

Sweden's bid for ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2022

17th - 22nd of May



♥♥♥ åååå snälla följ mig, Riksteatern

Foto: Urban Jörén





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Törnrosa, den enda sanna kärlekens tid, Estrad Norr
Foto: Sandra Lee Pettersson

1 Introduction

Bibu is the most important meeting place in Sweden for professional performing arts for a young audience - an arena where all of us who work with children, young people and performing arts and culture, get together to experience and discuss performing arts for children and youth. The presented shows, together with a range of seminars and forums for discussion, makes Bibu a natural place for analysis and reflection on the quality, status and possibilities of the art form.

In 2022 we wish to combine Bibu with the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering (AAG) to make an outstanding international get-together in the city of Helsingborg, at the south west coast of Sweden, a vivid city and region.

The theme for the AAG at Bibu in 2022 will be based on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

How can we in our artistic practice be a part of and accomplish a development with social, economic and environmental sustainability?

Another question of importance to be asked is; what is our responsibility when it comes to the great movement of youths, Fridays for future, and other similar movements all over the world? This can be achieved by listening to them, taking them seriously and inviting them to the table.

In addition to arranging AAG in 2022, the city of Helsingborg is also presenting a city expo, H22 – A Smarter City with the effort to change how our cities are constructed and to explore the best solutions for a smarter, more sustainable urban development and city life.

As part of H22 the AAG 2022 will explore performing art as an agent for improving quality of life and how performing arts can be part of innovative urban planning.

Welcome to explore this with us!

2 Background, partners and financial means

Swedish performing arts for children and youth have a great reputation internationally and Bibu serves as a platform where the wide range of Swedish performing arts can be presented to both national and international participants. The biennial aims to be a meeting point that can strengthen international networks and collaborations.

The first Bibu biennial was held in the city of Lund in 2006. During the subsequent years the biennial has established itself as an important meeting point for the performing arts for a young audience. Since 2014 the biennial is held in the city of Helsingborg. In May 13-16 2020 the next biennial will take place, the eighth biennial since the start.

Behind Bibu stands two Swedish organizations: ASSITEJ Sweden and Teatercentrum.

ASSITEJ Sweden is the Swedish branch of the international organization ASSITEJ International.

Teatercentrum is a national, non-profit interest organization and network of independent theatres in Sweden. It represents nearly 100 independent professional theatre companies. Together the members are engaging more than 1 200 performing art professionals and presenting about 11 000 performances a year, for an audience of about 700 000 people, of which many are children and young people.

The organization of Bibu is led by CEO Ingrid Fransson. The board members of Bibu contains seven persons, representing the owner organizations, and all of them active in the cultural sphere in Sweden. From spring 2019 Måns Lagerlöf is chairperson. He is the former Artistic Director of Riksteatern, Sweden's National Touring Theatre, and is currently administrative director of Swedish Society for Nature Conservation.

Bibu is organized with financial support from the Region of Skåne, the City of Helsingborg and the Swedish Arts Council. Bibu is produced in close collaboration with Helsingborg Arena and Stage, Helsingborg City Theatre, Dunkers Cultural House and Helsingborg Concert House.

For the Artistic Gathering 2022 Bibu has received additional support from the Region of Skåne as well as the city of Helsingborg. The Swedish Arts Council is informed about the plans for the Artistic Gathering, and, if the vote is successful, we will start working on securing additional funding from them as well as from other funding bodies. Bibu has in the planning of the AAG support from collaborative partners Helsingborg Convention and Event Bureau and Event in Skåne, both with event expertise in Skåne and Helsingborg.

Up until today we have secured 2/3 of the extra funding needed for organizing an AAG in 2022.



Foto: Marcus & Mattias Thernström Florin

3 Artistic Gathering 2022:

Leave No One Behind!

The overall platform for the Artistic Gathering 2022 is built on the UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN in 2015.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

The 17 SDGs are integrated - that is, they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Through the pledge to Leave No One Behind, countries have committed, to fast-track progress for those furthest behind first.

The Sustainable Development Goals are designed to bring the world to several life-changing "zeros", including achieving inclusive and quality education, gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, zero poverty, urgent action to combat climate change and the necessity to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The SDGs can

only be realized with strong global partnerships and cooperation.

How can these 17 goals be related to the performing arts field and how are they relevant for us? Seminars, workshops, discussions and meetings will relate to the goals and it will give us a number of questions to answer, to break down, to question, to discuss and also possibly bring to stage. This is something we want to explore, discuss, develop and bring forward during the AAG 2022.

One of the history's biggest civil society movement, Fridays for future, was started by a 15 year old Swedish girl and as organizer of AAG we feel a necessity to also bring this as part of our discussion. It is irresponsible not to listen to the young people's voice of today. We will explore paths to find a way to include the visions and the participants in Fridays for future and other similar organizations into our AAG 2022.

