



CHAIR'S REPORT

Patrice Baldwin

*This is an exciting and challenging time for National Drama. The executive has been working on behalf of the membership on a number of initiatives which will keep drama in the forefront of positive, forward thinking educational policies and strategies in these early years of the twenty-first century. At the 2008 Durham Conference, **Patrice Baldwin**, Chair of National Drama, outlined some of the work of the organisation. We reproduce her report here.*

The current aims of National Drama are:

1. To continue to develop partnership links with other organisations, professional associations and key agencies (EU, UK, Worldwide) that promote and develop drama and theatre for learning and creativity in formal and informal educational settings
2. To raise the profile of ND and thereby increase ND membership across youth, learning and community sectors and across all UK countries
3. To improve membership services
4. To initiate and support research in drama
5. To raise the profile of ND as a key provider of drama INSET and CPD

These aims are reviewed annually at an executive working weekend. Any suggested additions or amendments from members will be considered and should be sent to: patrice.baldwin@nationaldrama.co.uk

These aims underpin our 3-year action plan that can be viewed on the membership layer of the National Drama website at www.nationaldrama.co.uk

The following is a sample of our key areas of work currently and were presented more extensively in the Chair's Report at the Durham Conference AGM.

Council for Subject Associations

Possibly the most significant piece of news this year for ND members is that ND has become a member of the Council for Subject Associations (CfSA). In December 2005 the Department for Education and Skills (now the Department for Children, Schools and Families) started to meet with the main subject associations to consider how they might be supported to develop and further support teachers of their subjects.



Possibly the most significant piece of news this year for ND members is that ND has become a member of the Council for Subject Associations.

The DCSF also was keen to establish a formal route for dialogue with subject associations as a group. In September 2007 the CfSA was constituted. It is an umbrella organisation for its membership organisations that now represent teachers, advisers, inspectors and support staff (which could include ND theatre educator members) with a specialist interest in a particular subject. Its role is to promote subject association membership and enhance the ways that the associations, individually and collectively exert influence and make their voices heard. In advance of supporting setting up the CfSA the DCSF paid for a collective subject association website that may be viewed still at <http://www.subjectassociation.org.uk>

ND visitors to that website will be pleased to see that Drama does not just appear as part of English but also as a subject in its own right within the Arts – at ND's request.

Another development area being explored with the DCSF through the CfSA is the possibility of Chartered Teacher Status for subjects through the subject associations. National Drama has expressed an ongoing interest in this but no guaranteed commitment yet.



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The subject associations set up a steering group that I was on. The sub-group I was part of focused on increasing Primary teacher membership of subject associations. As a direct result of this every Primary school in England has received at the start of the Spring Term 2008, a folder with pull out folded A3 sheet for each subject. The theme of the first leaflet is Every Child Matters in relation to every subject, with also a page for subject news. Again the good news is that the case was made and accepted for drama to have its own subject leaflet, rather than be a part of English. The next focus is Gifted and Talented in relation to drama and Professor Jonathan Neelands has kindly agreed to write it for ND. It will be in all English Primary schools in September 2008. The first 3 folders are paid for by the DCSF but the publication will need to be sold once it has proved its worth and is intended to become self financing. A copy of the first Drama leaflet is available as a PDF download at www.nationaldrama.co.uk

Regional Groups and representatives

We are now beginning to develop ND regional groups to actively support members and National Drama at a regional and local level. The executive officer leading on this is Elinor Vettraino and she is keen to hear from members who would be prepared to act as Regional

Representatives. They will work in a voluntary capacity, doing what they can, when they can and will make a highly valued contribution to the work of ND. This role can be seen as a rewarding and valuable professional development opportunity which can support certain aspects of the representative's day job. The representatives will:

- Provide a 2 way link between the executive and grass roots membership in a particular region;
- Help to develop the regional network.

For further information contact: elinor.vettraino@nationaldrama.co.uk

Conferences

Durham

Enormous thanks are due to Pam Bowell, ND's Conference Officer (and past Chair of ND), who organised the recent excellent ND international Conference, *Drama – Mind, Body and Spirit* at St. Aiden's College, Durham. It truly was a great and memorable Conference which will be reported on more fully in the next edition of DRAMA.

England

A series of regional half day 'scoping' Conferences linked to a national contract we have with the Teacher Development Agency (see below) are being organised by Pam. Full details will be posted at www.nationaldrama.co.uk as dates and venues are confirmed.

London

Pam is also organising a Key Stage 3 Curriculum Conference for ND with Martin Robinson (ND Secondary Officer) in London this Autumn (details will be on the website soon).

Cardiff:

The next international ND Conference is also being organised and is likely to be in Cardiff in March

2010. ND has held day Conferences in the past in Cardiff but it will be the first time Wales has hosted the international Conference.

