

# RAPPORT FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

## JUNE 2016 – MAYO 2018

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### 1- 2016 - 2017 - 2018

#### Synthesis of the activities of the General Secretary

This is the report on the meetings, trips and achievements of this two years since my election to the post, in summary:

- I made 17 trips:10 have to France and 7 to other countries: Iran, Cuba, South Africa, China, Portugal and Indonesia.
- I met several times the different political and cultural institutions of Charleville, the Department, the Region and the Ministry.
- I have attended, together with Lucile Bodson, the International Conference of the Comité of Liaison of UNESCO NGOs. Lucile, as she is living in Paris, follows most of the meetings of UNESCO, specially the meetings of the Peace Commission. Lucile and Katarina Kocutar attend also to a meeting of Youth that was held in Ryad. I went also to a meeting with Philippe Beaussant, President of the Comité of Liaison of UNESCO's NGOs, to speak about the idea of the World Puppetry Day 2019, the official recognition of the WPD and the "Upgrade" of UNIMA to the statutes of Official partnership. Now the relationship is becoming quite fluid. At this moment we are waiting for a meeting with Mr. Tim Curtis Head of the Cultural Heritage Section of UNESCO.
- I went to Charleville several times to work in the office first with Fabrice Guillot and then with Emmanuelle Castang.
- Strengthen the relationship with the Municipality of Charleville-Mézières - nowadays the Municipality count with UNIMA for everything that has to do with puppetry, for Instance: We are members of the Steering Committee of the "cité des Arts de la Marionnette" de Charleville-Mézières
- Strengthen the relationship with the *Department des Ardennes*
- Strengthen the relationship with the *Region GrandEst*
- Strengthen the relationship with the Ministry of Culture
- Strengthen the relationship with the *Institut International de la Marionnette de Charleville Mézières*
- Strengthen the relationship with the *Musée de l'Ardenne* - future Puppet Museum of Charleville
- Strengthen the relationship with the *Maison de Loisire et Culture Ma Bohème*
- Renewal of the convention with the Department

- Renewal of the convention with the Municipality
- Renewal of the Convention with the *Region GrandEst*
- Recovering of subventions from the Ministry of Culture
- Establishing of e-mails for each president of the Commission
- Organization of 1st and 2nd Edition of World Puppetry Day in Charleville Mézières. This year (2018) most of the Cultural Institutions have join UNIMA on the celebrations, and it is becoming a quite important Puppetry and social event in Charleville
- For the World Puppetry Day we prepared a Road Book to help National Centers to organize the WPD
- For the First time we had a common Slogan and a common poster that was done in every language that was required.
- We organize for the WPD 2017 a Competition worldwide and for WPD 2018 a video record also for all national Centers. The second call had more response that the first one and we hope that for next year the answer will be bigger.
- We made booklets for every Commission and for UNIMA in General, explaining what is UNIMA and what are the aims and the objectives of each Commissions. These booklets were distributed during the FMTM 2017 in Charleville-Mézières, and will be distributed in every event that any member of the EC will attend.
- During the FMTM we organize in the Headquarters of UNIMA presentations of all he Commissions and of UNIMA itself with a great acceptance by the puppeteers presents at the Festival. The Headquarters were open since 9 am up to 9pm for everybody. We organize the launch of the WEPA online with a great success of attendance the room of the Musée de l'Ardenne where we did the presentation was full of people.
- We reach an agreement with the Archives Departementales des Ardennes that will keep the archives of UNIMA, they will catalogue them and keep the safety. The archives will be at the disposal of researchers to the extent that we want it.
- We have start to send information directly to the National Centers and to those members that we have the e-mail addresses.
- We have prepared a project "When youth reinvent the Heritage" that we have present to the Erasmus+ grants projects of the Europe Commission, a Huge project, in which Emmanuelle has work very, very hard and in which we have as partners, the school of Stuttgart from Germany, The CDN of Strasbourg in France, The Cooperative Synkoino from Greece, and the TOPIC of Tolosa from Spain. The project has workshops and finish with the production of the european show of 90th year of UNIMA.
- We have launch the "Call for Young Authors" and selected the jury
- We have achieved the label of the European year of Culture
- We have started the preparation of the exhibition for the 90th anniversary of UNIMA
- We have started to collect the Statutes of all the National Centers missing at UNIMA archives where there MUST be and to collect UNIMA's national centers list of members
- I have organized the office
- I have try to be available to everyone who has called or wanted to talk to me
- I have tried to answer to everyone that has write to me, at least to everyone that has wrote directly to me.