We want to take this opportunity to invite the international community of ASSITEJ to be a part of the most important questions and movements of today!

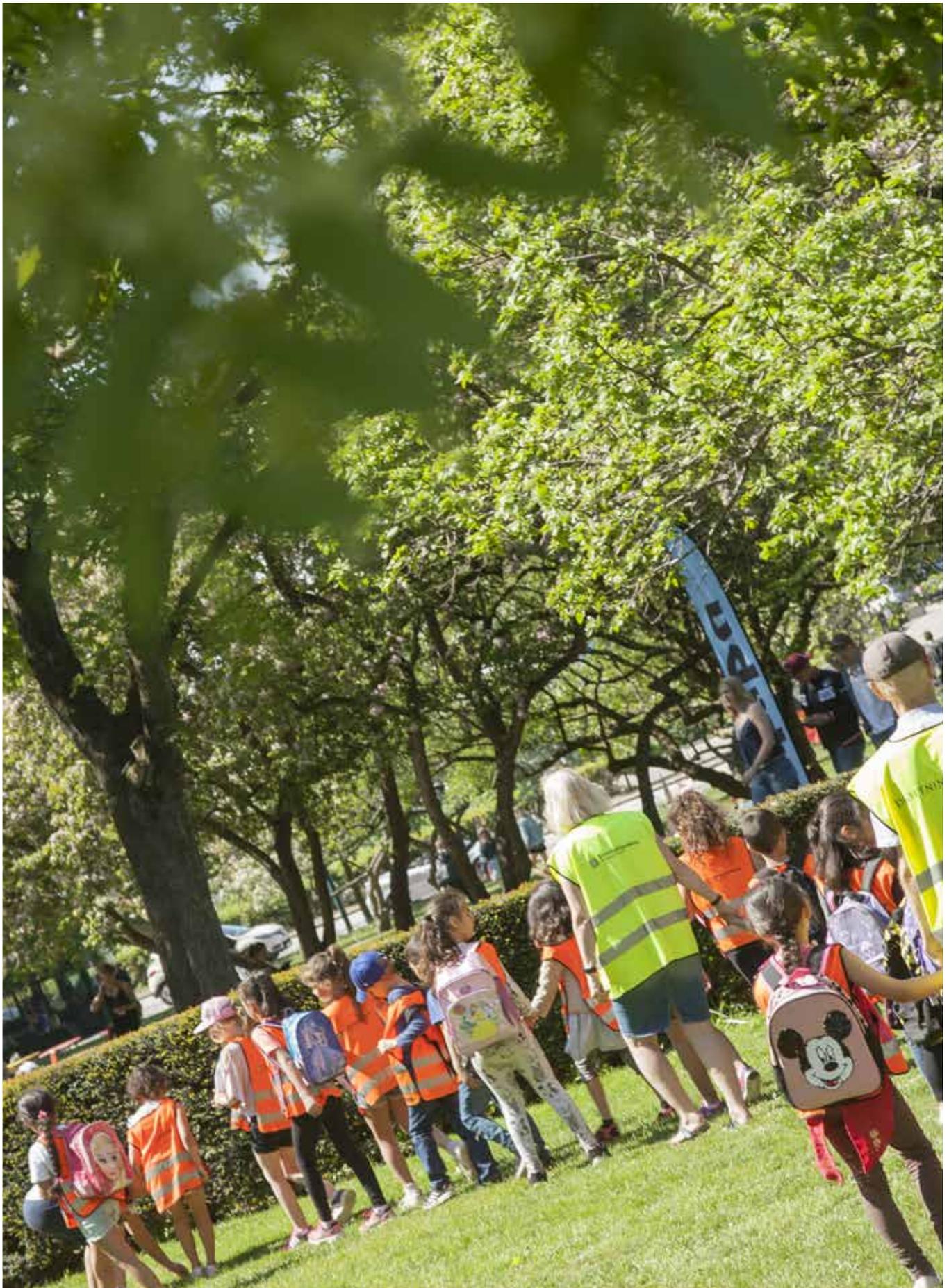


Foto: Marcus & Mattias Thernström Florin

4 Why we think Bibu and Helsingborg should be selected as host of the 2022 *ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering*

We believe that combining Bibu and ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering will result in fruitful exchanges, not only artistically but also when it comes to exchanging knowledge, experiences and wisdom.

Since 2014 Bibu has taken place in Helsingborg and the city is often mentioned to be the “perfect festival city”; lots of venues at walking distance, nice surroundings, lovely city centre and fresh winds from the sea.

Also, we don't want to miss out on the opportunity of being able to combine AAG with the city expo H22 in Helsingborg, see more below.

