

# **ASSITEJ RWANDA (ARTEJ) ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR YEAR 2006**

## **SUBMITTED TO THE SWAZILAND REGIONAL MEETING 16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2007**

ARTEJ planned activities for 2006 :

- International Children Theatre's Day celebration
- Official launching of ARTEJ
- Play writing workshop
- Workshop on acting for children
- Youth theatre workshop at Kimisagara Youth Center
- Brief of performances by organisations members

### ***1. Official launching of ARTJ***

Association Rwandaise du Théâtre pour les Enfants et les Jeunes « ARTEJ » was officially launched on November 8, at Alpha Palace Hotel. The event was supposed to be graced by the presence of the Minister of Youth, Culture and Sports, unfortunately he was held by other duties in Kamonyi, but his representative was present and they have endorsed our organisation. The event was largely covered in the local media, state and private.

### ***2. Playwright workshop***

A regional playwright workshop for professional and adult theatre workers dealing with children and young people, was held in Kigali, at Alpha Palace Hotel, from 7th to 13th November 2006. The workshop offered dramaturgical techniques and methods of writing to writers for children and young people. The participants were from 13 African countries : Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The workshop was facilitated by 2 internationally renowned professionals in young people theatre, Francis Imbuga, author and play writer, professor of literature at Kenyatta University in Kenya and Marie Perrson, dramaturg from Sweden.

### **3. Accomplishments by ASSITEJ members**

#### ***a) Adaptation of a children story to a radio drama***

A beautiful story “Kageni”, from a book of the famous Rwandan children publishing house Editions Bakame was adapted into a radio show in collaboration with Urunana and Mashirika. The actors are children and the play is presently being edited.

#### ***b) A play about AIDS : “Le dangereux séducteur” by Itorero Izuba***

The group Izuba produced and performed “Le dangereux séducteur”, a play aimed at sensitising the youth on AIDS. A most delightful, enlightening, entertaining and hugely successful play was commissioned by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF to be performed in 20 secondary schools and 4 Universities around Rwanda.

Another play was produced by the same company campaigning against child sexual abuse has been performed in three places in the East and North Provinces.

#### ***c) Mashirika Theatre Group participation in an International Theatre Festival and tour of the United Kingdom***

- Mashirika group attended an International Theatre Festival for young people organised by the Association **Contact the World** in Manchester United Kingdom. Mashirika performed its play “Hope under Fire” whose theme is about abuse of children’s rights. The play was performed first for the local audience then for the festival.
- Mashirika toured the United Kingdom with its play *Rwanda my Hope* whose theme is about the 1994 genocide. Young people tell their stories about genocide, express their feelings and call for a future without genocide. Mashirika is planning to perform the same play around Rwanda.

### **C. Goals still to be achieved:**

Two planned activities: **Workshop on acting for children** and **Youth theatre workshop at Kimisagara Youth Center** were not achieved in 2006, because of lack of human and financial resources. However, we are working towards making these a reality in the future.

#### **PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2007**

- Recruitment drive to attract more members to ARTEJ
- Lobbying of policy makers, in government and parliament; Media, schools and parents
- Workshop and/or seminar for member and non-member organizations on strategies of developing children's theatre (environment scanning and analysis).
- Participate fully in the street children project for fighting AIDS through theatre in collaboration with National Organisation to Fight Aids (CNLS)
- Organising a Childrens' theatre festival and awards ceremony
- Celebration of the International Children Theatre's day
- Establish a permanent secretariat

Submitted by -  
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