For further information contact:

conference@nationaldrama.co.uk

Stratford-Upon-Avon

On 24th October 2008 National Drama is organising in partnership with RSC Learning and NATE a one day Conference at the Courtyard Theatre, for both Primary and Secondary teachers entitled, *Shakespeare in the Classroom*. The workshops will focus on *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth* and *Hamlet*, with an opportunity to attend an RSC performance of *Hamlet* after supper. £150 for the Conference but without supper and performance and £200 for conference, supper and performance.

To book contact the Box Office on 0844 800 1114. Further information: Call Amanda Carroll on 01789 272520 or email education@rsc.org.uk

Teacher Development Agency

ND submitted a successful bid to the TDA to produce online CPD materials for drama. Pamela Bowell is leading on this, supported by Andy Kempe. We will be sending out information soon about a series of half day Conferences prior to providing it. This is a large and significant piece of work and we will need members to help us to get it right. Further information from: conference@nationaldrama.co.uk

ND Research Journal Online

This is nearly ready to go online. The initial work was completed by Alistair Martin-Smith and this is now being taken on to completion by Ruth Sayer, our Higher/Further Education Officer. Chris Lawrence has also assisted the process. For further information contact: ruth.sayer@nationaldrama.co.uk

IDEA (International Drama and Theatre Education) Europe

National Drama has become a member of IDEA Europe, which is relatively newly formed regional group of IDEA. Interested European associations who were already members of IDEA, met in Frankfurt in December 2006 and decided to form IDEA Europe. Since then the group has pragmatically met during IDEA Conferences (Hong Kong – July 2007) and at the Hellenic Theatre Association's recent Conference in Athens. IDEA Europe also met in Viterbo, Italy in September 2007 to decide how to operate organisationally, and ND was represented there by our treasurer, Peter Wild. The next meeting will be at the Performance House in Denmark in October 2008.

IDEA Europe has given ND good partnership opportunities and links with other drama and theatre subject associations across Europe. Arising from this was the opportunity to partner an EU bid submitted by ANRAT for a Youth Theatre project with France, Italy, Germany, Netherlands and the UK. It will focus on migration and culminate in youth representatives from five countries working first in their own countries and then together for a week in France. It will lead to international workshops and a performance in France in April 2009. The outcome of this bid is awaited – see the website for news.

IDEA Worldwide

I attended the second World Creativity Congress in Taiwan in June 2008, at which I had the opportunity to present D4LC (Drama for Learning and Creativity) on behalf of National Drama, IDEA and Norfolk County Council. This is being held up as a model of a good and sustainable partnership that supports Creativity.



D4LC is recognised by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority as a development strand of English 21 and through this ND is a curriculum co-development partner.

D4LC (Drama for Learning and Creativity)

This is an ND flagship initiative that goes from strength to strength. We have now supported the start and development of D4LC Iceland (which is called SNIGL) and D4LC Wales will start in Autumn 2008. Several local authorities have set up similar initiatives inspired by D4LC. D4LC is a school improvement through drama initiative that enables sustained support in classrooms from drama specialists (including ASTs and National Drama consultants). It also gives networking opportunities and supports action research into the impact of drama on learning and creativity.

D4LC is recognised by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority as a development strand of English 21 and through this ND is a curriculum co-development partner. D4LC teachers can gain 60 M-Learning credits in D4LC from the University of Brighton and/or can have action research into drama verified by the Teacher Learning Academy.

For further details about D4LC, to download free drama lessons, to enter the discussion forum and to order the publication, visit www.d4lc.org

D4LC National Director:
patrice.baldwin@nationaldrama.co.uk

Working in Partnership

ND is always keen to work in positive partnership with other associations, theatres and local authorities.

A good example of this was the Conference held recently at the Rose Theatre, Kingston, organised by Aine Lark (ND secretary). Aine is employed by Kingston Music and Arts Service but saw an opportunity to link this in support of ND. Aine invited ND to be a partner and thereby ND's logo was used on publicity materials and ND placed free inserts into the conference packs and was given the chance to man a free membership stand at the event.

Patrice Baldwin

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Calling all ND members!

Please ask yourself if you are organising or attending any event in the future that can be linked in any way with ND and can provide your association with a showcase opportunity. Maybe it will just give an opportunity for our membership leaflets to be distributed or maybe we can be active partners. ND needs an active membership alert to opportunities to promote the organisation. Ask yourselves not just what ND can do for you but, 'What can I do for ND?' The executive are all unpaid volunteers and most have demanding day jobs so the capacity of the organisation to grow and deliver needs to rely on active members and not just the executive.