

UNIMA-Armenia

Organizational Structure:

Armen Safaryan
President

Ervand Manaryan
Vice-President

Ruben Babayan
Vice-President

Armik Aghayants
General Secretary

Derenik Martirosyan
Secretary

Presidency:

A. Safaryan
E. Manaryan
R. Babayan
D. Martirosyan
A. Aghayants
L. Baghdassaryan
R. Papyan
A. Grigoryan
V. Keshishyan
A. Hakobyan
L. Abrahamyan

Executive Committee:

A. Vardanyan
A. Arakelyan
A. Simonyan
R. Tsaturyan
A. Khachatryan
G. Gulikyan
G. Hakobyan
S. Sargsyan

About Us:

UNIMA-ARMENIA

Armenian National Center of the International Union of Puppeteers

UNIMA-Armenia is an NGO created in 1992. The main activities of UNIMA-Armenia include puppetry, creation of puppet theaters, and promotion of education, democracy issues, psychotherapy, children's and human rights through puppet art.

UNIMA-Armenia is a branch of UNIMA (Union Internationale de la Marionette), a non-governmental organization affiliated to UNESCO and bringing together people from around the world. The Organization's aim is to contribute to the development of puppetry with the objective of putting this art into service and pursuit of human values like peace, tolerance and mutual understanding regardless of race, political and religious convictions and differences in culture, in accordance with the principles of fundamental human rights as defined in the international documents on Human Rights. UNIMA-Armenia has vast experience in joint Projects with Armenian governmental and non-governmental organizations, the US, Russian, French, Italian and other Embassies in Armenia, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, Council of Europe, OSIAFA, USAID, UNIFEM, ICRC, WHO, AMAA, Jinishian Memorial Foundation, "Save the Children" organization, etc. Numerous guest tours were made throughout Armenia and abroad. UNIMA-Armenia participated in a number of international puppet festivals or guest-toured in Spain, Hungary, Italy, Russia, Australia, France, Lebanon and elsewhere. It established an international puppet festival "Toumanian Fairy-Tale Day" annually held from September 5 to 11 in the Dsegh village of Lori region.

UNIMA-Armenia has its own puppet theatre called "Karapet" which produces multilingual puppet shows for the audiences in homeland and abroad.

Festivals:

“Toumanian Fairy Tale Day” International Festival of Puppet Theaters

The International Festival of Puppet Theaters “Toumanian Fairy Tale Day” has a history of three years. The idea of the Festival was generated and implemented by the Armenian Center of the International Union of Puppeteers – UNIMA-Armenia – to promote versatile aesthetic education and harmonious development of the younger generation.

From the very outset, the initiative was endorsed and supported by the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation – Armenia, which by tradition sponsors the Festival within the framework of its projects targeted at fostering sustainable art sector in Armenia’s regions, and promoting cultural diversity. Among other sponsors, contributors and supporters of the Festival are Mrs. Bella Kocharian, ex-First Lady of Armenia, the Ministry of Culture of Armenia and Minister Mrs. Hasmik Poghosian personally, Yerevan Center District Community Hall, the Lori Regional Authorities, “Grand Candy”, “ZIGZAG”, “Kilikia”, “Uniplast” companies, Jinishian Memorial Foundation, and others.

The number of the Festival’s supporters and devotees is constantly growing. This important international puppet show festivity has gained a deserved reputation worldwide, and more and more puppet theaters from Armenia and abroad express willingness to become participants.

The Festival is traditionally being held during the first decade of September, hosting many puppet theaters from Armenia, Nagorno Karabakh, Javakhq, and foreign countries, including Slovenia, Lithuania, Russia, Georgia, Ukraine... It has already become customary to hold the Festival’s opening ceremony in the central square of Armenia’s Dsegh Village – the birthplace of the prominent Armenian writer Hovhannes Toumanian – near the statue of the great author. A merry theatricalized festivity usually follows the opening to be continued in the form of puppet shows performed on the stages of the local halls.

During the Festival days a great number of entertaining and educating activities are being organized – scenic events and fireworks, master classes in puppet art, a puppet exhibition, daily evening clubs, excursions, video demonstrations and the like.

At the closing of the Festival the participant theaters are given awards and certificates.

Performances

Performances are delivered in halls for 100-500 spectators.

The performances are also interactive; they have educational angle and are devised to be performed with children's active participation (singing, declamation, Q&As, quizzes, etc.).

The duration of the performances is 40 to 60 minutes.

The puppet shows can be performed in halls or open-air environment.

Repertoire

- "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens
- "Freedom" by A. Safaryan
- "Adventures of Karapet"
- La Italiana in Algeri (An Italian Girl in Algiers) by J. Rossini
- "Our Beloved Hovhannes Toumanian" - an interactive educational puppet show
- "Don't Worry, Be Happy" by Hovhannes Toumanian – an interactive puppet show
- "Merry Christmas" – the story of Jesus Christ's birth
- "Do you know that...?" – performance on hygiene and safe childhood
- "Puss-in-Boots" by Charles Perrault
- "The Magic Flute" – French fairy-tale
- Fairy-tales and Fables by Leonardo da Vinci
- "Merry Adventures of Red-Riding-Hood and the Wolf" – an interactive puppet show
- "Happy Smile" - performance on hygiene and safe childhood
- Fables of Jesus Christ
- "Birthday Party" - an interactive educational puppet show
- "How the Princess Built a House" – Syrian fairy-tale

Celebrations

Organizing of open-air musical celebrations and festivities clowns in the squares and streets using big mask-puppets and with the participation of merry for children and adults.

Creation of Theatres

Educational programs and training courses targeted at setting up puppet theatres and puppet shows will be implemented for children and all other interested individuals or groups who would like to make puppets, decors and deliver their own puppet show performances.

Since 1995, around 40 puppet theatres have been created by UNIMA-Armenia in Armenia and Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh). The theaters have been created thanks to the much valued input by well-known Armenian puppeteers Derenik Martirosyan, Ara Hakobyan, Armen Safaryan, Sergey Tovmassyan, Armik Aghayants, Gegham Goulikyan, Levon Abrahamyan, Anahit Arakelyan and Armen Shahinyan.

Leisure

Organizing of children's birthday celebrations and other events with the participation of merry clowns, fairy-tale characters, MCs, animal trainers and jugglers.

Cast Members

"Karapet" puppet theatre was created in 1994, thanks to the efforts and personal input of Armen Safaryan, Derenik Martirosyan, Robert Sargsyan, Souren Sargsyan, and Susanna Sargsyan.

Robert Tsaturyan, Segei Tovmassyan, Armen Barseghyan, Liza Barseghyan, Gohar Chulyan, Sona Kolozyan, Armenuhi Khachatryan and others have greatly contributed to the coming into being and creative growth of the theatre.

Contact us:

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- *Legal Status:*
NGO
- *Date of Establishment, number of employees:*
Founded – April 30, 1992,
re-registered – January 1, 2001,
number of members: 52
- *President: Armen Safaryan*
Vice-Presidents: Yervand Manaryan, Rouben Babayan,
General Secretary: Armen Aghayants,
Secretary: Derenik Martirosian