There are some specific values often pointed out as being unique to Bibu:

- Bibu gathers many delegates, mainly Swedish, around 600-800 every festival.
- Bibu has two juries, one for the Swedish selection of the productions and one for the international selection. The jury consists of actors, directors, programmers and others working in the field. A new jury is selected for every biennial.
- Bibu has a wide range of seminars, workshops and discussions that are arranged by the performing arts field itself.
- Bibu and ASSITEJ Sweden has a long experience of working closely with the Swedish Institute to secure funds and supporting practitioners from low income countries to attend and take part in Bibu.

Key numbers for AAG 2022 & Bibu:

- 5 days
- 20 Swedish and international productions chosen by a jury
- 5 additional productions from collaborating partners
- 120 performances
- 15 workshops
- 40 seminars, discussions and panels
- 10 additional events, such as speed-dating, city walks, live podcast, opening and closing events, biennial party
- 1 500 Swedish and international delegates
- 3 000 school and family audience

We want to emphasize these values and continue to develop them during the work and planning of the AAG 2022.

4.1 Helsingborg - the beautiful town by the sea

Key numbers of Helsingborg:

- 150 000 residents
- 150 different nationalities are represented in Helsingborg, giving the city a truly international character
- Three airports within an hour's drive
- Well developed train connections
- 2000 hotel rooms in 2022
- A popular tourist destination with around 800 000 bed nights per year

Helsingborg offers a generous number of restaurants, cafes, shops and parks and the city center has all the hotels, restaurants and entertainment you would expect to find in a big city, while still being small enough to find your way around. The attractive "old town" stands out with its winding streets, quaint cobbled squares and historic landmarks. A little further on you can see the shimmering Öresund Sea, just four kilometers wide. The Danish side of the coast, with Elsinore and Hamlet's Kronborg Castle can easily be reached by boat. Helsingborg is located in the heart of the dynamic Greater Copenhagen area, which is home to over 3,8 million people and a highly advanced infrastructure system, making traveling fast and easy.

The city of Helsingborg has a very dynamic and varied cultural life. Through Bibu, Sweden's most important meeting place for professional performing arts for children and youth, Helsingborg has a unique position to welcome the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2022.

This is Helsingborg!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UlpJQdnfh3M>

Read more about the city of Helsingborg

<https://visithelsingborg.com/en>

4.2 City Expo: H22 – A Smarter City

H22 is a long term investment in innovation and sustainable urban development by the City of Helsingborg, in collaboration with leading businesses, academia, organizations and NGO's.

In the years leading up to 2022, Helsingborg provides a unique opportunity to initiate and test new ideas and collaborations in making a smarter city. In 2022 the city

expo will put the best work on display, creating a vibrant international platform to explore and discuss new solutions that push development forward. When the city expo is over, the work continues – by using and further processing the learnings and results from the expo.

Given the truly democratic and inclusive dimension that exists within the H22 project, it is perfectly in line with the values of an ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering.

More about H22

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmfwbW14euw>

4.3 The Region of Skåne

Skåne is a province located at the most southern tip of Sweden, just a stone's throw across the water from bustling Copenhagen in Denmark. The region is well known for its beautiful scenery, outstanding culinary experiences and high quality of life. With a small population of just 1.2 million in an area of approximately 11000 km², Skåne is far from frantic and gives you plenty of space to enjoy the surroundings.

Among other responsibilities the Region of Skåne also holds responsibility for further development of arts and culture within all of Skåne.

Music and performing arts are produced with the support of Region Skåne, seven regional institutions, ten independent performing art collectives and a number of artists. Thereto Skåne offers multiple venues, festivals and interest organizations, contributing to the infrastructure of performing arts in Skåne. The Region of Skåne contributes to creating generous conditions for artistic innovation and experimental culture. Performing arts in Skåne is well respected and contributes to further development of the performing arts on a national level.

Children's right to access and participate in arts and culture is of high priority for Region Skåne. Just like ASSITEJ Sweden and Bibu, The Region of Skåne is investing in creating possibilities for children and youth to participate in culture and arts, contributing to and shaping its content and range. The Region therefore cherishes the opportunity to together with Swedish ASSITEJ and Bibu gather prominent actors in the field at the AAG 2022.

Event in Skåne is a center of event expertise and a collaborative partner of events and conventions in Skåne. Event in Skåne is, together with the Department of Arts & Culture at the Region of Skåne, regional partner to host AAG in 2022 in Helsingborg.



Foto: Marcus & Mattias Thernström Florin

5 Practical information

5.1 Venues

Since 2014 Bibu has been placed in Helsingborg and has during the years built up a network of collaborators not only during the biennial but also in the years between festivals.

