

# DANISH-TURKISH THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES SHOWCASE

October 30, 2015

**“THEATRE AS ENPOWERMENT METHODOLOGY OF PEACEFULLNES”**

## **To Whom It May Concern**

We are very happy to be able to plan a Danish-Turkish Theatre for Young Audiences Showcase, between 9-15 October 2016 in İstanbul. Danish-Turkish cooperation on theatre for young audiences has always been quite fruitful, especially very inspiring and informative. We wish to take a step forward with a Danish TYA showcase and give chance to more artists and audience to share the Danish rich children’s theatre experience.

Although it is not the first time we work in cooperation with Danish TYA companies this is, we believe, the most important one so far because of the political and social situation in the World, especially in our part of the World in these days.

Unfortunately we all have been witnessing the war and refugee problems for a long time. We all see, feel and live the inevitable consequences of this threatening environment. The World around us is becoming more and more unsafe and dangerous. But the situation is unbearable for those who are living in it. We all have to show empathy to those people who are in urgent need of a decent, secure life. We all know very well that children are the most vulnerable victims of war. They have to be protected and supported by us. This social reality gives us an important responsibility to suport peace, develop emphaty and solidarity.

Danish-Turkish Theatre for Young Audiences Showcase takes the above mentioned responsibility as a goal. Theatre is based on empathy; every person involved in a performance- each artist and each member of audience-have to have or develop emphaty during the process. Emphaty is the key for solidarity and peace. Thus the idea of having a theatre project for young audiences have the power of reaching this very aim.

Within this Project framework five Danish theatre companies are cordially invited by ASSITEJ (International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People) Turkey to join for Danish Turkish Theatre for Young Audiences Showcase, between 9-15 October 2016 in Istanbul. Besides performances workshops and seminars on contemporary way of doing theater for young audiences will be complementary for the whole process. In the same way, 1 or 2 theater companies from Turkey could perform in Denmark, especially for Turkish children.

Throughout the days in Istanbul we will be glad to host Danish theatre people and artists in which we cooperate to share artistic experiences and intercultural peaceful ideas for children and young people. All costs of Danish theatre people and groups in Istanbul will be covered by our organisation. ASSITEJ Turkey wants to cooperate with non-governmental organisations, universities, official schools, Danish firms in Turkey, Danish Cultural organisation, municipalities etc. to sustain this international project. We wish to Danish institutions to help our partnership organisation (ASSITEJ Denmark).

Thank you for your continuous cooperation. We look forward to welcoming you in Istanbul to create a project in an international atmosphere and discover the beautiful surroundings of Istanbul.

**Best Regards,**

**Prof. Dr. Tülin Sağlam**  
**Head of ASSITEJ Turkey &**  
**Head of History and Theory Branch of Theatre**  
**Department**  
**Ankara University**



## **Description of Purposes:**

Nowadays as we have seen, all of the European countries and Turkey, faces with a deep tragedy about refugees. Both Denmark and Turkish students witness children's death, poverty, discrimination, abuse etc. problems. Children and young people are getting more prejudicial and relentless due to outstanding conditions. In Turkey, we struggle with authoritarian politics and anti-democratic attitudes for against Turkish citizens. Especially, multiculturalism is not really internalized by Turkish public opinion.

This project is based upon the importance of brotherhood and friendship between Danish and Turkish people by using the power of theatre. Danish children and young people theatre tradition is marvellous in all over the world. Aesthetically, Danish children and young people theatre is a good example for Turkish children's understanding and pedagogical perceive. We believe that Danish theatre companies will enhance peaceful attitudes of our children by using the aesthetic power of theatre.

This project aims at transferring the learning approach based on theatre successfully implemented by Danish theatre companies to increase cultural awareness of European values and humanistic approach for Turkish children and young people.

### ***The ethical value of this theatre project based on aspects such as:***

- The student considered as an individual will be improved when they see Danish theatre performances.
- The attention to individual gender, ethnic, religious differences will be enhanced when they witness Danish theatre showcase.
- Sharing and collaboration in learning and doing about democratic values.
- The ability to choose and find out proper solutions will be increased.
- Enable Turkish students to become leading, responsible and cooperative actors, in charge of their own education
- Allow the acquisition and development of the key and transversal skills
- Develop awareness in learning European values.
- Encourage learning to learn unprejudicedness.
- Increase cooperation between Danish and Turkish artists, educators and NGO's.
- Enhance new projects creation and economical partnerships between Danish and Turkish people.

