

10th Women Playwrights International Conference Cape Town - South Africa 2015 | *Newsletter #5*



TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR PLAY FOR CAPE TOWN!
Last day of submission 1 December 2013

Also, have you ideas for workshops?
Send an e-mail to wpic2015@gmail.com
no later than 31 January 2014!
More info further down.

WPIC is 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.

WPI was founded in 1988 and held its first conference in Buffalo, New York, USA. Two hundred women from over 30 countries were in attendance. Since then, women playwrights have gathered in Canada, Ireland, Greece, Australia, the Philippines, Indonesia, India and Sweden. The 10th conference will be held 2015 on Cape Town, South Africa.

You can follow us on twitter [@womenplaywright](https://twitter.com/womenplaywright)
You can mail us on wpic2015@gmail.com

Feel free to spread this news letter among your colleagues!



Homepage for WPI, www.wpinternational.net

Words from our president:



Hello all WPI-members!

We are getting close to being exactly in between conferences. In just about a month's time we will start to slowly feel how we approach the conference in South Africa for real. First and foremost - All you talented people, please: Don't forget to submit your plays now – the deadline is closing in on us! In my calendar I have plotted the time I need to submit my play. Then we just have to cross our fingers. Not all of us will get chosen, but there are other ways of getting to go: Please note that the WPIC 2015-group also asks us to submit ideas for workshops!

It is with great joy I follow what work the WPI-group in South Africa is doing and I look so much forward. To go there, and to meet you people there! I also really appreciate the theme of Words – which have been presented, so

many interesting ways of discussing the creation of plays and performances emerges.

So we are looking ahead, which actually means that we also know that there has been a past. Let's look back: This time we have the pleasure of presenting Aiki Bacopoulou-Halls' account of the 5th WPI-conference in Greece in 2000. Thank you for sharing with us. This really gives all the WPI-members, myself included, who weren't yet part of WPI, the opportunity to feel the link from the start in 1988 and up to present time. Once again I am struck by the fact that a lot of very special strongminded women have contributed their energy to our organization. Thank you.

Work well, live well, fight and breathe.

Lene Therese Teigen

WPI President

therteig@online.no

Cape Town 2015 - latest news

Planning is underway for the 2015 WPI Conference in Cape Town. We are thrilled to have received so many submissions already, but don't forget that submissions close on 1 December. Submit here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1wEQDvNYtMaZxuo2ld5LceBqw8clWtHjPTCrZvh-IJss/viewform>

We're also accepting proposals for workshops. Do you have an idea for an inspiring, practical workshop that would tie in with our themes:

Beyond Words: scripting plays that explore the physical, the visual, the digital or the aural - new texts for new mediums

In Other Words: working with texts that are multilingual, for multilingual audiences, or are in translation

Choice of Words: the editing process, including working with directors, dramaturgs or workshoped productions

Our Own Words: writing for yourself, autobiographical works, biography, memoir, or writing for your own performance

If you believe you have something exciting for us, mail us at wpic2015@gmail.com, subject "workshop" with:

- a 50 word description of your workshop
- a one paragraph biography
- a one sentence motivation for how it fits one of our themes

Workshop proposals should reach us by 31 January 2014.

Looking forward to sharing more details of the conference with you soon.

**Amy, Karen, Zara, Fatima,
Patricia, Sondos**

WPIC ATHENS - DELPHI 1-7 OCTOBER 2000

Aliki Bacopoulou-Halls remembers

As a lover of theatre I have engaged in various aspects of the dramatic art, teaching, serving in the Hellenic Centre of the International Theatre Institute for 17 years, assisting Melina Mercouri develop her visionary project of Municipal Theatres in Greece.

Looking back I consider all these aspects as an unconscious effort to pay back a debt to the Art that had given me so much, had enriched my life and my understanding of humanity.