Helsingborg has several venues suitable for presenting performing arts, as well as several locations for seminar program, workshops, meetings and social activities. During Bibu the cultural institutions in the city collaborate with Bibu with venues and staff: Helsingborg City Theatre, Helsingborg Concert house, Dunkers Cultural house. There are also several other small arenas that Bibu has collaborated with over the years, for example libraries, schools and gym halls and all these venues are within walking distance. A few venues are a little off the city centre, but are easily reached by local bus within 5-10 minutes.

A new arena in the city is the hotel and congress centre SeaU opening in the fall of 2020, located in the city centre just by the sea. It will be a complement to the other venues in Helsingborg and the needs of arranging the AAG 2022. They have already been contacted by Bibu as a possible collaborating partner.

5.2 Accessibility

The city of Helsingborg works continuously to make the city accessible. This work contains many considerations, including laws, rules and recommendations, but most of all – the needs of the citizens.

All venues used in connection with Bibu are universally accessible. Bibu has experience of providing sign language interpretation during the festival.

Most seminars, workshop and meetings during AAG 2022 will be in English and the necessity of including an additional language and simultaneous translation will be negotiated with the ASSITEJ Executive Committee.

5.3 Accommodation and catering

The traditional way of viewing Sweden as an expensive country no longer applies. As member of the EU our cost level is similar to most West European countries. The city has many hotels centrally situated and with varying price range. The festival will organize common meals and a festival bar to reduce costs and it will be a way of socializing within the festival program.

5.4 Transport and getting there

The infrastructure within the Öresund region makes traveling between Sweden, Denmark and the continent fast and smooth. It is easy to get to Helsingborg as it is a hub for both domestic as well as international traffic. The Copenhagen International Airport is only one hour away by direct train via the Öresund bridge or via Elsinore (Helsingör) in Denmark and the ferry across the sound.

Swedish train company SJ operates most long-distance routes from Oslo, Copenhagen and Berlin and other companies serve routes from all over Europe.

Whether you are traveling by train, bus or ferry to Helsingborg, you will arrive at the central station. From here all hotels and festival venues are within walking distance.

6 The way forward to Artistic Gathering 2022

The way forward to Artistic Gathering 2022 starts with the Bibu in 2020. Bibu is already an established festival with an experienced team, and from 2020 and on we will develop and focus the organization towards the AAG 2022 to ensure an outstanding experience.

6.1 Activities 2020

Bibu will invite a Next Generation Residency to the 2020 festival. This will be as a start-up for the AAG 2022 and we will make sure accurate working sessions, skills acquisition and development and knowledge sharing will be at hand.

For the 2020 Next Generation Residency we plan to work with "placemaking" as a theme. Placemaking is a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of public spaces. Placemaking capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and well-being.

We see this as a first approach to the Global Goals as the overall theme for the 2022 AAG. We want to implement this into the work of the Next Generation and turn the residency into a research of what this can mean to and how it relates to our work within performing arts for children and youth.

Altogether 16 people from all over the world will be invited to the Next Generation Residency at Bibu 2020.

6.2 More activities 2020, 2021 and 2022

In 2020, 2021 and during the first months of 2022 we will develop our own organization to prepare for the AAG 2022 and with the ASSITEJ Executive Committee to ensure a smooth planning and running of the event.

Bibu will in 2020, besides from the regular program, contain two connected, and yet important themes:

- Research and science in the field of studies of children's culture.
- How to create inclusive performing arts for an audience with complex needs, including those with profound and multiple disabilities and on the autistic spectrum.

These are two areas consisting of several important issues and therefore of importance when it comes to both the awareness and the status of professional performing arts for children and youth. These themes will be continued at AAG in 2022 at Bibu.

Together we will work out a plan on how to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals into a working plan for the AAG 2022 and how to break it down to achievable goals when it comes to organizing seminars, workshops, lectures and discussions.

In this, the involvement of local artists, and the participation of local children and young people in both the artistic program and organizing the event, will be emphasized.

We will also seek involvement from international partners such as organizations within and outside our field, with partner festivals and individual artists engaged in issues connected to our overall theme.



Foto: Lisa Wikstrand



Foto: Marcus & Mattias Thornström Florin

7 Conclusion

For the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering in 2022 we offer an established festival with a reliable infrastructure of venues and premises, an organization in the core of Swedish performing arts and an experienced staff and crew with a broad international network.

With the 2022 city expo, H 22, in itself discussing innovation and sustainable urban development, Helsingborg invites us to explore performing arts and its place in social, economic and environmental sustainability.

We propose to add the UN Global Goals as a part of the Artistic Gathering 2022. Universally accepted and vital to the future of our planet – and for us to explore, discuss, develop and bring to our stages.

We invite you to an ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering perfectly in line with the values of ASSITEJ, its aims and its visions.

Leave No One Behind!

Helsingborg, 16th February 2020



Niclas Malmcrona
Director
ASSITEJ Sweden



Ingrid Fransson
CEO
Bibu

Applying partners:



Bibu is owned by:

