

Swedish Centre / Centre suédois



Ann Mari ENGEL

born 1947 in Stockholm

- Ph.D. at Stockholm University 1982, Department of Theatre
- since 1978: director of Svensk Teaterunion - the Swedish Centre of the ITI, which is a member organisation of all Swedish theatres and theatre associations, a forum for co-operation and information within Swedish theatre, contact and exchange across borders in the field of theatre
- arranged many international seminars, among them Children's Theatre Seminar 1979, Strindberg Festival 1981, Latin American Exile theatre Meeting 1983, Training theatre Teachers 1986, Local Theatre and Centralised Media Coverage, 1988, Nordic Theatre Meetings 1980 and 1990, preparing the Swedish exhibitions for the Prague Quadrennial 1987 and 1991
- since 1993: main producer of the festival Swedish Theatre Biennial
- secretary of the International New Theatre Committee and housing the secretariat for the Cultural Identity and Development Committee 1993 – 2000 and the Dramatic Theatre Committee 2000 – 2002

Commissions by the state:

- secretary of the National Report about Theatre Education, 1976
- member of a reference group for support to independent theatre groups within the Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs
- member of the International Cultural Commission 1994
- member of the national working group for preparation of the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development, 1997
- member of the board of the Drottningholm Court Theatre 1994-2006
- member of the Stockholm City Council since 1994

CENTER'S ACTIVITIES 2006-2008

The Centre is a Swedish theatre information centre on a national and international basis. The Swedish Centre has a council, which meets annually, a board, an education committee, a cultural policy committee and a number of working groups on various issues. The Centre also has a special Dance Committee with representatives from dance companies, dance institutions and dance organisations in Sweden. It runs national and international projects and has several regular publications.

Selected Projects 2006 – 2007:

- **SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN'S THEATRE CAPACITY BUILDING IN SOUTH ASIA 2004 – 2008.** The project "Voice of the Children" involves among other activities support for the theatres Rangayana and Nandikar in India and Rupantar and Rakhal in Bangladesh. This project was from 2006 expanded to Vietnam, China and Laos and involves eleven partners in these countries. For 2006-2009 years there is a contract with Sida for a contribution of 1,4 million Euros.
- **PROMOTION OF SWEDISH PLAYS ABROAD,** with support from the Arts Council and in collaboration with the Playwrights Union. We receive a yearly contribution of around 100 000 SEK (around 10 000 Euros)
- From 2006 the Centre is responsible for a **PERFORMANCE WEB DATA BASE** of all Swedish performances of theatre and dance. There are more than 350 producers in the country who contribute to this catalogue, which is searchable. The work is supported by the Arts Council and for 2008 the Centre has a special mission to produce a book on the proportion of female/male artists, directors, playwrights etc within Swedish theatre during 2007
- A major **EXCHANGE PROJECT WITH RUSSIA,** financed by the Swedish Institute, including readings of Swedish plays in three cities, participation in a children's theatre festival and an exchange program for Swedish and Russian directors
- Preparations for a Nordic-Baltic Dance Project: **KEDJA – DANCE ENCOUNTERS 2008 – 2010,** a project with support from the European Union and the Nordic Culture Point
- **SWEDISH DANCE BIENNIAL** in Gothenburg 2006
- A **NORDIC DANCE MEETING,** hosted by The Swedish Dance Committee, in connection with the Dance biennial
- **THE EIGHTH SWEDISH THEATRE BIENNIAL** in Örebro, including: performances, seminars, workshops and meetings with around 1 500 participants, among which international guests from 30 countries
- **CELEBRATIONS OF WORLD THEATRE DAY.** On World Theatre Day 2007, a message about the recent situation of the artists was read from the stages all over Sweden with good media coverage
- **THE INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAYS 2006 and 2007** were celebrated with national events including TV broadcasts