

Activities of the Research Commission 2012-2016

For this period of activity, the Research Commission is defined as a theatre research commission which includes research into history, theory, criticism and practice as theatre research in the field of puppet theatre.

2012

Establishing of the new Research Commission; planning projects for the next four years; preparation of the projects.

2013

1. **THE BIG GRIN SYMPOSIUM, London, GB, March 2013:** continuation of one of the projects from the previous Research Commission (*Organisers/curators: Matthew Isaac Cohen, Cariad Astles*); collaborative project; no financial participation from UNIMA but with participation of members of Research Commission. Theme: **post-traditional popular puppetry.**
2. **CONFERENCE OF SCHOLARS AND PUPPETEER-PRACTITIONERS, Košice, Slovakia, June 9th – 10th 2013;** Research Commission in cooperation with Košice Puppet Theatre, SK (*Organiser: Ida Hledíková*). Themes: *Metamorphoses of Puppetry; Dramaturgy of Puppetry and Image Theatre; Symbol and Visual Metaphor; Diversification of Performance in Puppet Theatre.* The conference brought together interesting views of scholars and practitioners on contemporary questions about dramaturgy of puppet theatre and trends in contemporary directing and performing in puppet theatre. Seven members of the Research Commission from Asia, Europe and Latin America participated, plus scholars, dramaturgs, doctoral candidates and directors from Belarus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. The conference was supported by UNIMA with 1570 EUR for translation costs. The hosting festival covered accommodation for four nights for all participants, room hire for meetings and festival tickets.
3. **PUBLICATION OF THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS from Košice. (Organiser and editor: Ida Hledíková).** Cooperation between the UNIMA Research Commission with the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava and the puppet theatre in Košice. Published: December 2013, language Slovak; 300 copies.

2014

1. **TAMPERE-2: INTERNATIONAL EVENTS FOR RESEARCH INTO STAGE ANIMATION, Tampere, Finland, November 27th – 28th 2014. Theme: SPECTATORSHIP. (Organiser: Katriina Andrianov).** UNIMA Research Commission project in collaboration with the University of Tampere, School of Communication, Media and Theatre, The Centre for Practise as Research in Theatre, UNIMA FINLAND and Cultural Co-operative Kiito. The event was open to the public and was free of charge. The speakers and performers came from

Finland, France, Iran, Japan, Norway, Romania, Russia, Slovakia and the USA. The event was moderated by doctoral students of theatre research, practitioners, educators, officials and students of puppet theatre and film animation. The event comprised seven papers, two performances and two workshops. The theme, *Spectatorship*, was approached from perspectives from historical, social and cultural studies as well as by means of linguistics, phenomenology and aesthetics, taking also into account sensory perceptions other than visual. The conference also celebrated the 30th anniversary of UNIMA Finland (1984-2014). The language of the event was English.

2. The UNIMA Research Commission participated in the **INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM** hosted by the Institut International de la Marionnette/ESNAM: **PUPPETRY AND POWER: Censorship, Propaganda, Resistance (XIX-XXIth centuries)**. IIM Charleville-Mézières, FR, November 20th – 23rd 2014. **(Organiser of Research Commission support: *Raphaële Fleury*)**. The Research Commission gave financial support to enable meetings of young researchers and PhD students from different parts of the world who presented their research projects during the conference.

2015, 2016

1. During 2015 and 2016 the Research Commission carried out editorial work and publishing of the results of three of the conferences listed above (London, Košice, Tampere) in the publication: INTERNATIONAL PUPPETRY RESEARCH: TRACING PAST AND PRESENT (in English). **(Editors were *Cariad Astles and Ida Hledíková with the assistance of Katriina Andrianov*)**. 500 copies were printed in Slovakia. The book consists of selected contributions from three conferences.
2. The Research Commission gave the last version of The Directory of Puppet Theatre Researchers **(edited by *Ida Hledíková and published in 2012 (CDRom, UNIMA web)*)** to IIM. **Raphaële Fleury** is updating a new version of the database of researchers of puppet theatre.

All activities of the Research Commission - conferences, symposium, workshops, meetings with young researchers, our book INTERNATIONAL PUPPETRY RESEARCH: TRACING PAST AND PRESENT, the updated version of Directory of Puppetry Researchers) result from our efforts to fulfil the objectives of the Commission to promote puppetry research at an international level and to bring together researchers from different parts of the world, including theatre scholars, critics, anthropologists and practitioners. The conferences, meetings and workshops provided a platform for them to discuss, communicate and exchange methods and fields of research within puppet theatre, both in theory and in practice.