## 2- 2016 - 2017 - 2018

### Detail activities of the General Secretary

Since taking over the General Secretariat in June 2016, I have had the following meetings and travels with the sole purpose of achieving the visibility and survival objectives of our Association:

11-12 July 2016

#### FRANCE - CHARLEVILLE MÉZIÈRES - MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

**Meeting with Lucile Bodson, Fabrice Guillot and Cédric de Mondenard** with the aim of setting the guidelines of UNIMA:

- Use of the logo
- Letterhead design on commission
- E-mail for each commission president
- A single web page by UNIMA Internacional
- Publications approved by the Publications Commission
- Commissions - no more than 10 members including youth
- Cédric IS THE WEBMASTER
- Redesign of the web page with cheaper WordPress execution, annual maintenance easier to use
- Online agenda - for members of the Executive Committee - transparency.

#### **Meeting With Carole Marquet-Morelle - Director Musée de l'Ardenne**

Want to make a Puppet Museum in Charleville Mézières - How can you collaborate with UNIMA?

- Networks - contacts and experience
- Co-productions

They wanted to visit TOPIC, to which they were invited (they visited it in November 2016)

Assignment of the hall for the presentation of WEPA

New meeting in September to discuss about 90th anniversary

#### **Meeting with Mr. Boris Ravignon - Mayor of Charleville and Mr. André Marquet - Councilor for Culture**

Objective

- **thank** the support given to UNIMA
- publicize the **activity** and **potential** of UNIMA
- Increase of the subsidy.
- **Puppets Pole**, place for UNIMA

The promise was that any important UNIMA project would be taken into account as well as the anniversary of the 90 years.

At that meeting, to my surprise I began to note the lack of knowledge of the Institutions from les Ardennes of UNIMA and its activities.

#### **Meeting with Mr Olivier Brun - Departmental Council of the Ardennes**

Objective:

- Renegotiate the 4-year agreement

We spoke about the possibility of donating or transferring the archives to the Department, we agreed on a meeting for the month of September with Mr. Eric Montat, Director of Departmental Archives.

Mr. Brun explains that 50% of the Department's Culture budget goes to Puppets and that UNIMA is the third most important association after the Festival and the Institut but there is a lot of ignorance about what we do and that we must communicate more and show financial support from other countries and other puppet organizations.

We offer copies of the WEPA for schools and libraries of the Department. They thanks very much our offer

We explained that in 2019, the 90th anniversary of UNIMA will be celebrated and our intention to organize important events whose central celebration will take place in Charleville during the FMTM.

**22 - 28 August 2016**

**IRAN - TEHRAN - 16th INTERNATIONAL PUPPET MOBARAK FESTIVAL**

When I received the kind invitation from both the director of the Festival, Marzieh Baroumand and the President of UNIMA Mobarak Ardalan Hamidreza, do not hesitate to accept it. It was going to be my first official trip as General Secretary of UNIMA International, to a country from which I only know two great puppeteers like Behrouz Gharibpour and Zahra Sabri.

As it is known I had to adhere to the norms of dress that prevail in the Islamic countries having to wear the hair covered by a veil well dressed or long trousers and long sleeve, although according to comments of our president Dadi Pudumjee the rules have relaxed enough in relation to previous years.

