



Puppetry in the Netherlands,

The Association does its utmost for puppets in the broadest sense of the word, from the traditional puppet show to the most experimental puppet theatre for children as well as for adults. The members of the Association are puppet lovers, amateurs and professionals, all interested in puppetry and puppetry activities, like performances, workshops, education, lectures, research. The members of the Association – there are more than 250 members - assemble twice a year in order to meet each other and discuss association policy etc. We are now working on our plan of policy for the period 2008 – 2011. In addition to these two annual meetings, puppet shows are organized, lectures are given and other meetings take place. The Association also organizes other activities throughout the year and the country. There is an own website, a magazine, and an extensive library. Every three years there is a presentation of the Wim Meilink award. Among the price winners are puppeteers like Neville Tranter and Damiet van Dalsum

Website:

The NVP-UNIMA has its own website: <http://www.poppenspelers.nl> On this website you can find a lot of information about the Association: the members, the board, the agenda of the meetings, performances, workshops, the library, education, news, the

NVP / UNIMA

and more...

The NVP, the Dutch Association for puppeteers, was founded in 1955.

Since 1982 the NVP also became known as the UNIMA-Centre in the Netherlands.

We are all looking forward to the *next councillors meeting of the UNIMA at Dordrecht, Holland 2010 from 21st to 23 June 2010.*

The international councillors will be organized at the 55th anniversary of the NVP/UNIMA www.poppenspelers.nl and

At the 25th anniversary of the Internationaal Poppentheater Festival Dordrecht 20 – 27 June 2010. www.poppentheaterfestival.nl

magazine WP (World of Puppetry) and the international UNIMA. Here you can also find the information about the more than 30 theatres specialized in puppet-performances and the museum in Vorchten.

Magazine WP:

The magazine WP, 'World of Puppetry' appears six times a year, and is for Association members, free of charge. The redaction works together with different correspondents and each member and/or also other persons and organisations can suggest copy for the next issue. It is the redaction that decides about the contents of the magazine WP. Contact through our website www.poppenspelers.nl

Library

The NVP-UNIMA has an extensive library in Haarlem (Brouwersvaart 70), with more than 1200 books, which can be visited any day by appointment. The Association is also busy preparing a videotheek and making the catalogue accessible from the website.

Permanent address, house.... and a Centre for Puppetry

On the third floor of Willinklaan 3-5, Amsterdam-Osdorp, the NVP/UNIMA obtained an own home for the time being... Besides the NVP/UNIMA supports the Foundation for Puppet theatre (a combination of the Theatre Institute Amsterdam TIN, the Schielandhuis Rotterdam, the Foundation Puppetry Centre Dordrecht (SPC) and the Poppenspe(e)lmuseum Vorchten). There should come a Centre for Puppet theatre to preserve the traditional heritage, to make the heritage accessible for the public, to offer a meeting place for all persons involved in puppetry and create an atmosphere for research, change and development.

Education

In the new home started in 2008 the pilot course 'basis-puppetry' for amateur-puppeteers. The education is organised by the NVP/UNIMA, together with the Kunstfactor.nl, the national organisation for development and promotion of art by amateurs, and De Proeve. We hope to organize a second first year, a continuation in a second year, and a pilot course for puppetry-teachers in education. Besides the NVP/UNIMA organises together with all organisations within the field of theatre all kinds of workshops like vocal training, scriptwriting, making the puppets, administration, publicity, etc.

Annual autumn tour:

There are three reasons for these annual tour along the small, permanent puppet theatres in The Netherlands. The first being that we can introduce the Dutch public to small puppet theatres from other countries and in a different language, secondly it gives the puppet theatre concerned the opportunity to vary its normal programme thus gaining extra publicity and the third reason being that the NVP/UNIMA can become more widely known to the general public. In 2007 the Italian puppet theatre group Girovago e Rondella performed with "Mano Viva". In 2008 the Belgian group Theatre Plansjet toured around 9 puppet theatres (2 in Belgium)

The 'Wim Meilink' prize:

The Wim Meilink prize is presented every three years to the person (male or female) who has distinguished themselves the most in the puppet field during the past few

years. Winners are Neville Tranter, Damiet van Dalsum, Speeltheater Holland, Trudy Kuyper, Camilla Koevoets, Feike Boschma, Henk Boerwinkel, Jan de Noord and Hinderik de Groot.

