

News from FEST

Interest Group- **Storytelling in Education for Children**

Teamwork on a European level

Wales: David Ambrose visits Zwolle, the Netherlands

November 8th 2008 David Ambrose, storyteller from Wales, is on a working visit at primary school *De school vol van verhalen* in Zwolle. His main goal is to see how storytelling is intercalated in the education schedule at *De school vol van verhalen*. With this knowledge David would like to set up a Welsh *School vol van verhalen*.

David Ambrose is welcomed by about 25 students from the school's storytelling theatre. The children show the regular procedure of a storytelling performance at *De school vol van verhalen*. David tells a story in English, translated instantly by John Beumer, which creates the sound of a bilingual story. David invites *De school vol van verhalen* to come to Wales and continue to exchange information and experience.

The next day David Ambrose leaves accompanied by Kitty Peetoom – de verhalenboot – to the International Storytelling Festival in Aachen, where they speak to organizer Regina Sommer. They talk about a possible cooperation on international storytelling festivals, *Een school vol van verhalen* and a Twin City Project.

Germany: Twin Cities / Ruhr 2010

A request to finance a Twin City project is sent to the European Committee. A school in Wesel (Germany) and the *School vol van verhalen* in Zwolle (Netherlands) are organizing lots of activities in 2010, in which the exchange of stories is crucial. This exchange has its focal points on the cultural similarities and differences between the two schools. The initiative was taken by Regina Sommer (Aachen, Germany). As soon as the requested subsidy is given the schools will start their activities.

Dutch developments

Foundation of project office Een school vol van verhalen

Foundation Een school vol van verhalen started a project office in the autumn of 1008. It takes care of advising, guidance and coaching schools.

The foundation has its focal points on storytelling by children. Therefore the project office works primarily with projects on teaching children how to tell and listen to a story. In addition to this approach a lot of coaching is given to teachers, in order for them to connect their subject material to the stories.

Storytelling course at Deltion College in Zwolle

January 2009 foundation *Een school vol van verhalen* and *the Storyboat* started the course Storytelling for artist schooling students at the ROC Deltion College. For fifteen weeks students of age 16 to 20 will be taught the art of storytelling. The most talented storytellers will perform in June at the Waterfall Storytelling Festival in Zwolle.

Storytelling in Secondary Education

Several students from elementary school *De Krullebaar* will attend secondary education next year. *Een school vol van verhalen* thought this was an excellent moment to contact a high school to make sure storytelling is included in their programme as well. High school Van der Capellen was willing to develop study material that is suited for students from the storytelling school.

(Contact person interest group: John Beumer)

Interest Group - Training and Schools of Storytelling

Teamwork on a European level

Bremen - Germany: start „Bremer Institut für Bilderbuch und Erzähl-forschung“

October 2008 the „Bremer Institut für Bilderbuch und Erzähl-forschung“ (BIBF) opened its doors in Germany. The institute is part of Bremen University and works on a European level with the Netherlands alongside the „Vertelacademie“ (Academy for Storytelling). This collaboration focusses on the exchange of teachers and knowledge of storytelling. Dutch „Vertelacademie“ already worked with Germany at the “Akademie Remscheid”.

Aachen – Germany: exchange on realization Interest Group

During the International Storytelling festival in Aken Ben Haggerty, David Ambrose and Raymond den Boestert had a brief exchange on developments in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of training and schools of storytelling. The initial concept was the question: “what skills do storytellers need?” The FEST 2008 organization also mentioned ‘skills’ as an important theme to work in connection with Europe.

The Netherlands/Belgium/Germany: methods translated in English

The Dutch “Vertelacademie” works with an elaborate method in their curriculum. Six teachers in three different countries have been granted permission to use this method. During FEST 2008 people were interested in the possibility to learn more about this method in several European countries. There also appeared to be the need of a “Mobil school”. Therefore the “Vertelacademie” decided to make its method available for foreign colleagues. The next few months its curriculum is being translated into English. The “Vertelacademie” also developed a scheme to teach the method to colleagues in other countries. The process will be available in English at the start of FEST 2009. Starting in the spring of 2010 a group of German storytellers will join a pilot to master the details of the method. This concept will be followed by other European countries from the summer of 2010.

Breitnau/Swarz Wald – Germany: meeting of German speaking storytellers

June 2009 the 20th, 21st and 22nd Breitnau (Germany) will host a German speaking storytellers’ meeting.

Previous to FEST 2008 a similar meeting took place in Aachen (Germany). More than 60 storytellers from 4 different countries joined this meeting (Germany, Austria, Switzerland and one Dutch guest).

During the meeting in Breitnau several task forces will work on different subjects. Interest Group asked for a task force Training and schools of storytelling. At the end of March 2009 the organization will make its decision on the programmes content. To find out more about the meeting: Gidon Horowitz:

Belgium/the Netherlands: collaboration between Belgium umbrella organization and storytelling school

January 2009 the “Vertelacademie” opened a business establishment in Antwerp, Belgium. All courses in Belgium are provided for by Belgium/Flemish storytellers trained in the Netherlands to be storytelling teachers. The umbrella organization in Belgium has started cooperation for storytellers named “van Stoel tot Stoel”. www.vanstoeltotstoel.be/

Development in the Netherlands

“Verhalenboot” (storyboat) programmes talented people from storytelling schools

Dutch storytelling podium the Storyboat started this season programming in pairs the talented storytellers, coming from the three Dutch storytelling schools. This cooperation will hopefully be helpful developing the art of storytelling in the Netherlands, discovering young talented people and creating possibilities for starting storytellers.

Developments learning paths

For the last two years the “Vertelacademie” developed two elaborate learning paths containing professional guidance and certification:

- storytelling with children from 4 to 14 years
- storytelling for a large audience.

The syllabuses of these learning paths are now available in Dutch language. English translations will soon follow after the Dutch version.

(Contact person interest group: Raymond den Boestert)

Interest Group - International Festival Organization

Waterfall Storytelling Festival: June 5th – 7th

Foundation the Storyboat is the festival’s organization. The Storyboat is the largest storytelling theatre in the Netherlands, hosting about 50 shows a year, a storytelling school and now opening a festival as well.

Depending on subsidy the public part of the festival will take place in two or three days. The week prior to the festival several international storytellers will give master classes to young talented storytellers, because we state that the art of storytelling is best to be taught when you’re young. Two days of master class training result in a Storytellers Attack performed by the young students, which they perform in primary schools, secondary schools and vocational education. Waterfall has its main focus on talent development. A group of about six young storytellers is told to produce a solo performance. Professionals give direction to this performance.

The amount of subsidies is still uncertain, so we don’t know yet if we have the means to organize this festival internationally. Because of this it is also not sure if we can link a FEST moment to the festival. If you have any suggestions or ideas on this theme you are kindly invited to contact us!

You will find more information on www.deverhalenboot.nl. You can reach artistic leader Kitty Peetoom on 0031 (0) 6 21 20 52 71

(Kitty is also contact man at Interest Group - Progress of Organizational and Financial Development).

Mats Rehnman is contact man at Interest Group International Festival Organization)

Contact persons FEST Interest Groups

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