My first surprise was the inaugural parade, I have not seen any opening of a puppet festival as numerous as the Mobarak Festival! I attended the parade with Marzieh Baroumand, the festival director who is a very famous children's TV film director for children in her country, and I must say that I have not lived a similar experience in my life, How much they love her!!!! Everyone wanted to take pictures with her ... It seems that her films entertained the children during the bombing in the time of the war and these children are now parents who have not forgotten those films and continue to show them to their children who grow up too with them, hence the enormous affection he feels for Marzieh. So it was a very large parade in which giant puppets participated, some of the groups participating in the Festival (those who had already arrived) and public in general, this parade was a good omen of what awaited us the following days.

The Festival took place during the afternoons. In the morning, I had the day off, which my hosts took advantage to teach me something of their city. I have meetings meetings with the director of the National Drama Center of Iran, with the Board of Directors of Mobarak UNIMA, with the Deputy Director of the Festival; we also took advantage of Dadi and I being together to discuss issues of the Association.

40 companies participated in the festival, offering 67 performances. 32 of the companies were Iranian who offered 49 functions, 1 German company that offered 2 representations, 1 Czech that offered 1 function, 1 Spanish that offered 4, 2 Dutch that offered 2 functions each, 1 India that offered 2 representations, 1 Polish, which made 3 performances, and finally a Russian that delighted the audience with 2 performances.

The organization of the Festival is in the hands of Marzieh Baroumand who has the invaluable help of Marjan Poorgholamhossein, Sepehr Sharifzadeh and a great team of puppeteers who work with great enthusiasm, making the stay of puppeteers and guests unforgettable.

I must say that I came back strongly impressed by the courage and enthusiasm of the Iranian puppeteers, I explain why. During the festival there were quite a few delays in when starting the shows, which made impossible for which, and us to see all the functions that we would have liked why not say it, bothered me. On the other hand talking to our lovely interpreters Pasira and Marzi, they told me that there were no puppet companies in Iran, that there were only groups. To my question what was the difference they told me, company are those who had "theater", I told them that in the world except exceptions companies did not have "theaters" but rather act in theaters that hire them. However, they told me that in Iran there are not ... Finally I met with Marjan Poorgholamhossein, to talk about my impressions about the Festival, explain that they should take care of the schedule, then we talk about the level of the companies, I asked that I could not understand about the "non-existence of Iranian companies". With their explanations I understood ALL, the "companies" I saw at the festival, work between 5 and 7 months to participate in the Festival, where they offer 1 or 2 functions, and then they do not act again until next festival !!!!. It seems that theaters program theater actor but not puppet theater ... Therefore our fellow Iranian puppeteers have other works and come together and they prepare a show, just for the Festival ... I can say that it was difficult for me to understand, I did it repeat several times ... But then I understood EVERYTHING, for me it is like a miracle that in the country where puppeteers only pu eden to act in a theater every two years, be the country with the largest or most numerous UNIMA! those puppeteers are almost heroes !!!!, that is to love the profession!

Another companion who impressed me was the Afghan puppeteer from Kabul, who among the bombs takes time, desire and enthusiasm to create a show in a totally self-taught way, asking us for help to train, I went to see his show a sad spectacle in which, death and horror were present, as in many other shows we saw, in which the war was very present ...

I tried to visit the Puppet Museum in Tehran and it was closed 3 months ago for lack of money ...

In my meeting with Mr. Shafiee, the director of the National Drama Center of Iran, He asked my opinion about the Festival, I told him that it has very good potential but need to be able to act throughout the year, not only during the Festival, they should create a Puppet Center in which there were one or several theaters, a museum, spaces of creation, the public have it, since the sessions were full to overflow, the artists have them, they just need the spaces ... We will see if we have preached in the desert or if it has any effect.

We also met with Mobarak UNIMA, this time we were Dadi and I, to whom we informed the meeting, with Mr. Shafiee, so that they also on their part can follow the contacts and can be a Puppet Center in a future. They informed us that they, on the other hand, were trying to correct that reality that was actually corrected and that last year they had achieved 10 functions, in any case they will intensify efforts in that direction since it is clear that it is difficult to be a puppeteer if not can act.

