



Union Internationale de la Marionnette  
Organisation Internationale non gouvernementale bénéficiant  
du statut consultatif auprès de l'UNESCO fondée en 1929

## Electronic Newsletter of the General Secretary N° 8 – June 2011

To all UNIMA Centres: please send this electronic newsletter to all your members.

Dear friends and UNIMA Members,  
I'm happy to get in touch with each one of you through this electronic newsletter.  
I'm proposing you the reading of the 8<sup>th</sup> General Secretary's Courier.  
You will see that our organisation is in a good shape and have been quite active in the last months.

### World Puppetry day

I would like to thank all the UNIMA Centres which sent us their list of activities in order to celebrate the World Puppetry Day. This manifestation takes more and more amplitude and visibility around the world. The international message was written, this year, by the eminent professor Henryk Jurkowski,. It was read live at Poble Espanyol of Barcelona in the frame of the T-O-T Festival. I thank him for having accepted our invitation.



### International Festival and UNIMA Congress at Chengdu China from may 27<sup>th</sup> to june 3<sup>th</sup> 2012

Be careful, it's very important to notice a slight change in the dates of the next International Festival of Chengdu.

The official opening ceremony will be sunday, may 27<sup>th</sup> , (not monday may 28<sup>th</sup>) and the closing, on June 3<sup>th</sup>.

The 5 days of the UNIMA Congress will be may 29,30,31, june 1 and 2.

It will be held at the Jinjiang Hotel. We have visited it, Dadi and I, last year during our trip to Chengdu, and the place fulfils all our requirements.

The website dedicated to the UNIMA Congress and International Puppet Festival of Chengdu, created by Mrs Tang Dayu and the chinese organisers, has been submitted to the Executive Committee for approbation.

We proposed some modifications and explanations in order to make more easier the task for those who want to participate. So, it will be updated in a couple of days to include the last details concerning the hotels, the transports and the excursions.



The program of the festival should be announced at the end of June 2011.

The address of the website is: <http://www.unima2012.org>

Take note that, if you book your Congress Pass as soon as possible, you can get it with discount.

We remind you the informations given in the website and the online invitation letter to participants:

The deadlines for paying congress registration fee are:

RMB 3600 Yuan - 31 October 2011 = 385 euro (\*)

RMB 3900 Yuan - 31 January 2012 = 420 euro (\*)

RMB 4200 Yuan - 31 March 2012 = 450 euro (\*)

"For all registered congress participants, the Organizing Committee will pay for the costs of meals, beverage and cookies for tea breaks, and transportation within Chengdu (including airport pickup), and tickets for the festival, museums and the Panda Base."

*(\*) the money rate has been calculated on July 1<sup>st</sup> and can fluctuate.*

### **Call to candidacies for the formation of the UNIMA Executive Committee 2012-2016**

The president of the Elections Commission, Mrs Idoya Otegui, sent already to all the UNIMA National Centres, the appropriate inscription sheets for candidacies to the next UNIMA Executive Committee.

A reminder will be sent in the next days. It's the National Centres which propose candidacies. The number of candidacies proposed by a national Centre is proportional to its number of members. The candidacies can be members of the national centre or UNIMA members from other national Centres

I would like to encourage UNIMA members which feel the desire to commit themselves in a concrete way in our international organisation to make known to their national Centres and to grow the rank of possible candidates at the election that will take place during the next Congress.

I remind you that the elected candidates are not there to represent their country but to work for the constant development of our association. Usually, the members of the executive Committee become president of Commission. The candidate must be fluent in English and have, if possible, a good knowledge of French and Spanish. 18 members will be elected.

The due date to send the candidacies by the National Centres is September 15<sup>th</sup> 2011

### **Promotion of l'Encyclopédie mondiale des arts de la marionnette**

From the beginning of year 2011, many UNIMA Centres had formulated the wish to promote l'Encyclopédie mondiale des arts de la marionnette among their members.

The interest for this magnificent book is great and some countries would like to translate it in their own language. That's the case for Russia and Serbia. Committees are emerging in that sense.

I want also to thank deeply the professor Radoslav Lazic, from Belgrade, who put me in contact with some of those festivals and so offered me the possibility to make the apology of this unique book in the world, prized by Le syndicat des critiques of France. Professor Lazic has a real passion for our encyclopaedia. I invite you to read the article he wrote on the subject on the UNIMA website.



I would like to thank the following festival directors who kindly received me with such a sense of hospitality:

Mr Stanislav Dubkov, from Visiting Arlekin, Omsk (Siberia); he has offered me the possibility to be president of jury of his festival held in one of the most modern and impressive puppet theatre in the world.

Paying my transportation costs from Montreal, he allowed me to accept the invitations of the other directors.



Also Mr Vitomir Mitric, from Lutfest Sarajevo (Bosnia Herzegovina), Mr Slobodan Markovic from International Festival of Children Theatre, Sobotica, (Serbia), Mr Armen Safarian, from International Puppet Festival of Dseg Village (Armenia) and Mrs Iris Pavic from National Puppet Festival of Zadar (Croatia).