Further information about the NVP/UNIMA can be obtained from one of the Dutch councillors

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And of course there are also a lot of puppetry activities and festivals outside the NVP/UNIMA:

1. Some (inter)national **Festivals**

a. Dordrecht, annual, Internationaal poppentheaterfestival Dordrecht
21 - 29 June 2008 23rd,
19 – 28 June 2009 24th and
20 – 27 June 2010 25th Internationaal poppentheaterfestival Dordrecht,
www.poppentheaterfestival.nl

b. Amsterdam, annual, Poppen in beweging, Moving Puppets,
19 – 26 February 2009 www.theaterbellevue.nl

c. Amsterdam, annual, RISK Beeldend Theaterdagen, Visual,
20 – 23 November 2008, www.ostadetheater.nl

d. Meppel, bi-annual, International Poppenspelfestival
10 – 14 September 2008 9th Internationaal Poppenspelfestival Meppel,
www.poppenspelfestival.nl

2. Different other **festivals** specialized in puppetry like Amersfoort, www.poppeninhetpark.nl; and www.poppentheaterRoermond.nl; or with a special day for puppetry like the theaterfestival Buitengewoon Doetinchem; the Open air puppet theatre Rotterdam, for more than 28 year each summer!!!; or in Weesp, www.wesopa.nl; Thursday Meppeldag during the summer; Twee Turven Hoog-festival in Almere , specializes in theatre for the youngest children, 7 – 8 February 2009, www.2turvenhoog.nl;....lots of streettheatrefestivals...

3. **Meeting groups of puppeteers** in diverse regions of the Netherlands like Brabant and Utrecht

4. Poppelum, **magazine** for traditional folk puppetry worldwide, www.popellum.nl

5. Some professional puppet theatre groups get structural money for a period of 4 years from the **national government** for puppetry performances like Speeltheater Holland, www.speeltheater.nl; Duda Paiva, www.dudapaiva.com;

Ulrike Quade, www.ulrikequade.nl; Theo Terra, www.theaterterra.nl; theatre Gnaffel, www.theatergnaffel.nl; Studio Peer, www.delfgaauw.nl

6. **Regional government** offers money for programming puppetry at schools and (puppet)theatres and sometimes the **local government** subsidizes puppet theatres, educational projects, etc.
7. There is one **puppet theatre** that specializes in programming professional puppet theatre in Amstelveen near A'dam, www.amstelveenspoppentheater.nl
8. The Theatre Institute Nederland, has a **collection, information and advice** for Dutch and international professional performing arts www.tin.nl
9. **Museum** that specializes in the field of puppetry, collection of books and puppets www.poppenspelmuseum.nl
10. All kinds of amateur and professional **workshops** like Maatwerk by Jos van Beers, Training your voice, publicity, administration, workshops from professionals like Neville Tranter and Duda Paiva; the **Masterclasses** of the Dordrecht-festival from 01 - 04 July 2009 by Agnes Limbos titled 'Human and object' and from 29 June - 2 July 2010 by Norbert Gotz titled 'Light and shadow'
11. From 1999 'De Proeve' offers **education for (starting) professionals**. At the moment 10 young theatre makers, both from performing and visual arts academies and autodidacts, are training to become puppeteers. They work with all the important Dutch puppeteers, with dramatists and receive monitor training to allow them to work for theatre, film and/or television. The two year Opleidingsparcours will present their result in may 2009. Besides 'De Proeve' offers masterclasses, workshops, production experiments for professional puppeteers and other theatre producers to enlarge and deepen their qualities in puppetry. www.poppentheaterwerkplaats.nl
12. Ostadetheater in Amsterdam starts in 2009 a new production house for young puppeteers called 'Feike's Huis' (tribute to one of the oldest, still performing, Dutch puppeteers Feike Boschma) www.ostadetheater.nl
13. **Traditional performances** from all over the world like the performances of Chinese puppet theatres, organized by <http://home.wxs.nl/~chime> or the Bunraku-Za Company from Osaka during the Holland Festival at 26,27 and 28 June 2009, www.hollandfestival.nl
14. All the performances given by amateurs and professionals at birthday parties at home, on the streets, in schools, shopping centres, theatres...all the workshops...all the research.....