



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](mailto:wpic@riksteatern.se)**

Contact Mireille Bergenström, project manager

Homepage for WPI, **[www.wpinternational.net](http://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 #5-2012**

**Final day of registration: June, 1st**

*You must register your conference participation!*

**That counts for everybody, even if your play has been selected.**

**<http://wpic.riksteatern.se>**

You must register your conference participation! That counts for everybody, even if your play has been selected or you're going to take part in a seminar or debate.

At the web you can choose how to pay:

- use your creditcard - there might be a 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.

### **Accommodation**

The hostels we'd pre-booked are now full. Look at the web for more suggestions. Or use the website **[hotel.com](http://hotel.com)**. The venue Södra Teatern is situated in the southern part of the city, metro station Slussen.

Any questions? Feel free to mail us!

***Welcome to Stockholm!!***

**Mireille Bergenström**

project manager for the Stockholm WPIC 2012

### **Follow us on Facebook and twitter!**

**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>.**

**We're also on <http://twitter.com/wpic2012>**

# A REAL MEETING!

The WPI conference in august will be fantastic. The conference is made out of a lot of different components. Of course all the events that will take place will make it interesting to participate. We will be able to learn about theatre art in the arab countries, in africa and in the baltic countries, among others. We will learn more about childrens theatre from extremely experienced people. We will have the opportunity to meet the scandinavian writers guilds and to learn more about copyright. There will be a lot of good performances and information about projects to come and projects that was done a hundred years ago. There will also be workshops on writing, workshops on leadership, and introduction to web-based self-presentation. And a lot lot more.

And up front there will be the readings of plays coming from 46 different countries in the world. Professional english-speaking actors will contribute along with directors who will lead discussions and talk to the playwrights. Every day between 2pm and 5pm the readings will take place in 4 different rooms at the theatre.

Not only will we have a fantastic venue in the middle of Stockholm – the old beautiful Södra Teatern – This theatre will be "our" home from the 15th to the 20th of august. There are small and big rooms, a main stage, bars, restaurants, cafés, an outdoor terrace; it is just a fantastic place.

WPIIC will have a private "green room", open from 6pm every night, a place of our own – where we can meet, talk, read aloud, sing and dance, laugh and cry – and discuss serious matters. We will have an open microphone for spontaneous use! The green room will be open until 1am every night. We will also be able to



meet for a chat and some coffee or tea every morning from 9 – at the Södra Teatern. And the events start at 10am every day. In other words: We will have a perfect frame for our informal and formal meetings in Stockholm.

But talking and explaining what a Women Playwrights International Conference is, must first and foremost be to try to describe what happens when so many different people with so different experiences from so many different places in the world actually meet face to face.

What happens when we listen in on readings and can talk to the writer just like that, right afterwards, or when we can sit side by side in an audience listening to serious reflections about the world situation and how theatre workers cope – and then be able to continue talking about the topic afterwards – with people that have extremely different experiences from all around the world. Or when the different delegates actually can have informal elaborations on what feminism means in different contexts.

It is an amazing experience. It is inspiring, it is a learning experience, it makes us listen closer, it makes us realize that there is a lot of different conditions for making theatre, for writing plays, for living in society – for women, for men. We know this intellectually, but meeting each other make us realize what the differences mean in another way. We internalize it in our bodies, may be – in quite another way. So by meeting face to face with colleagues from all around the world we get a rare opportunity to understand more about the world. And I think that these meetings actually can and will change our lives.

See you in Stockholm!

May 18th 2012,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lene Therese Teigen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Lene Therese Teigen**

*WPI president/conference convenor*

# WPI: HOW IT HAPPENED

The First International Women Playwrights Conference—held in Buffalo, New York in 1988—was the work of an ad hoc group of playwrights, academics and other supporters, largely from Buffalo and New York City. Some were experienced organizers; many were not. But we were all motivated by the dream of bringing women playwrights together from around the world—to meet one another, share their work, discuss their lives, their struggles, their achievements and discoveries. The success of that first conference led a group of Canadians to organize a second one in Toronto in 1991, also on an ad hoc basis.

But there was no "parent" organization convening or guiding these conferences—definitely a problem for conference organizers. By 1989, the International Center for Women Playwrights (ICWP) had been founded in Buffalo to serve as a communications center for women playwrights, transmitting information about ongoing conferences through

mailed newsletters and faxes. The ICWP also organized readings of works by women playwrights and other activities in Buffalo.

