



EDUCATION,
DEVELOPMENT
& THERAPY COMMISSION

Éducation, Développement & Thérapie
Educación, Desarrollo & Terapia

The UNIMA Education, Development and Therapy Commission. Meetings held on 3rd and 4th June 2017 Zadar (Croatia)

The UNIMA Education, Development and Therapy Commission, presided over by Ms Livija Kroflin, member of the UNIMA Executive, met on the 3rd and 4th June 2017 in Zadar (Croatia), under the auspices of our kindly hosts, the Sluk Festival

Present : Livija Kroflin (Croatia), Helena Korošec (Slovenia), Antje Wegener (Germany), Jan Vandemeulebroeke (Belgium), Sabrina Lemmens (Belgium), Edmond Debouny (Belgium).
Meg Amsden (U.K.) unable to attend due to injury, joined in on June 4th via video conference.

1. Changes to the composition of the Commission

Barbara Scheel has retired from full membership. She will become corresponding member. Antje Wegener has accepted the invitation to become a full member, rather than a correspondent. Oscar Goldszmid and Sabrina Lemmens will become corresponding members.

2. The Power of the Puppet

The Commission is very upset by UNIMA's refusal to grant 1000 Euro to enable the translation of this publication into French. We believe that since French is one of the three official languages of UNIMA, the book should be published in each one of the three languages. We ask our President to intervene with the Executive and ask them to review this unacceptable decision. On its part, the Commission is prepared to look for other less expensive ways of making the translation, by appealing for example to interpretation training schools. Jan V will start to follow up this lead.

3. New publication project

The Commission moved on to a great exchange of ideas in order to choose our next project. Some members wished the work to be based on university research, and to invite academic personalities to become involved. Others accentuated the need not to neglect the practical side of puppetry. In the end we decided to combine both : the work would take in some solid research, but also practical productions, the two aspects being complimentary. Lastly it was decided that each member would set to work and produce the initial texts by 15th April 2018.

Antje W is organising a symposium on the theme of 'Puppet and Human Beings, performing across borders' at Friedrichsdorf (Frankfurt-am-Main) in February 2018, together with the German association of therapists DGTP, a member of UNIMA, and their sister association Swiss FFT. She told us about the work of the symposium.

Jan V and Sabrina L talked about their work with migrants and refugees.

Edmond D will follow the work of a teacher developing a project with puppets, which begins in September 2017. He will attempt to collect information on what the pupils are learning in the different disciplines involved, and what progress they have made in terms of behaviour, co-operation, and self-confidence.

We have not fixed the final form the publication will take : it could be a book, an on-line document, or an e-book, depending on whatever means are available.

Alongside this piece of work, with interesting articles written or collected by the members, the corresponding members (who would not have direct input into the group organising our project), could perhaps see their work distributed via the channel of the Research Commission, which is exploring interesting possibilities for publication via China. Livija K will follow this up and make useful contacts.

4. Presentation of the EDT Commission

UNIMA is inviting the Commission to present its activities during the International Festival of Puppet Theatre, on the 21st September in Charleville-Mézières. Edmond D thought he might like to do it but could not give a definite response till the 4th July. Jan V was also interested, and Edmond D, considering that there would be no point in two people making the journey, (*said*) naturally he (*Jan*) should do the job. If Jan had to withdraw, he should notify Livija K as soon as possible and would then be replaced by Edmond D.

5. DGTP Symposium in Friedrichsdorf

The Commission will be associated with this new venture. Antje W will send all the necessary information in plenty of time.

6. Facebook

Several members wished that the Commission could have a Facebook presence. Contact will be made with Terence Tan and Emma Fischer to see if they couldn't post messages from our Commission on their pages.

7. Miscellaneous

Antje W made the point that it is important to make female and male politicians aware of the importance of puppets. Lobbying is imperative, so that the art of puppetry will be recognised and supported.

Meg A was told about the Commission's work, via videoconference,

Edmond Debouny
Minutes
Translated into English by
Meg Amsden