TYA and it is open to all genres and forms of performing arts for young audiences.

DIRECTORS IN TYA – An International Exchange wishes to address directors who have recently given new impulses and set new standards.

In 2027 DIRECTORS IN TYA – An International Exchange will take place from **May 23rd – 30th 2027** at **COMEDIA Theatre Cologne** <https://www.comedia-koeln.de/buehne/theater-fuer-junges-publikum/>

Topic:

CREATING COMMON SPACES

The next edition will be hosted by COMEDIA Theatre Cologne which focusses on common spaces and community-based work in the arts.

COMMON SPACES are places of gathering and togetherness. Places that serve equal exchange, benefit a variety of people and are open to all. They are spaces that belong to those who shape them and are shaped by those who inhabit them. Spaces that are inhabited by communities and themselves give rise to communities themselves.

* By directors, we mean theater professionals from all performing arts disciplines for young audiences, including dance, performance, puppet and object theater.

How can a theatre be a place of encounter? What is either a desire or a claim in many places is already practice and reality elsewhere. But what does this look like? And how is it shaped by, with and for young people?

For one week, COMEDIA Cologne is opening its theatre to the participants of the ASSITEJ Directors Exchange so that they can create their own COMMON SPACE. Which aesthetic practices of shared spaces with children and young people do the individual participants bring with them? Which ones does the group collectively produce? How do these practices shape the space? And how can this idea of COMMON SPACE serve as a blueprint for one's own work for, with and by children and young people?

In your application, we would like you to answer the following questions: What do the COMMON SPACES in which you move look like? How do you create and design these spaces in your own artistic work? How do you (re-)distribute power when creating COMMON SPACES for and with young people? What would you like to bring with you to bring the shared space to life during the ASSITEJ Director's Exchange?

We are looking forward to learning about everybody's experiences, challenges, and ideas regarding these questions.

About 25 directors from all over the world will come to Cologne. We will welcome all participants to bring their ideas and experience. We will enter an exchange on how COMMON SPACES in the arts inspire our TYA practice. Working in small groups will provide enough space and time to explore practically and from different perspectives. Theatre performances by the host theatre and other companies in Cologne as well as leisure activities will complete the week's schedule. We are looking forward to an inspiring exchange!

If you wish to find out more about participants of the past, you will find a list of all previous participants [here](#).

The working language of the seminar is spoken English.

ASSITEJ Germany and COMEDIA Theatre Cologne will cover the costs for accommodation, catering, cultural events and leisure activities for all participants. In general, we will assume that travel costs will be paid either by the participants themselves or by their respective national centre of ASSITEJ. Nonetheless we are willing to support as much as we are able to do (f.ex. applications, Letter of Intent for grants or special fundings). Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need additional support of any kind.

Every ASSITEJ centre and ASSITEJ network is invited to nominate one director to take part in DIRECTORS IN TYA – An International Exchange. The nomination should be stated with a letter of recommendation.

Applicants whose current place of work and residence is Germany have to submit a letter of recommendation from a member theatre (full member of ASSITEJ) with their application.

Only those who have not yet participated in the Directors' Exchange can apply. Individuals from countries without a national ASSITEJ center can apply with a recommendation from a member of ASSITEJ International (individual, network, festival, ASSITEJ center in a neighboring country).

In the desire to guide our selection under artistic issues and not on behalf of regions of war or crisis, we will meet each other as individuals and colleagues, not as representatives of something. Please take a moment to consider this as a guiding principle and Diversity Statement to create a Safe Space for an exchange on artistic working methods for young audiences.

Based on this assumption we welcome applications from all qualified candidates regardless of disability, faith, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, race, or ethnic background.

Please use the [application form](#) to apply. Your application should include a concise CV, a letter of motivation and the letter of recommendation. Apply by no later than **September 1st 2026**. You can also send us your letter of motivation as a video. More information can be found in the application form. You will find the form here: <https://jungespublikum.de/en/events/directors-in-tya-2027/>

For more details do not hesitate to contact directors@jungespublikum.de.

We are looking forward to receive your application.

Sincerely yours.

This call for applications was published by the board and Secretary General of ASSITEJ Germany and COMEDIA Theatre Cologne.

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künste** ASSITEJ
**& junges
publikum**

COMEDIA



Bundesministerium
für Bildung, Familie, Senioren,
Frauen und Jugend

DIRECTORS IN TYA – An International Exchange is expected to be supported by the Federal Ministry for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

Please note: The event can only take place if sufficient funding can be obtained.