But we still needed an internationally based organizing body. The first steps were taken at the 2nd IWPC in Toronto in 1991. An International Advisory Committee (composed of representatives of each country participating in the conference) was chosen to determine the site of the 3rd International Women Playwrights Conference: Adelaide Australia in 1994, followed by the 4th IWPC in Galway, Ireland, in 1997.

Between 1994 and 1997, the ICWP went on-line with the development of the ICWP-listserv. The local ICWP office in Buffalo was closed, and by 1997 the ICWP had become a "virtual" internet-based "center" for women playwrights—an important support network for many women playwrights, facilitating the exchange of personal as well as professional communications. But the ICWP no

longer maintained a primary focus on supporting the ongoing international conferences. And many recognized a need for greater communication, guidance, and support for the conference organizers. At the 4th IWPC in Galway in 1997, there was a call for the development of an international organization of women playwrights, dedicated to continuing the international women playwrights' conferences. A committee of IWPC participants from Australia, Greece, India, Nigeria, Sweden and the U.S. were chosen to make this happen. They developed a structure and by-laws for a new organization, which was incorporated as Women Playwrights International and approved at the 5th IWPC in Athens in 2000. The first election of an international WPI Committee of Management followed at the conference in Athens.

After 2000, the Conference title was switched from IWP Conference to WPI Conference. So the next three conferences (in the Philippines, Indonesia and India) were the 6th, 7th, and 8th Women Playwrights International Conferences. The title change reflects the change to an incorporated, internationally based organization.

And now—Stockholm! The 9th Women Playwrights International Conference. Those of us who have participated in earlier conferences look forward to this exciting event—to encountering old friends and making new ones—learning about the lives and work of women playwrights from around the world. We are particularly eager to meet those who will become the participants, the organizers and the leaders of the future.

**Anna Kay Frances**



# WPIC 2012 program - preliminary schedule

We are happy to present the preliminary program for the Women Playwrights International Conference 2012!

The program will be continuously updated. Time and place for the activities listed will be added later.

You can also have a look at the website: <http://wpic.riksteatern.se>

**Please note that changes in the program will occur!**

All days (except for Wednesday) will start with coffee/tea and mingle from 9 to 10 am. At 10 am, there will be keynote speeches, seminars, workshops etc. There will be readings of the selected plays every afternoon between 2 and 5 pm. After all the scheduled activities, you will find opportunities to meet, perform on the open stage, chat and have a drink in our "green room" every day until late.

## Wednesday, August 15th

Welcome to Stockholm! The conference starts Wednesday, August 15th with check-in from 1 pm, mingle and speed dating for all the participants to get to know one another. There will also be presentations of WPI and the conference history, from 1988 until today. A formal reception and opening ceremony will take place in the evening, at the famous Stockholm City Hall.

- Check-in and registration from 1 pm
- Seminar: The Herstory
- Speed dating
- Opening ceremony at Stockholm City Hall

## Thursday, August 16th

The second day of the conference will have an Arabic theme, presenting keynote speakers Nidal Al-Achkar from Al Madina Theatre, Mona Knio from Beirut University and Egyptian journalist Sondos Shabayek. The Etel Adnan Award for women playwrights will also be presented. The performances include "Lost and Found: The Red Suitcase" by Lana Nasser, who won the Etel Adnan Award 2011. This is the Scandinavian première for her play.

- Keynote speech: Women in the Arab World
- The Etel Adnan Award
- Readings 2-5 pm
- Seminar: Female representation on stage
- Performance: Scandinavian première of "The Red Suitcase" by Lana Nasser
- Performance: "Blues Angels" by Beverly Andrews

## Friday, August 17th

On Friday the 17th, there will be many workshops and presentations, including a workshop on women and leadership with Swedish WISP and who to get into the net, seminars on staging gender, community theatre projects in India and Indonesia. Young writers around the Baltic Sea will be presented, as well as several performances.

- Readings 2-5 pm
- Workshop: WISP
- Workshop: Mapping Yourself
- Workshop: Red Riding Hood
- Workshop/Seminar Women and Creating – rights and possibilities
- Seminar: Staging gender
- Seminar: The Swedish Drama Web
- Seminar: Community theatre
- Seminar: Female portrayals of society
- Presentation: "Genjer"
- Presentation: Young women playwrights around the Baltic Sea
- Performance: "Vilde" by Tale Næss
- Performance: "Self Portrait" by Ana Mendes
- Performance: "The Red Suitcase" by Lana Nasser





# Etel Adnan Award 2012

**Now it's 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.**

***Submission Deadline for the 2012 Award:***

**Tuesday 10th July 2012.**

## **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 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.