I owe a great part of my faith in women to Anna Kay France and Eva Johnson, both of whom I met in the first WPI Conference in Buffalo, N.Y. The participants in that Conference impressed me as a group of powerful creators with important messages they needed to convey not only to their fellow playwrights but to the world at large as well.

I attended the Conferences in Toronto,

Adelaide and Galway. The initial inspiration and the dynamics in all those meetings brought about the realization that there had

the Conference in Athens-Delphi in 2000 the preparatory group organized the first elections for WPI.



Deepa Mehta, keynote speaker and film maker, with Maureen Andrew, Australian singer/actor.

The Conference Conveners were Roberta Uno, a very hard worker, and Anna Kay France from Buffalo, USA. There were also Margareta Skanze, who came to Greece for the initial contacts with authorities and possible sponsors. Lia Vitali, a playwright, coined the title of the Conference: Eros Theatrou, Dr Lia Hatzopoulou-Karavia, playwright-actress, led the text selection committee, many Greek and foreign women of the theatre took part in the two preparatory meetings in Athens. Renate Klett, the German theatre critic and festival organizer, advised me on several issues and Gordon House, Director of the BBC Drama Division was also instrumental in promotion internationally.

to be a formal organization to promote the interests of the women around the globe who worked and expressed themselves in Theatre. Therefore, together with the usual activities of

The Conference was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture, the University of Athens and the European Cultural Centre of





Delphi. The first session in the Ceremony Hall of Athens University started with a blessing from Ellen Stewart followed by addresses by actress Eva Kotamanidou, playwright Iakovos Kambanellis, Anna Fonsou, actress-President of the Hellenic Association of Actors, and Melpo Zarokosta, president of the Greek Playwrights Association.

Past Conference Organisers were honoured and Domna Samiou and her musicians played and sang traditional Greek folk songs.

Lectures, rehearsed readings, seminars, workshops, panel discussions, ad hoc presentations and performances were held on campus in Aula, the big amphitheatre, in smaller amphitheatres or classrooms and in downtown theatre venues kindly offered by theatre people.

The Keynote Speakers were Deepa Mehta, film director, Marie Louise O'Donnell, Senior Lecturer at Dublin University, Louise Page, playwright, Ellen Stewart, Founder/Artistic Director of La Mama, Eleni Varopoulou, theatre critic, and Timberlake Wertenbaker, playwright.

For the last two days of the Conference we went to Delphi. The facilities of the European Cultural Centre included accommodation, conference hall, smaller rooms for rehearsed readings/performances and an open air theatre. Both in Athens and at Delphi there was simultaneous translation from Greek to English and vice versa. During the stay at Delphi the participants went on a historical tour of the place and on our final evening there was a dinner party at the famous taverna of the town, «Symposium».

I believe the performance *Electra:Victimizer/Victim* –on our last day at Delphi- by the leading Greek actress Lydia Coniordou was one of the most memorable events of the Conference. It epitomized themes many of the women playwrights had presented and it was organized, directed and acted by a woman, a wonderful artist.

There were a hundred and fifty participants from twenty countries. A hundred and seven rehearsed readings and ten performances were presented during the seven days of the Conference in Athenian theatres and at Delphi.

I feel I must mention Timberlake Wertenbaker's conciliatory attitude and her practical help when technical problems occurred and Deepa Mehta's plea for solidarity. Both ladies impressed me with their unassuming, open-minded demeanour. Also, I think all of us were touched by the few words and the heart-rending song by the Turkish playwright Bilgesu Erenus.

Aliki Bacopoulou-Halls

*In loving memory of Monica Vassiliou,
the beautiful, in every sense of the word,
Cypriot actress/director*

P.S.

The Conference could not have happened without the help and organizing mind of Maria Triandopoulou-Kapsaski who spent endless hours with me for many months prior to and during the Conference.



WPI elected for 2012-2015



Sondos, Lene, Andrea, Marcia, Valantina, Vanessa, Patricia, Helena & Sally.
Missing: Catherine & Marili

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