At the closing of the Festival, an emotional tribute was paid to our President Dadi Pudumjee, a beloved person among the puppeteers of Iran and members of the Mobarak Festival who are very grateful for his invaluable help over the years. Also honored to Behrouz Gahribpour, previous director of the Festival.

Finally, I would like to warmly thank Marzieh, Ardalan, Marjan, Sepehr, Parisa, Marzi and all the Festival team who made our stay in Tehran unforgettable.

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**8 - 10 December 2016**

**CUBA - MATANZAS - MEETING COMMITTEE 3 AMERICAS**

The meeting was a success, the first time that the American countries met, nor before when it was the Latin American Commission had never met, they went to Matanzas representatives of 12 American countries, between full members and representatives lacking only 3 countries. They were present at the meeting:

- Grover Loredó - Bolivia (Representative)
- Conception Rosiere - Brazil
- Isabel Payant - Canada
- Magali Chouinard - Canada
- Patricia Araya - Chile
- Kembly Aguilar - Costa Rica
- Blanquita - Cuba
- Christian - Cuba
- Danelis Dieguez - Cuba
- Norge Espinosa - Cuba
- René Fernández - Cuba
- Ruben Dario Salazar - Cuba
- Yudd Favier - Cuba
- Zenen Calero - Cuba
- Manuel Moran - United States - Puerto Rico
- Nacho Larios - Mexico
- Gonzalo Cuéllar - Nicaragua
- Felipe Rivas - Peru
- Basilio Nova - Dominican Republic
- Tato Martínez - Uruguay

It was a great satisfaction for me to see how a Commission that was born with conflict was brought back, thanks to the good work done by its president Manuel Morán and the good atmosphere created by our Cuban colleagues, the spirit of the Commission is to work together for all the puppeteers of the Americas in order to be more present in everything that is done anywhere in the world. But the representatives of the Commission of the 3 Americas will explain by themselves. I congratulate them on the fact that at the moment it is one of the Commissions that is working, with enthusiasm and keeping the General Secretariat informed of its meetings and progress.

It is to be thanked once again for the work and involvement of UNIMA Cuba and the cultural institutions of the island that provided a great welcome, making possible that the meeting was held and also in the relaxed atmosphere and conducive to the achievement of its objectives.

**12 -15 December 2016**

**FRANCE - PARIS - CONFERENCE LINKING COMMITTEE OF UNESCO NGOs**

We attended the conference Lucile Bodson and myself, although Lucile Bodson had to leave on Monday 12 at noon, returning around 4 pm and Tuesday afternoon as he had commitments that he could not avoid.

It was the first time, at least as far as we know, and so we were told that UNIMA was attending, despite many years affiliated to UNESCO for its annual conference, therefore we felt a bit lost, but we found it very interesting.

As soon as we received the documentation, Lucile realized that the annual report included the invitation made to the President of the Liaison Committee by UNIMA Armenia to celebrate a Day for Peace by planting a tree. Which made us happy (and Lucile was not there at the moment) to talk to

her confessing to me that she had been delighted to keep a very good memory and still having contact with someone from Israel, in fact she is shortly there.

Speakers included Mr. Frank de la Rúa, UNESCO Deputy Director General for Communication and Information, who is of Guatemalan nationality. During my brief stay in Cuba, we talked about the deplorable state in which the Mayan stele of Bilbao is located, and that UNIMA should do something about it, so that as soon as Mr. La Rúa's conference was over we left Lucile and I to talk to him, explaining the subject and suggested that we speak with Mr. Julio Carranza, director of the UNESCO Office in Guatemala and with the Vice Minister of Culture, offering to provide contacts.

We also contacted Mrs. Dita Limova from the Department of International Relations of the Czech Ministry of Culture with whom I spoke (Lucile was not) about the celebration of the 90th anniversary of UNIMA and asked me to send her the project.

