

Report – Theatrical Event WG IFTR conference 2021

The Theatrical Event WG deals with *Theatre for/by Young People* (children and youth), *Amateur Theatre* and *Student Theatre*. Although the academic research is rather limited, these theatrical realities are widespread phenomena all over the world. During the conference, we discussed what distinguishes a theatrical event for: (a) young people, (b) amateurs or students. How can the insights provided by the concept of a 'theatrical event' illuminate the distinctiveness of theatre for young people and amateur theatre, and what may we learn from these genres for theorizing the Theatrical Event?

The papers that were presented and discussed in the conference, ranged between questions on performances and their reception, process and product and the uniqueness of these genres. The papers provided us an opportunity to see the differences and similarities in these genres all over the world and an understanding how the theatrical event as a concept can work in different contexts.

One common axis that can be discussed in our next meeting, is Professional versus Amateur. One task could be to try and develop a productive theory/model to analyze these forms of theatre.

The Theatrical Event WG decided to continue with these themes, for they challenge the theatre studies, which mostly ignore these theatrical events (children, students, amateurs). The main theme can be:

Challenging Theatre Studies: Theatre for/by Young People, Amateur Theatre and Student Theatre

Furthermore, the group also invites other scholars who deal with theatrical forms that are usually in the margins of our discipline to join our next meeting in Reykjavik.