

WPIC 2012 - an opportunity to meet, to build networks, to create genuine, lasting contacts between women playwrights and theatre professionals. Our aim is to have a supporting impact on cooperations and to build bridges between people from different parts of the world.

More info, go to

<http://wpic.riksteatern.se>

Mail adress **wpic@riksteatern.se**

Contact Mireille Bergenström, project manager

Homepage for WPI, **www.wpinternational.net**



Feel free to spread this news letter among your colleagues!

9th Women Playwrights International Conference Stockholm - Sweden 15-20 august 2012

Theme: THE DEMOCRATIC STAGE

Newsletter #4-2012

Time to register for the conference!

**You must register your conference participation!
That counts for everybody, even if your play has been selected.**

My e-mail is bursting with messages with questions like: *Is Stockholm a dangerous city to walk in? Do I have to grab a taxi to get to my hostel in the Old City?* My answer is: *You can safely walk on foot.* Stockholm is a nice, clean city with mostly friendly people and many of them speak English. During this week you can also experience the Stockholm Culture Festival which offers a lot of out door concerts for free. That means there will be a lot of people at night, moving in the streets.

The conference starts on Wednesday 15th August in the early afternoon with a speed dating for novices and veterans, a way to get to know each other right from the beginning.

The closing ceremony will take place on Monday 20th August in the afternoon/evening.

Have a look at Stockholm!

The WPI conference will have a tight schedule with readings, seminars, panel discussions and performances. If you want to get a closer look at the city of Stockholm, maybe take a boat trip into the archipelago or visit Drottningholm Castle and Theatre (a World Heritage), I recommended that you add a day or two to your stay. On the WPIC website you'll find suggestions on what to do.

A good idea is to plan your trip now and, as soon

as possible, book your accomodation. For hostel suggestions, check our web site.

<http://wpic.riksteatern.se>

You must register your conference participation! (That counts for everybody, even if your play has been selected).

At the web you can choose how to pay:

- use your creditcard (there might be a slight problem - we use Security Code for your safety. But you'll find information on how to deal with that on the web **<http://wpic.riksteatern.se/problems-with-online-payment>**)
- choose to get an invoice by e-mail. When you've paid and we received the money, we'll send your ticket by e-mail.

Any questions? Feel free to mail us!

Welcome to Stockholm!!

Mireille Bergenström

project manager for the Stockholm WPIC 2012

Follow us on Facebook!

On our Facebook page, we will post all the latest news about the conference as well as interesting links and other information. Join us at

<http://www.facebook.com/WPIC2012>.

FIVE MONTHS TO GO!

We are getting closer to August and the Women Playwrights International Conference in Stockholm! I am looking so much forward!



I have been to Stockholm several times during the last two years and met with our wonderful hosts. We are in the safest hands, and there are also extremely many smart, decent and clever people advising and helping out. Project leader Mireille Bergenström has gathered an impressive group of advisors from different organizations in Sweden and good ideas and wise comments have been contributed to our discussions. I am sure the conference will profit from this creative think tank!

The selection of plays is completed now. We have invited 105 plays to be represented by readings – mostly excerpts (due to time) – and some few as performances. The selected plays are written by playwrights from 45 different countries around the entire world!

I want to stress the fact that the selection process has not been an ordinary competition. A lot of dramaturges and playwrights, both Swedish and international, has been involved in the selection process and apart from artistic quality they have also taken into consideration themes, geographical representation and diversity.

It has been an important part of the selection process to make possible that playwrights and other theaterpeople from all around the world will come together and renew old or create new networks. All people attending the conference will have the same chances to do this! I also hope a lot of men will attend this time – we want women on stage, but surely also men in the audience! If you plan to come, please bring one!

Now we have a fantastic group of plays from all around the world, and the next big challenge is to get people to come! Our hosts in Sweden are concerned about how the playwrights shall be able to attend the conference, the cost for travel and stay will be high, even if all is done to lower the prices as much as possible. We are considering all possible ways to help, guide or even apply for money to help people to come.