We talked a lot with Philippe Vaillant of the Political Service of the metropolitan area of Charleville Mézières with whom, among other things, we talked about the celebration of 90 years of UNIMA, he really liked the project and offered to help us.

We also contacted the new Chairman of the Liaison Committee who was interested in maintaining contact with us for possible projects together.

We contacted different NGOs with whom we can collaborate in the future.

**23 - 26 January 2017**

#### **FRANCE - CHARLEVILLE MÉZIÈRES - MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS**

##### **Meeting with Madame Bérèngere Poletti - deputy of the Ardennes in the National Assembly and Vice-President of the Departmental Council.**

Objective:

- Introduce myself and make known the activities of UNIMA, the projects for 2017, 2018 and especially the 2019 anniversary.

He shows us his interest and promises to help especially in those projects related to the Basque Country (?). We give her an Encyclopedia and a dossier of the activities carried out in the last 4 years.

##### **Lunch with Eloi Recoing**

Objective:

- **World Puppet Day** We talked about the organization of the DMM, organization in the TIM with the reading of the Message and then an improvisation in charge of the students of the 11 Promotion, to finish a wine will be served in the cafeteria of the Institute.

- **90th Anniversary** Eloi proposes a conference on the history of UNIMA and its contribution to the development of the Puppet Theater in France.

##### **Meeting with Bernard Huré** President of the Departmental Council of the Ardennes, with **Mr. Dupin** Chief of Cabinet and **Stéphane André** Director of Culture and Sports.

Objective:

- **Renewal of the agreement, 2016 grant balance, project presentation**

We explain the projects for 2017 and the projects for the 2019 anniversary. Mr. Huré explains that there has been a generalized drop in subsidies. It confirms the renewal of the agreement on a triennial basis for an amount of € 12.000 per year. It confirms the € 6.000 of 2016 that we thought we had lost. We must urgently prepare a dossier so that we can pay this € 6.000 and coordinate a meeting with Mr Stéphane André on the content of the agreement for February.

**Meeting with Philippe Vaillant** - Mission Officer - Political Service of the City - Economic Development

The 2019 event could take place. Since there is a willingness to collaborate with marionette associations, we are advised to contact Laurent Biston and Jean-Pierre Danne of the Maison de Culture and Loisir

He comments on possible collaborations for long-term projects in the framework of "Creative Cities of the World - economic dimension of puppetry.

**Meeting with Nathalie Robcis** - Departmental Adviser and President of the Culture Commission of the Departmental Council

Objective:

- Introduce myself and make known the activities of UNIMA, the projects for 2017, 2018 and especially the 2019 anniversary.

We present the projects and we deliver the encyclopedia and the dossier, if applicable go to our offices

Food with André Marquet - Councilor for Culture, Gregory Truong - International Office of the Town Hall - Carole Marquet-Morelle - Director Museum of l'Ardenne and Béatrice - Carole's assistant.

Lucile Bodson and myself invited by Mr Marquet the objective is to cultivate the good relationship that is increasingly strengthened with the political and cultural institutions of Charleville, we take advantage of the food to talk about the inauguration of ESNAM, the launch of the WEPA in the Museum, it is decided that the presentation will not be made in the auditorium which is smaller because it has a capacity for 56 people and instead there is another larger room with a capacity for 120 people. We also talked about the exhibition for the 90th anniversary of UNIMA and the celebration of World Puppet Day.

**Meeting with Anne Françoise Cabanis**

Objective:

- To present World Puppet Day, the presence of UNIMA in FMTM, the 90th anniversary of UNIMA and other possibilities for collaboration

We explain what we are going to do this year for World Puppet Day.

We told her the initial idea that we have for the 90th anniversary of doing a show - parade with children from different countries led by Dadi, bearing in mind that he has experience in projects of this type. Anne Françoise says she is NOT willing to collaborate on any project of this type ...



