

International Playwright Exchange – Writing Across Borders

Open Call

International Playwright Exchange – Writing Across Borders is an international artistic development project for playwrights and dramaturgs working in the field of theatre for children and young audiences. The project is developed and led by ASSITEJ Sweden, Kinder- und Jugendtheaterzentrum in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (KJTZ) and Fonds Podiumkunsten, the Netherlands.

Bringing together participants from Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands, the project creates a space for artistic exchange, professional development and international dialogue. Over the course of three multi-day meetings, each taking place in one of the participating countries, participants will explore contemporary narrative forms, share and reflect on their own artistic practice, and discuss what it means today to write for young audiences in Europe.

We are now inviting playwrights and dramaturgs to apply to become part of the first edition of the project. Three playwrights and/or dramaturgs from each participating country will be selected to take part in the project. The selection process is carried out by a committee consisting of Swedish, German and Dutch professionals, and is based on artistic quality, relevance to the project's focus and the applicant's motivation to engage in an international exchange process.

Who can apply?

Applicants should be professionally active playwrights and/or dramaturgs with an interest in, or experience of, creating work for children and young audiences.

The project welcomes applicants with different artistic backgrounds, working methods and levels of professional experience.

Applicants must be available to participate in all parts of the programme. Please note that applications cannot be considered if you are unable to attend all three physical meetings:

- 19–21 November 2026 – Frankfurt Forum Young Theatre, Germany
- January 2027 – Gathering in the Netherlands
- 3–6 June 2027 – Final meeting and public encounter in Sweden during the Swedish Performing Arts Biennial in Jönköping*

**The trip to Sweden is subject to funding.*

Participants are also expected to take part in digital meetings and ongoing exchange between the physical encounters.

Working language: English.

What does the project offer?

The programme includes three international gatherings in Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. Participants will take part in lectures, discussions, workshops, readings and meetings with playwrights and other professionals working within theatre for young audiences, as well as selected performances and site visits.

Participation is free of charge. Accommodation and travel costs related to the project are covered by the organisers. Participants are responsible for arranging their own travel insurance.

What do we expect from participants?

We are looking for participants who are interested in artistic exchange, international collaboration and building long-term professional relationships across borders. Participants are expected to contribute actively to discussions, share their artistic perspectives and engage openly with the work and experiences of others.

Selection Criteria

The selection will be based on:

- Artistic quality and a clear engagement with playwriting and/or dramaturgical practice.
- Interest in theatre for children and young audiences.
- Openness to artistic exchange, collaboration and international dialogue.
- Curiosity towards contemporary narratives, dramaturgical exploration and new perspectives on theatre for young audiences.

The final group will be selected with the ambition of creating a diverse and dynamic cohort in terms of artistic approaches, experience, backgrounds and perspectives.

We strive to accommodate a variety of access needs and are committed to fostering an open, inclusive and non-discriminatory environment.

Application Process

Applications should include:

- A short motivation letter (In English and maximally 300 words)

- A CV
- Information about the applicant's current artistic practice and primary audience age group(s)

Application deadline: 22 September 2026.

Apply here: <https://forms.gle/DHRfMQaEU8damogo9>

The final selection will be made jointly by ASSITEJ Sweden, KJTZ and Fonds Podiumkunsten.

You will be informed about the outcome of the application process no later than 30 September 2026.

For questions please contact:

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A collaboration between



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