## **Possible Partners of the Project**

**ASSITEJ TURKEY-** [www.assitej.org.tr](http://www.assitej.org.tr)

**ANKARA UNIVERSITY-** [www.ankara.edu.tr](http://www.ankara.edu.tr)

**BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY-** [www.boun.edu.tr](http://www.boun.edu.tr)

**BOGAZIÇI PERFORMING ARTS ENSEMBLE-** [www.bgst.org](http://www.bgst.org)

**THEATRETEM-** [www.tiyatrotem.com](http://www.tiyatrotem.com)

**THEATRE TEMPO-** [www.tiyatrotempo.com](http://www.tiyatrotempo.com)

**THEATRE BeReZe-** [www.tiyatrobereze.com](http://www.tiyatrobereze.com)

**DOGA SCHOOLS-** [www.dogaokullari.com](http://www.dogaokullari.com)

**SISLI TERAKKI SCHOOLS-** [www.terakki.org.tr](http://www.terakki.org.tr)

## **BOĞAZIÇI UNİVERSİTESİ, BOĞAZIÇI GÖSTERİ SANATLARI TOPLULUĞU/ BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY, BOGAZICI PERFORMING ARTS ENSEMBLE**

**The Bogazici Performing Arts Ensemble (BGST)** was founded in 1995 by the graduates of Bogazici University who wanted to continue their artistic activities after graduation. Since then, the Ensemble has continued its artistic works and studies in four areas; theatre, dance, music and social researches. (These four divisions of BGST sometimes works independently, and at other times, on collaborative projects.) TYA is one of the areas which we have prioritised in our last five years and created four different productions and workshops.

BGST assumes an education/research based approach rather than a production-based one, and shapes its products within this practice. In addition, BGST freely shares its theoretical works, practical activities, results obtained and translations through BGST Publications.

BGST aims to contribute to the artistic environment of Turkey by providing alternative and high-quality products. At the same time, as a matter of principle, it takes part in the struggle to come up with answers to Turkey's political situation, and shapes its products within the framework of democracy and multiculturalism. BGST is located in Istanbul.

## **TİYATROTEM/THEATRETEM**

From The Narrating Tradition To Contemporary Theatre. Since 1982 Sehsuvar Aktas and Ayse Selen have been working both together and individually with several theater companies. Their credits include directing, assistant directing, acting for the stage, TV and film, screenwriting, and professional translations. Since 2000 they have been working as the founding partners of the company. The plays of tiyatrottem have the characteristic traces of tekerleme (repartee), symmetry/repetition of events, situations and expressions, imitations, wrong pronunciations, awareness of being in the play, going out of the role in performance, creating role in role, multiple levels of acting in performance, alienation effects, irony and the grotesque, all of which can also be found in Turkish traditions of storytelling and performing arts. We think that, studies and exercises in puppetry, Karagöz, ortaoyunu (improvisational theatre), meddah (storytelling) and tekerleme (repartee) reveal that storytelling and following folk theatre practices swing between the tradition of creating and breaking illusions and performing texts that refer to themselves. Tiyatrottem is located in Istanbul.

## **DOĞA OKULLARI/ DOGA SCHOOLS**

Doğa Schools was founded with one campus in 2002. Since then we have been working constantly to actualize our vision and simultaneously increase our quality. During 2005-2006 we saw a significant growth and opened over 5 campuses in Istanbul. In 2008 we began opening Doğa Schools in various cities around Turkey. Within a few years we saw a tremendous growth and success in Doğa and in 2013 we opened an additional 13 new campuses in Istanbul and currently have 40 in Istanbul alone. In 2013 we also continue with the expansion throughout different cities in Turkey. As of the academic year of 2013-2014 Doğa has a total of 85 campuses in Turkey. In two years we will be expanding this number to 100 in Turkey.

## **TİYATRO BeReZe/THEATRE BeReZe**

Tiyatro BeReZe was founded in 2006 by three friends from the Department of Theatre at Ankara University; Firuze Engin, Elif Temuçin and Erkan Uyanıksoy. The theatre launched its first production "While You Were Away" by Elif Temuçin in 2008, on March 20th, at the International Children and Youth Theatre Day. BeReZe has been actively making theatre since. Tiyatro BeReZe's crew academically trained and practicing in writing, acting, directing, puppetry, object theatre, physical theatre and storytelling; prefers to devise original pieces. Based in Istanbul, BeReZe continues to make theatre for adults and young audiences.