We talk about the exhibition about the 90 years of UNIMA that we want to make an exhibition about the founders of UNIMA during the Festival; we want it to be in the Place Ducal. First, she asks us in which it is going to consist the exposition, if they are going to be just documents, we explain that we want puppets, they are fundamentally in this exhibition. He tells us how good it is but in the *Place Ducal*, not at the Hôtel de Ville, to which we answer no. which has to be at the Place Ducal, at our insistence, alluding to the relationship of the Festival with UNIMA and its founder Jacques Felix, says that it could be in the Departmental Showcase, we say to him that it agrees. Now it is pending of future meetings.

**21 marzo**

### **FRANCIA - CHARLEVILLE MÉZIÈRES – WORLD PUPPETRY DAY**

To my surprise World Puppetry Day, our day was not celebrated in Charleville Mézières, the "World Capital of the Puppet" and the city where our headquarters is located, as soon as I became aware of it, I decided that that could not be, that we had to celebrate it, even in a modest way, but we had to do something, and with the invaluable help of Lucile, we got to work, from what you have read so far we have followed the process, Eloi, was immediately delighted with the idea and joined the celebration for what in this first year of celebration modestly.

We did the drawing contest that did not have much echo. In the Ardennes, we had many difficulties and finally only two schools participated in the rest of the member countries, we must thank UNIMA China, which has been the largest country in terms of participation, and the other countries that have encouraged their children to participate: Slovenia, Estonia, France, Holland, India, Japan.

The celebration at the IIM was a success, the "All Charleville" came, it was full. The TIM was full to overflow and resulted in a simple but nice act, the subsequent "wine of the home friendship" (prepared between Lucile and me) was very pleasant and gave people a chance to talk freely and many volunteers from the FMTM volunteered to help us next year, as well as other associations that want to participate in future editions and with whom (as you will see later) we have already established contact. Mr. Boris Ravignon thanked us effusively for having taken the initiative to organize the event and told us that next year we will count on them for what we need.

The only negative note was that Anne Françoise Cabannis was annoyed because she said that she had not been counted on to organize the event (?), We talked to her, we explained that we had talked to her in January, but ... she did not want come to the celebration.

**20 - 25 mayo**

### **SUDAFRICA - CAPE TOWN - CONGRESO DE ASSITEJ**

I attended the ASSITEJ Congress invited by its president with the objective of deepening the good relations between the two institutions and attending the meeting convened to discuss the WPW (World Performance Week).

My surprise was when I received the information that the invitation was only for two hotel nights, the day before the meeting and the day of the meeting, the explanation given was that the economic situation in South Africa is very bad and that is why they could not afford Pay more for those nights. In any case I decided to go and the three more nights I was covered by TOPIC, and luckily I made that decision because otherwise the trip would have practically been in vain.

I must say that the organization left a lot to be desired, upon my arrival at the hotel, I had no information, I had not previously received, just the name of the hotel, I had to send an e-Mail asking

what I had to do the next day, at what time, where was the meeting ... I got an answer around 11 at night apologizing and indicating where I had to go to collect my accreditation and documentation and what time and where was the meeting. As an anecdote: I arrived, but not so my luggage, so the next day the first thing I had to do was buy the essentials (toothbrush, comb ...) was a good start!

The next day after making the necessary purchases, and being warned by the hotel employees, who accompanied me to the store, of the danger of the city and of not daring to walk alone, that is to say that it was by taxi and of course in official taxis taken in the hotels and never the ones of the street, etc. I went to the Congress venue where the next surprise awaited me ... I was not registered !!!, after the appropriate explanations and show them the e-Mail invitation along with the following emails confirming the hotel, etc, etc. . , they called Yvette who clarified the subject and they gave me the identification, corresponding documentation and a ticket to collect the tickets for the shows that I had to choose. Once I selected the shows I went to pick up the tickets and 90% of the ones I chose had no tickets and had to pay the tickets ... In short a somewhat quirky organization.

As far as I was concerned I was not very fortunate, I know that there were people who enjoyed Congress very much and the parallel activities, especially those that preceded Congress, but I could not enjoy all that. I only saw 2 shows and I was in several sessions of the Congress, which in my opinion, were much more chaotic than ours ... At least as far as voting is concerned, which seems to me to be a very serious issue, they do not keep a record as US...

