

1-4 July 2009 Sofia



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net Europe

# Teachers' Academy

The ELIA Teachers' Academy 2009 will explore and celebrate the many ways in which artistic **storytelling** integrates creativity, innovation, education and culture.

**Information and  
Call for Registration**

[www.eliateachersacademy.org](http://www.eliateachersacademy.org)

Following the success of the ELIA Teachers' Academy in Barcelona (2003), in Rotterdam (2005) and in Brighton (2007), we are pleased to announce that the 4th ELIA Teachers' Academy will be held in **Sofia, Bulgaria, 1 - 4 July 2009.**

Hosted by the Bulgarian National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts (NATFA), the event is being organised in the framework of **artésnet** Europe (the ERASMUS Network for Higher Arts Education) and is supported by the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme.

**artésnet** is the successor to the thematic network inter}artes and serves as a point of reference for the 'Tuning Educational Structures in Europe' project. The network promotes partnership projects between creative enterprises and local communities and is a contributor to 2009: European Year of Creativity and Innovation.

### Aims

The ELIA Teachers' Academy aims to contribute to the professional development of professors, teachers and researchers in higher arts education by facilitating their participation in – and engagement with – challenging experiences and debates set in an international context. Teachers' Academy Participants will:

- engage with innovative teaching and research methods at both national and international level
- acquire new insights into, and new ways of thinking about, current issues in higher arts education such as knowledge transfer, employability, professional practice, and industry-facing and flexible learning
- return home revitalised with professional energy and new contacts with colleagues.

### Theme

The overarching theme of the 2009 ELIA Teachers' Academy is **'storytelling'**. Storytelling is a way of thinking; it is a way of grasping and understanding the inner and outer world. It is a way of connecting the facts of life with the emotional and rational paradigms that evoke, in equal measure, both our everyday opinions and attitudes and our most profound moments of initiation and catharsis. As a means of teaching and learning, storytelling is as old as civilisation itself. For teachers and students in the arts, it offers a unique opportunity to form and re-form cultural identities, provides an emphatic way of conceptualising, communicating and developing ideas. In today's digital world, storytelling permeates online networks and virtual realities. The 2009 ELIA Teachers' Academy will explore and celebrate the many ways in which artistic storytelling integrates creativity, innovation, education and culture.



## Programme

Teachers from institutions of higher arts education all over Europe and from every art discipline have been selected to give workshops and/or presentations. A new feature of the 2009 ELIA Teachers' Academy will be a series of master classes offered by leading educational practitioners whose methods of teaching have been valorised and acknowledged worldwide. Among those who have confirmed their participation are the world-renowned voice teacher Kristin Linklater, Head of Acting in the Theater Arts Division of Columbia University's School of the Arts in New York City, and the eminent scriptwriter Dick Ross, formerly a Professor of Film at both the Royal College of Art in London and New York University and an honorary member of CILECT.

A more detailed programme and more information on the keynote speakers will be available on the ELIA Teachers' Academy website: [www.eliateachersacademy.org](http://www.eliateachersacademy.org).

The working language of the 2009 ELIA Teachers' Academy will be **English**.

## Cultural Programme

A cultural programme will help familiarise participants in the 2009 ELIA Teachers' Academy with the creative and cultural aspects of Sofia. This programme will include a visit to the **Rila Monastery**.

Once a centre of Orthodox culture and education, the Rila Monastery is an impressive monument to Bulgaria's medieval past as well as to the architecture and painting of the Bulgarian National Revival. The Rila Monastery was founded in the 10th century by St. Ivan Rilski, a Bulgarian hermit whom the Orthodox populace of that era also respected as a healer. The monastery complex is quadrangular in form, encompassing a total area of 8800 square metres. Both the Hrelyova Tower (built in 1335) and the main monastery church ("The Birth of the Virgin Mary" – built 1834–1837) are situated in the spacious churchyard. There are over 300 monastic cells and four chapels in the four-storey residential wings. The monastery's walls and ceilings are richly painted. Many talented builders, icon-painters and woodcarvers of the Bulgarian National Revival took part in creating the decoration of the monastery, including Zahariy Zograf, Stanislav Dospevski and Hristo Dimitrov. In the 15th century, Rila Monastery was one of the most important Bulgarian educational centres. The monastery complex was proclaimed a national historical monument in 1961 and became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983.

For more detailed information about the cultural programme (including registration information, price, and programme schedule), please contact **Yana Djarova** at [info\\_natfiz@yahoo.com](mailto:info_natfiz@yahoo.com)

## Participant profile

All professors, lecturers, teachers or researchers at ELIA member institutions who are directly involved in teaching (theory and practice) and/or research at the higher arts education level are welcome.

## Registration

You can register online by accessing the ELIA Teachers' Academy website.e.

**The deadline for online registration is 15 June 2009.**

## Fees

"Early-bird" fee	€ 350	(the deadline for "early-bird" registration is 25 April 2009)
ELIA members	€ 450	
Non-members	€ 1.450	

The fee covers participation in selected presentations, workshops and master classes, as well as lunches, dinners, receptions and entrance to the final party.

## Website

Visit [www.eliateachersacademy.org](http://www.eliateachersacademy.org) for detailed programme information, accommodation options and the latest updates.

For additional information, please contact the ELIA Conference Manager, **Lotte Wennink** at [lotte.wennink@elia-artschools.org](mailto:lotte.wennink@elia-artschools.org).

## Steering group

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