



Union Internationale de la Marionnette

organisation internationale non gouvernementale bénéficiant du statut consultatif auprès de l'UNESCO
Founded in 1929

The Electronic Newsletter of the General Secretary N°2 - January 2009

Dear friends,

I would like to take advantage of this moment to wish all our members a very productive new year 2009. It will be, as you know, for our association a very fertile year. We will celebrate, May 20th 2009, UNIMA's 80 years of existence. That's why we have created a special logo. Let's celebrate it all year long!

Our WEPA project should be ready by this memorable date. Work goes well, more than 150 pages are done and revised. We intend to launch that great book during the Charleville-Mézières World Puppet Festival. A project of exposing some of our UNIMA best archives is on the way!

I leave the most part of this newsletter to our president and UNIMA executive committee members, also president of Commissions.

But I want to say that our next newsletter will be dedicated to national centres. We already have received e-mails from six countries. I prompt you to share briefly the activities done in your own UNIMA national centre. In that way, you will contribute to the fine continuity of this electronic bulletin.

Thank you!

Jacques TRUDEAU
UNIMA General Secretary

Photography of the first Congress of the UNIMA, in Prague, on May 20th 1929



*(In the middle Prof. Dr. Jindrich Vesely, first President of the UNIMA,
and Paul Jeanne, first honorary President).*

Message of the President Dadi Pudumjee

We are almost at the end of 2008 and by the time this e news letter is out we shall be even closer. I take this opportunity to wish all my friends and colleagues in Unima a Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful new year in 2009.

Peace! And a world without misery- tragedy and natural calamities used to be more common then it is in these present times. Let us with our puppets make a wholehearted effort to keep it within ourselves and around us and hopefully bring about smiles and enlightenment to all concerned; especially in our 80th anniversary year 09.

As we get closer to the date of release of our monumental WEPA, I'm sure we wait in anticipation for the out come; I understand that it is going well and in good hands, and we shall be proud of the efforts and hard work of many years put into this project by so many different people.

One word about all the Commissions of the Unima

(For more details you can look at our website : <http://www.unima.org>. Thank you to Fabrice Guillot for the updating).

Statutes Commission

Knut Alfsen, President

We had a successful meeting in the Statutes commission in Oslo the 15. and 16.10. Massimo, Pierre-Alain and I were present. We agreed to change the proposal that was presented in Perth on some central points after our informal discussions with different councillors who were present in Perth.

You can have some information on: <http://www.unima.org>

Commission of Cooperation

Pierre Alain Rolle, President

After the meetings carried out at the Unima's International Congress in Perth, Australia, a cooperative project was born between Switzerland and Burkina Faso. The national centre of Burkina Faso counts between fifteen and twenty companies of puppets. UNIMA Suisse placed at the disposal a computer and the programs for an internet access. The Suisse national centre also began to pay the annual contributions of Burkina Faso for UNIMA international.

This five years cooperation opens the door with future cooperation between others Unima national centres. France has also just joined the Commission. It is a happy occasion to show the solidarity between the people and to prove that Unima is used for quite concrete things for those who were not convinced.

Commission of the Amateurs

Ronny Aelbrecht, President

The commission is elected by our organization to seek how the UNIMA could better support the puppet theatres amateurs in various countries. It would also wish to know the way in which these theatres amateurs perceive the action of the UNIMA.

It is to this end that we launch an investigation near all the puppet theatres amateurs' members of the UNIMA. A questionnaire will be sent at all the National centres and will appear on the site of the UNIMA in the section Commission of the amateurs. You can contact me at : R.A.@telenet.be. Thank you for your collaboration!

Commission for Latin America

Susanita Freire, President

The commission is made up of artists who live in Latin American countries, which send news of their spectacles, festivals and other cultural activities to us, contributing to ***La Hoja del Titiritero***, an electronic mail which we publish every three months.

This bulletin informs the puppeteers who speak Castilian or Portuguese, to maintain the links that unite us thanks to the Art of puppetry.

The commission also wants to inform all the puppeteers of the world with interesting articles, reports and news published in their original language.

You can read ***La Hoja del Titiritero*** on: www.takey.com/hojacal.htm

Professional Training Commission

Marek Waszkiel, President

Following our first Commission meeting held in Bialystok, Poland, June 23rd and 24th, we are working presently on 2 main projects: The coordination of the next International Puppet School that will take place in St- Petersburg, in June 2009, during the 9th Kukart's edition, an important puppet festival, directed by M. David Burman. We work also on the release of a new Puppet School repertory. You should receive soon a questionnaire related to that theme.

Commission of International Festival

Stanislav Doubrava, President

We had our last meeting in Tournefeuille, France, November 26th and 27th, invited by Marionnettissimo. Our main objectives for the coming four years are: updating the Repertoire of the International Festivals and putting it on the UNIMA website, listing the recommendations for the organizers of Congresses and Festivals and organize the Third Encounters of festival directors that could be held, next time, on the African continent.

Africa commission

Mamadou Samake, President

We will eventually create any zones of development for Unima's activities in Africa... New African Centres should arise soon. Please read the details on the UNIMA web site.

Commission of Education, Development and Therapy

Livija Kroflin, President

Our last meeting was held at Brocarica, Sibenik (Croatia). Interesting ideas were discussed. (See our report in 3 languages, french, english and spanish.)

Commission of Cultural Exchanges

Angel Casado, President

For the complete information about grants given by UNIMA festivals and coordinated by our commission, please consult our last report.

Europe Commission

Nina Monova, President

An international conference about contemporaneous puppetry took place in Moscow, organized by UNIMA Russia. Were present many representants of Europe but also a large proportion of the UNIMA's executive Committee coming from all over the world.

Commission of Publication and Communication

Alain Lecucq, President

The texts of all the participants of the Moscow Conference can be found on the Unima website. Details of the next Unima Revue should be provided soon.

North American Commission

Manuel Moran, President

The Commission should have its next meeting in Atlanta, USA. Efforts are made to support the emergence of new UNIMA Centres around us. We also continue to develop good relations between Centres from Mexico, Canada and USA.

Asia-Pacific Commission

Jennifer Pfeiffer, President

The natural catastrophes that have done so many damages in China and Myanmar made the communication among our members very intense.

We were invited to hold our first meeting in Lahore, Pakistan. Unfortunately, the political situation in that zone in the recent months made it impossible. In spite of those difficulties, a lot of contacts are made, especially with indigenous and traditional puppeteers.

Women Commission

Tamiko Onagui, President

The creation of the commission has created a lot of enthusiasm. We had our first meeting, in Perth, Australia, right after the Congress. There is so much to do!

Commission of Scientific Investigation

Ida Hleddikova, President

A revised repertory of searchers dedicated to puppetry has been published in 2007. You will find it on our website. Please note also the release of the new documentary *La Dernière Caravane* about the last authentic comedians in Central Europe.

Commission of New Resources

Annette Dabs, President

The first meeting was held in Moscow. We agree to work on the elaboration of a prospectus for found rising. Also, like last year, we will apply for subsidies at the European Union.

To get more information about all the UNIMA Commissions, we invite you to reach our UNIMA website at <http://www.unima.org>.

In order to prepare our next newsletter, please send us, as fast as possible, a few lines concerning your own UNIMA centre!

The UNIMA wants to thank the town of Charleville-Mézières, the Conseil Général des Ardennes, the Conseil Régional de Champagne-Ardenne and the Ministry of Culture for their help.



Jacques Trudeau
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