



**L'Association Québécoise des Marionnettistes(AQM)
(The puppeteers' association from Québec)
Centre UNIMA-Canada (section Québec)
Business Report 2008-2010
Dordrecht, June 2010**

L'association Québécoise des Marionnettistes (AQM) (The puppeteers' association from Québec) brings together 123 companies and individuals, 83 of whom are members of UNIMA. Since 1986, AQM is recognized by UNIMA as the Centre UNIMA-Canada (section Québec).

International

a. Foundation of UNIMA Canada

Founded in 1969, UNIMA-Canada went out in 1985. Since 1986, AQM (The puppeteers' association from Québec), was the Canadian referee, under the name of UNIMA-Canada (section Québec). After several years of consultation and preparation, AQM and OPA (Ontario Puppet Association) founded again the Centre UNIMA-Canada. The new statutes and rules have been voted in during the General Meeting on Friday 30th of April 2010. To date, the Centre UNIMA-Canada groups together two sections (Québec and Ontario). New sections are likely to be created over the next years, in view of the size of the territory.

b. Spain welcomes the puppet from Québec

- The exhibition *Une fenêtre ouverte sur les marionnettes du Québec* had a striking success every time it was played in Tolosa in November 2009 (*Titirijai*) and in Barcelona (*T.O.T. Festival*) in Spring 2010. AQM (The puppeteers' association from Québec) works on its presentation elsewhere in the world.
- In addition, the puppet from Québec was in favour during the *International Puppet Festival Titirijai in Tolosa*. The delegation from Québec participated in the inauguration of TOPIC, puppet centre.

c. Charleville-Mézières in 2009

AQM and puppeteers from Québec were actively involved during the XVth edition of the World Puppetry Theatre Festival in Charleville-Mézières in September 2009, as part of the section « *Une nouvelle vague au Québec* ». More than 50 individuals, artists, companies' directors, diffusers, graduated from a DESS (Master) in contemporary puppets theatre at the University of Québec in Montréal (UQÀM) presented shows, participated in round tables, and showed dynamism in the puppet environment in Québec.

d. ASSITEJ

Two delegates represented AQM during the ASSITEJ Congress in Adelaide, in May 2008.

e. UNIMA Committees

Membres of AQM actively work within three UNMA commissions:
Jacques Trudeau, Commission North America
Marthe Adam: Commission of the professional training
Louise Lapointe : Commission of international festivals

National

a. Substitution in the coordination

Mr. Stéphane Guy left his job as a coordinator the 31st of December 2009 after seven years of constant and passionate work. His job enabled- AQM to consolidate first, then to assert itself as an essential body for the puppet environment and stage arts in general. Mrs Denise Babin holds down the job as the coordinator the 2nd of February 2010.

b. General states of the puppetry arts in Québec

A first committee was formed in February 2010. It works on the preparation of the broad outline that will draw up the orientations of the General states of the puppetry arts foreseen in autumn 2011. The committee also wrote a manifesto for the puppetry arts. This one will be sent to all the members of the association and to all the other artists, designers, artisans, broadcasters and critics interested closely or at a distance in the puppetry arts. Thus, the committee wishes to increase the awareness and bring together the circle around major issues relative to the creation, the training and the diffusion linked to the puppet in Québec. Currently, the committee finalizes – in collaboration with a consultant – a questionnaire that will be distributed to all the individuals and companies in order to draw up the state of the situation that will be, then undertaken.

c. International Centre of puppetry arts

A work committee – in collaboration with a consultant – meets since November 2009 to draw up the mission of a place dedicated to puppetry arts, in Montréal. The promoters for the development of this place are Casteliers and AQM. This International Centre of Puppetry Arts would house a creation laboratory, a studio-residence, and offices for the administrators, a workshop and a resource centre. The steps are positive with the borough of Outremont, which is open to the idea of welcoming a project in a building lended by the borough. The committee is drawing up the business plan in anticipation of a public financing of a feasibility study in autumn 2010.

d. Training and courses

Thanks to the support of the provincial program *Emploi Québec*, AQM offered 4 training courses.

In 2008-2009, with Frank Soehln, from Figuren Theater Tübingen, Germany (in collaboration with Casteliers) and with Marina Montefusco, from Clan des Songes, France.

In 2009-2010, with Gervais Gaudreault, from the Theater Le Carrousel, Montréal and with Ma Fuliang, from Compagnie du Petit Cheval, Paris.

e. World

f. Encyclopedia

The launching from Québec of the World Puppetry Arts Encyclopedia took place during the opening of the festival Les Trois Jours des Casteliers, in March 2010, in the presence of Jacques Trudeau, UNIMA General Secretary.

Communications

a. **Magazine *Marionnettes* (Puppets)**

2009 gave birth to the second issue of the magazine *Marionnettes*. This issue, devoted to «the thirtyish» highlights the companies and the individuals who work in this circle for more than three decades.

b. **Répertoire des compagnies (Directory of the companies)**

The 2nd publishing of *Répertoire des compagnies membres of AQM* (The puppeteers' association from Québec) was published in September 2009 and distributed in Charleville-Mézières and in Tolosa.

c. **Le Fil d'Ariane**

Electronic weekly Bulletin, Le Fil d'Ariane is sent to all the members of AQM (The puppeteers' association from Québec). It constitutes an essential and very appreciated communication tool to exchange the information.

d. **Website**

The website did not experience any substantial update for more than 2 years. It will be the subject of an upgrade in the course of 2010.

Community life

a. **Members**

The membership of artists and companies in AQM is stable for the last few years, that is to say between 120 and 140 members. The dynamism of the environment is reflected through the diversity of the experiences of the members: companies with more than 30 years of history, students, artisanes, professional puppeteers, street artists and young companies are mixed.

b. **Instances**

AQM counts on the commitment of its members in order to reach its goals. Its members run the works of different committees: board of directors, committee AQM-UNIMA, committee of General States of Puppetry Arts, committee of creation of an International Centre of Puppetry Arts, committee communications and committee training.

Resources

AQM is supported at the functioning by the Council of Arts and Letters in Québec. Its international activities are supported by the Ministry of the Culture, of Communications and of the feminine Condition of Québec and by Patrimoine Canadien (Canadian Heritage). AQM also benefits from punctual grants for the realization of special projects.

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