We are grateful for the Norwegian Fund (contribu-

ted by The Writers Guild of Norway) which will help some of our playwrights, but there still will be many playwrights in need for funding. I must stress how important it is that you check out any possibility in your own country to get support. But I guess most of you have all possible funding checked out already and know exactly what to do – or what not to do. Please remember that all people who want to attend the conference can get a letter of invitation from WPIC if that might help in order to get funding.

I can promise a conference filled with interesting key note speeches, seminars, panel discussions, workshops, performances and a lot of interesting readings from plays by very different playwrights. We will get the chance to hear and learn about extremely different working conditions and realities – along with playwriting which also reflects these diverse realities.

Now Mireille and the team in Sweden, including myself, are focused on putting together the programme, and make the last decisions on what, when, how and why – all the different events will be presented. I can assure you that a lot of effort is put into this work, and I really look forward to being able to present the official programme – in just some weeks!

See you in Stockholm!

March 20th, 2012

Lene Therese Teigen

WPI president/conference convenor

Looking for funding?

Some suggestions where you might apply for funding. Check it out!

LabforCulture

Visit LabforCulture website if you're looking for funding. LabforCulture work with and for artists, arts and culture organisations and networks, cultural professionals and audiences in the 50 countries of Europe, as well as providing a platform for cultural cooperation between Europe and the rest of the world.

This site is a great help to find foundation suitable for you. Foundations across Europe differ widely in their focus, aims, procedures and legal structures. Some are solely operational, while others offer grants to individuals, organisations or projects. Some grant-making foundations have a primarily cultural raison d'être and others have broadly defined policies in diverse areas. Check it out it might be something interesting for you.

<http://www.labforculture.org/en/funding/contents/foundations>

European Cultural Foundation - STEP Beyond Travel Grants

STEP - which stands for 'Supporting Travel for European Partnerships' - Beyond Travel Grants support movement of people across European borders by providing between €250 and €700. These travel grants support individual artists and cultural workers travelling across borders in a wider European space, to explore, network and set up new collaborations.

STEP Beyond Travel grants fund up-and-coming artists and cultural workers - with a priority to individuals up to 35 years and/or in the first 10 years of their career - to travel between EU and countries bordering the EU.

Among other countries STEP support artists and cultural workers based in one of the following countries: Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Macedonia (FYROM), Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, Russian Federation, Serbia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

They especially welcome applications for STEP Beyond Travel Grants from these regions: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, Syria and Tunisia.

How To Apply

There is no deadline for this grant scheme, it operates on a rolling basis, so you can apply at any time. The selection process takes up to one month.

For more information on how to apply, a list of eligible countries and travel destinations, and to access the application form, go to

http://www.eurocult.org/sites/www.eurocult.org/files/Guidelines_STEP_2012_1.pdf

Do you need a VISA to Sweden?

All Swedish Embassies and Consulates in the countries concerned have been informed about the WPI conference. However, you must apply personally for a visa. Apply at your nearest Swedish Embassy or Consulate no later than May 1st.

Information on Swedish Embassies and Consulates can be found at <http://www.swedenabroad.com/>

If you need a letter of invitation for this purpose, please send an e-mail to wpic@riksteatern.se

Etel Adnan Award 2012

Now is the time to apply for the third and last Etel Adnan Award for Women Playwrights. Organizers: The Al-Madina Theatre of Beirut and Riksteatern, the Swedish National Touring Theatre. The winner will be presented at the WPI conference in Stockholm.

Purpose

The Etel Adnan Award for Women Playwrights aspires to increase the number of plays penned by women writers residing in the Arabic-speaking countries. The mission is to disseminate submitted plays in the Arab-speaking region, also elsewhere, particularly in Sweden, which hosts a wide-spread Diaspora from the Middle East.

Prize

One play will be selected by a jury. The laureate will be rewarded the sum of USD 5000, as well as the opportunity to be translated into English. Each play will be presented at a reading during the 2012 WPI Conference.

Jury

A jury comprising of scholars, professional playwrights and other artists from the Arabic-speaking region and Sweden will select the play.

