



## The Electronic Newsletter of the General Secretary N°1 - November 2008

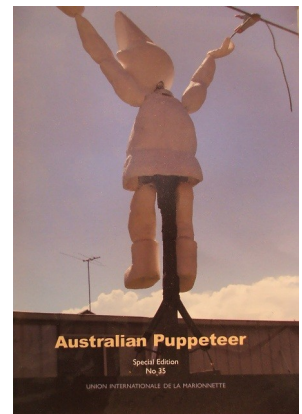
Dear members of the UNIMA,



**We are inaugurating today a new communication tool for UNIMA, an electronic mail which will appear every 6 weeks.** I wished to reinstall a tradition founded by Jacques Felix who had the objective to inform the UNIMA members on the various activities of the General Secretary and the President, and give recent news about the work of the Commissions and achievements of the various UNIMA Centres. Of course, at that time, the bulletin was printed on paper. Let's be of our time and enjoy the advantages of internet! This idea is encouraged by our President Dadi Pudumjee and all the members of the Executive Committee and Presidents of Commissions, who will occupy the front of the edition for our second electronic mail.

**My idea is simple, to create a synergy between all of us!** I know that the world of the puppetry is very alive, and that so many fascinating events are happening in our 65 UNIMA Centre around the world. I only want to offer you a place to inform us about those achievements and present them at an international level!

Six months have passed since the Congress of Perth and the activities are not missing at the UNIMA secretariat. First of all, I have to inform you, for those who would not know it, that I have a new assistant. Her name is Delphine Sohier, she is a dynamic woman. She is 25 years old, and lives at Charleville-Mezieres. She speaks 4 languages and she has all the qualifications to fulfil her function. **I take this opportunity to tell you that she is waiting for many UNIMA Centres to pay their subscriptions fees for 2008. The amount is the same than the last year. Do not delay doing it, it is an essential source of funding for the realization of our projects!** In 2009, as it has been voted during the last Congress, the subscription fee will be of 3 Euros for all the members, whatever the country.



I went to Charleville-Mézières 4 times since my election in April. I met the mayor, Mrs Christine Ledoux, and all the persons in charge of the organizations which subsidize us. I am happy to announce you that the Conseil General des Ardennes renewed his support until 2012 and that the Champagne-Ardenne region, the town of Charleville-Mézières, the Ministry for the Culture and the Communications will give us their annual contribution. We are working at this moment on fulfilling their respective forms for 2009.

As you know, next year will be a great year for UNIMA because we will celebrate our 80 years of existence and our famous project, the World Encyclopaedia of puppet, will be published in its French edition. Recently, in Moscow, thanks to the invitation of the directors of the Sergei Obraztsov Festival, several members of the UNIMA's Executive Committee met and took part in a conference concerning contemporary puppet theatre. I took advantage of this situation to consult by e-mail the members who could not be present.

### **Here are the decisions taken concerning the UNIMA's eventual projects.**

1- **International Puppet Day:** we are agreeing about the name of the personality who will illuminate with his text the International Day of Puppet that will be celebrated on March 21<sup>st</sup> 2009. This person will be the famous Czech scenographer Petr Matasek.

2- **Celebrations of UNIMA 80 years:** We want to create a **logo UNIMA-80 years** that will be sent, in a few weeks, to all the UNIMA Centres. The Centres will be able to use it during all the year. As you know, UNIMA has been founded in Prague, on May 20<sup>th</sup> 1929. However, several months later, UNIMA was also celebrated in Paris and Liege. So, **the commemoration will take place in Prague, in May 2009, but this anniversary will also be celebrated everywhere on the planet during all the year 2009.** Each UNIMA Centre will be able to diffuse it posting this logo for its activities and proposing it to the festivals which received the UNIMA seal.

3- **We will celebrate also in Charleville!** We will celebrate, in a particular way, our 80 years during the festival of Charleville-Mézières, from 17<sup>th</sup> t 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2009 with the collaboration of the World Puppet Festival and l'Institut International de la Marionnette. **The Executive Committee is agreeing to pay homage to 3 personalities who were very active for the UNIMA.** The details of these festivities will be given to you in a few months. It will certainly include a cocktail for the publication of the WEPA.



I was very happy to meet several UNIMA councillors and members in 9 countries since the Congress of Perth, including Australia and France. I would like to thank the UNIMA Centres and the directors of festivals who welcomed me warmly in Holland, Poland, Iran, Canada, United States, Russia and Sweden. In all these occasions, I took part in televised interviews, documentaries, round tables or conferences, informing my interlocutors of the dynamism of the UNIMA.



My next journey will be in Tolosa, in Spain, where I am invited by my predecessor, Miguel Arreche. Most of my transport costs were paid by the Quebec and Canadian governments, my stay in Iran by the Iranian government. On that subject, I was very impressed by the quality of the Iranian puppet shows and by the enthusiasm of its artists.

Shortly, Marek Waszkiel, President of the UNIMA Professional Training Commission and organizer for several years now, in Bialystok, Poland, of the International Festival of the Theatre Schools, will inform you about the place and the dates of the next festival.

I remind you that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will take place at Yekaterinburg, in Russia, on September 9-10-11 2009. **The next UNIMA Council meeting for all the councillors will be in 2010 at Dordrecht, Holland, from June 20th to 28<sup>th</sup> . Underline these dates in your calendar!**



Now I would like to receive news from the UNIMA Centres! Only 2 or 3 paragraphs, translated if it is possible, in the 3 official languages, if you cannot, we will help you. What are your realizations or the main thing you want to communicate. It's an appeal to the 65 UNIMA Centres! We will publish news of 4 or 5 countries every time. Please make it light

We are curious! Write us at [sgi@unima.org](mailto:sgi@unima.org)!

**Contribute to this new tool and make UNIMA more dynamic!**

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