

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Storytelling and Drama in the Age of AI

#### How to Create Human-Centred Spaces in a World of Algorithms and Artificial Narratives

Online Conference, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2027

The Centre for Drama Education at Apor Vilmos Catholic College invites researchers, educators, artists, and practitioners to participate in an online international conference exploring the changing role of storytelling and drama in an increasingly digital world.

Stories have always been central to how human beings understand themselves, others, and the societies in which they live. Yet contemporary learners grow up surrounded by increasingly fragmented, accelerated, personalized, and technology-mediated narratives that often privilege immediacy over reflection and consumption over participation. Despite rapid technological changes, storytelling and drama continue to offer powerful opportunities for deep attention, reflective thinking, face-to-face engagement across educational, artistic, and community contexts. From early childhood arts experiences and oral storytelling traditions to process drama, theatre in education, and inclusive performance practices, stories remain important tools for fostering relationship-based, experiential learning and social engagement.

As emerging technologies reshape how young people encounter and create meaning, important educational questions arise about how arts-based and narrative practices can help them navigate increasingly complex cultural landscapes. This conference examines their potential as educational, artistic, and critical approaches that enable learners to engage with, question, and reimagine the stories, values, and assumptions shaping contemporary life. It also invites discussion on the supportive use of artificial intelligence, exploring how new technologies may complement creativity, participation, and learning while preserving meaningful human connection and experiential engagement.

#### Conference Themes

How can storytelling, drama, theatre, and arts-based practices foster creativity, participation, and experiential learning across educational contexts?

How can storytelling and performance create more inclusive, accessible, and socially connected communities for diverse learners and audiences?

What can oral traditions, folk narratives, community storytelling, theatre, contribute to the future of meaning-making and cultural engagement?

## **We invite proposals in the following formats:**

### **Academic Papers**

- 15-20-minute presentations followed by discussion

### **Online Workshops**

- 60-minute interactive sessions
- Practice-based explorations of storytelling or drama methods

### **Practice Showcases / Demonstrations**

- 15-20-minute presentation of methods, tools, or short performances
- Reflection on process and pedagogical implications

*The working language of the Conference will be English.*

A selection of the papers will be published in an English language special edition of the Drama Education Journal, the online journal of the Hungarian Drama in Education Association.

### **Important Dates**

- Submission deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2026
- Notification of acceptance: 30<sup>th</sup> October 2026
- **Conference date: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2027**

Submit your proposals here: <https://forms.gle/E74LZ1XB8cY2e71MA>

### **Organisers:**

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