I can say that in all those countries, the art of puppetry is really alive, diversified and inspiring, emerging from long and moving traditions, in spite of ,sometimes, economic and politic difficult situations.

## 50 years of UNIMA-Poland

It's with great pleasure that Dadi Pudumjee and I accepted, at the end of march, the kind invitation from professor Henryk Jurkowski to come to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pol-UNIMA.



That festivity corresponded with the century of Henry Ryl's birth, exceptional artist, and one of the main founder of UNIMA in this country.

Thanks also to Mr Waldemar Wolanski, director of the Lodz Festival.

## 30 years of UNIMA Mexico

From July 8<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> I will be in Monterrey, invited to celebrations with my mexican friends, because it will be their turn to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their UNIMA Centre and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Baul Teatro, founded by Elvia Mante and César Tavera, actual president of UNIMA-Mexico.

Their festival Festibaul receives each year puppeteers from all the country and many groups of Latin America.

The Mexican puppeteers were badly shaken, in the last months, by the sudden death of their UNIMA national secretary, Lourdes Aguilera, estimated by all.

## New UNIMA Centres

Last march, I was officially invited to go to the United Arab Emirates, more precisely to Sharjah, close to Dubai, where, for the first time, an international puppet festival was organized.

The director of this Festival, Mr. Mohammed Hamdan Bin Jarsh wishes to create a UNIMA Centre in his country and promote, within UNIMA International, an association of Arabic countries. 8 of these countries were present for this first edition: Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and United Arab Emirates.

Companies from France and Italy were also presents. The contact was extremely warm. I could present the content of our Encyclopaedia to the participants and I felt a lot of enthusiasm around UNIMA.

Eminent Tunisian representatives, with whom some earlier contacts were made, due to the support of Albert Bagno, are already working on establishing the statutes of their future UNIMA Centre.

On other hand, Africa continues to be interesting in our association and to open there new Centres. After having accepted the Egypt statutes, the UNIMA Statutes Commission is now studying the proposal made by Benin.

Serious contacts have been made also elsewhere with Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.

In Central America, Costa Rica and Nicaragua are interested to join us and in South America, there are Ecuador and Vénézuéla.

## **The WEPA**

Karen Smith, the president of the UNIMA Publication and Communication Commission is in constant contacts with the UNIMA's general secretariat.

She hold a meeting of her commission recently in USA during the important conference organised at Connecticut University by John Bell, future redactor in chief of the WEPA. The less we can say is that things are going ahead. Translators are on the job.

You still can order the French version of the WEPA at this email address: [sgi@unima.org](mailto:sgi@unima.org)

The cost is 60 Euro for UNIMA members.

## **UNIMA Executive Committee Meeting in Charleville-Mézières**

On september 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2011 will be held, in Charleville-Mézières, the reunion of the 18 members of UNIMA's Executive Committee.

It will be mainly a follow up of the UNIMA Council Meeting held at Dordrecht, june 2010.

The main goal, for sure, is to prepare the matter of the next UNIMA Congress that will be held at Chengdu in 2012, but also to overview the updating of our website and the translations, in English and Spanish ,of the Encyclopaedia.

Moreover, on the program of these 3 days, each president of the 16 UNIMA working Commissions will present the realisations of its Commission and its future objectives.

We chose to hold our meeting in Charleville-Mézières in order to be present to the festivities around the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Institut International.

## **"Circulation of artists, Circulation of ideas"**

That's the title of an encounter organized both by THEMAA and UNIMA, in which will participate the director of the Festival, Mrs Anne-Françoise Cabanis.

Among the possible subjects, will be discussed the inherent problems of international tours, including the obtaining more and more difficult of entry visas for selected artists participating in festivals or giving speeches at conferences. etc, etc.

This encounter will be hold at Espace Troussel, september 20<sup>th</sup>, from 11h to 13h.

Welcome everyone !



## **Helping fund for UNIMA councillors without the necessary financial resources, encouraging a larger representatively at the Chengdu Congress 2012**

The UNIMA Commission for research of new financial resources, through the general secretariat, has opened a banking account in Charleville-Mézières with the objective of collecting your donations in order to help some UNIMA councillors, without financial resources, to attend the Congress in Chengdu,

A similar initiative had permitted to collect the necessary money to assure the presence of Africa at the last Congress in Perth, (Australia) in april 2008.

Today, we hope to be able to help UNIMA councillors from Latin America and other parts of the world with the aim to assure a larger representativity of our members.  
I encourage you to be as generous as you were 4 years ago.  
Please, read carefully the communiqué sent by Annette Dabs, president of this Commission.  
There are different ways to participate to this fund. Thank you in advance !

Let's work together to the development of our beautiful and unique art !

All my friendship !

Jacques Trudeau  
UNIMA Secretary General

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.

