



**International Drama/Theatre and Education Association**  
**Associação Internacional de Teatro Educação**  
**Association Internationale d'Art Dramatique/Théâtre et Éducation**  
**Asociación Internacional de Drama/Teatro y Educación**  
**國際戲劇教育協會**

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## IDEA DAY MESSAGE 2024

The world is rapidly changing, and we are embracing a new era, aware of the risks, dangers and also progress it will bring. One of the questions we were challenged to discuss by the UNESCO representative Ke Leng in our respective groups and under the wing of our associations, at the Global Arts Education WAAE Summit in Athens just a month ago, was: Leveraging Digital Technologies and AI responsibly.

As there were many drama/theatre and education experts present also from the younger generation, it was easy to find the moderator of that specific group and the reporter of the discussion that followed.

I would like to quote here parts of the very elaborate and meaningful report, composed by Dimitrios Chatzitheodosiou, a PhD candidate from Greece.

First quote refers to the positive side of using Artificial Intelligence in our field:

*AI can extend creative capacities in drama by generating diverse narratives, facilitating personalized learning experiences, and enabling more inclusive participation. For instance, an AI-powered program could adapt drama exercises to students of varying abilities, adjusting it to their unique abilities and intellectual abilities, empowering all learners to engage meaningfully in creative expression. AI-driven storytelling tools can also help dramatists create swiftly culturally nuanced narratives that respect the unique perspectives and traditions of various communities.*

Here is a quote from the report where it addresses the topic posed by Mr Ke Leng, and that is leveraging AI responsibly:

*However, it's crucial that AI systems in drama respect human creativity, serving as collaborators rather than replacements. In drama education, AI should support teachers and animators by facilitating interactive environments while maintaining a focus on human relationships—a core aspect of the theatrical arts. The goal is to enhance human creativity, dialogue, and understanding, not to reduce the richness of human expression to mere algorithms. In the practice of drama in education, physical presence and embodied interaction are essential.*

It seems that our role of maintain a living, breathing art education form that needs to be realized in a shared space, where our exchange, expression, energy, thoughts, actions, need to be created in real time, will be a poignant torch of preserving humanity in its fullest form.

Drama education is a powerful and transformative path towards empathy, sharing, solidarity and peace education. These fundamental qualities of us as humans come through life in practicing, teaching, learning drama education, and only through our live interaction. The results of our joint work are always surprising and upheaving. But the process and the journey are essential, as they develop us and change us profoundly.

We must be aware that our role as drama educators, teachers, pedagogues, and researchers should be to monitor closely the implementation of AI in drama/theatre education. And to defend the human involvement and supervision in its development.

We are thankful for the opportunities we have created for live gatherings such as the UNESCO Conference in Abu Dhabi, our 2024 Beijing Congress, as well as the Global WAAE Summit. We look forward to our encounters in 2025, the IDEA endorsed Conferences in Athens in March and Singapore in July.

Nothing can replace this moment of contact; of inspiration and insight we get at such events. The human touch, embrace of friends and talks face to face. Even though technology makes life easier through our online meetings, to be together in one shared space is essential. We must strive to make these meetings happen, and try to meet in person.

Aware of the turbulent moment our world is in, we have decided to dedicate IDEA Day again to the topic of peace and reconciliation through drama/theatre education. Proving again and again that drama/theatre education can contribute to a harmonious world.

Nevertheless IDEA Day is a moment of celebration. Let us celebrate together the importance of what we do. Let us be proud of all the good we bring to the world and to the many children, young people, people of all ages whom we work with, inspiring change, healing, and building a more peaceful, compassionate world.

Sanja Krsmanović Tasić, IDEA President