Where to send the play:

Name: Masrah Al Madina

Address: Saroula BLDG, Hamra Street, Beirut, Lebanon

e-mail: eteladnanawards@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.almadinatheatre.com/#!/news>

Submission Deadline for the 2012 Award:

Tuesday 10th July 2012.

Submission guidelines

- The play must be written by a woman residing in an Arabic-speaking country.
- Do NOT send the entire play. Please, send an excerpt that is 10 pages long (please, send an excerpt/passage, not an abstract).
- Each playwright may only submit one play on annual basis.
- The play may not entail more than six actors on stage (the number of characters in the play is unlimited)
- The play must be submitted in Arabic, or French or English (or a combination of the two or three listed languages), in digital and hard copy using standard script formatting, with cover or title sheet.
- Do NOT include your name on the play.
- The play must be accompanied by a letter containing playwright's name, address, telephone number, email address, and a short biography (one paragraph).
- Enclose an email address and a self-addressed, stamped envelope with adequate postage for return of play. Plays received without return envelope and adequate postage will be recycled.



Nidal Al Achkar, head of Al Madina Theatre, and the winner Lana Nasser.

Lana Nasser, the winner of the 2011 Etel Adnan Award

The jury has chosen Lana Nasser from Jordan and her play *In Lost and found: The Red Suitcase* for the 2011 Etel Adnan Award.

As representative for the jury, Nidal Al Achkar emphasized that the play had distinguished itself through its innovative theme and the playwright's personal writing style.

(In 2010, the award was given to the Lebanese writer Valerie Cachard.)

Powerful Female Creative Forces expected in Stockholm

It is an excitement to look forward to WPIC in Stockholm. While coordinating the process of selection, I was exhaustingly hungry to read as many plays as possible. This was a unique chance to take a temperature of the female creative forces around the world. As I finished script after script, I felt stronger and stronger. Blood streamed through my vessels and I felt alive, alert and proud.

Several playwrights write about the condition of society, global or local. An area so often considered a privilege for men to describe. Today, in 2012, I am really pleased that we can get a picture of the human conditions in different parts of the world from different female artists. It makes me happy that creative women living in a democracy or a

dictatorship can come together to meet and discuss their professional and human experiences. Talk art, talk society, talk politics.

Many of you write about the female identity from a psychological or a sociological perspective. Well, after the readings we can consider Freud to be passé – the female is not at all that dark continent, he just didn't discover... His colleague Melanie Klein found out much more, but still today we are digging and it is a kick to find new angles of the subject.

There are stories of female heroes, struggling with obstacles inwards and outwards, in order to find their own way to live.

Besides the cultural differences, there are universal themes that unite those scripts. And it is interesting to discover how storytelling finds its own dramaturgies all around the world.

I will now hand over my task to **Veronica Zacco**, veronica.zacco@riksteatern.se. She will collect the excerpts for reading and administrate actors, directors and playwrights.

It has been a great pleasure to discover so many interesting and globally important playwrights.

See you in Stockholm!

Sigrid Herrault

WPIC 2012 administrator - the selection of plays

FACTS:

Almost 600 plays from more than 60 countries were submitted. Out of these, 107 plays from 46 countries were finally selected for the conference.

You'll find the complete list on the web site:

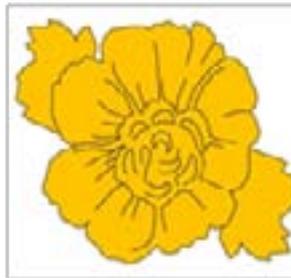
<http://wpic.riksteatern.se>



Sigrid Herrault.



Veronica Zacco.



Team WPIC in Stockholm

Working with the WPIC 2012 is great fun and much to do.

This is the *Team WPIC* in Stockholm:



Karin Claeson project assistant, the web site and social media.

Marie Bergdahl project assistant, embassy contacts, PR.

Veronica Zacco administrator of the readings.

Mireille Bergenström project manager.



Working with the conference program: left **Ninna Tersman**, dramaturge, **Marie Bergdahl** and **Karin Claeson**, trainees, **Mireille Bergenström**, project manager, and **Rani Kasapi**, head of the international development, Riksteatern.