Regarding the meeting that I went to, due to an initial miscommunication, as I explained, there was no information about where and what time the meeting was, just the day, and we only asked for the details of the IDEA representative and I for that matter. that the other Associations did not attend the meeting, so it was carried out in 3 stages.

- First stage or meeting we were represented ASSITEJ, IDEA (International Drama and Theater Education Association - Robín Pascoo) and UNIMA. Yvette began to propose a series of activities to do together, but I commented that in the absence of assistance from other associations considered that there was too much interest therefore it was better to start with smaller, simpler things and then grow. Therefore the proposal that came out of this first meeting was to give more content to the "World Performance week" proposing a motto every year for that week and doing a joint communication campaign of the week.

The second meeting took place the following day, May 22 during breakfast, I met with Octavian Saiu, representative of the AICT and representative of the International Association of Theater Critics, to whom I explained what had been discussed the previous day, and other comments possibilities, but we agree that it is better to start modestly.

The third meeting, which took place on the 24th, was attended by Yvette Hardie and Marisa Giménez Cacho, President and Secretary General of ASSITEJ, Octavian Saiu, AICT representative, Rob Van Genechten, President of the International Association of Theater Critics. the IATA (International Association of Amateur Theater) and Bert Determann, President of OIASTAT (International Organization of Staging, Technical and Theater Architects), agreed the following:

- to create a common WPAW theme
- that the message of the various associations is about the motto

- make a series of recommendations like what is done in the celebration of the DIM, for the celebration of the WPAW
- exchange information about our activities.
- Hold a meeting a year of the associations involved by organizing a seminar or conference around the meeting on a topic of common interest for the various associations.
- I also attended the presentation of theater magazines that took place on the 21 st event in which I presented the magazines of the different UNIMAS and WEPA, explaining that in September this year the launch of WEPA online in 3 languages would be made.
- In short, the trip was interesting to meet the leaders of the other Associations, but it was a pity that we did not have time to deepen the issues with them, since although the purpose of the ALL trip was the meeting, the meeting was not finally the day I was called if not the day I left, in an hour while we were eating and in conditions not very suitable. The intention is good, I think we have to go deeper into it, but I do not know whether by the conditions of the country or by the host organization, but the proper elements were not given to have a meeting in optimum conditions.
- On the other hand, I think that in relation to the Congress the most interesting part is the previous one, which I was unable to attend, in which there were several seminars and courses that seemed genuinely interesting in the program, which was corroborated by the comments of friends and of assistants. The following topics were addressed:Multidisciplinary Theatre: fostering intercultural tolerance and educational reforms in Ghana and beyond
  - Exiles, refugees & migrants
  - Intercultural exchange / diversity
  - Transformation & citizenship
  - Democracy / citizenship
  - Gender
  - Healing
  - Contemporary Writing and Expressive Literacy
  - Theatre for children
  - What do we see on stage
  - Disability and inclusivity
  - Children, spectatorship and diversity
  - Early Years Theatre
  - Socially conscious Theatre
  - Creative case for diversity and interculturality
  - National approaches to Interculturality
  - Intercultural exchange diversity
  - Latino / a in the U.S.A.
  - International Association of theatre Critics
  - Supportive system or repressing conditions
  - TYA out the closet
  - Indigenous people / Fragility / Healing
  - Theatre and Storytelling
  - Theatre as Education
  - Theatre for Social Change
  - Theatre for healing
  - Theatre by children for children
  - Dance theatre for young audiences

- Inclusive International Arts for, by and with people of all abilities
- Theatre for early years audiences of 0-6 years old

However the Congress left a certain bitter taste among the attendants as there were a large number of robberies, every day was given between 2 and 4 cases of congressmen who were victims of robberies

**1-7 June**

**NANCHONG FESTIVAL 2nd ASIA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL PUPPETRY FESTIVAL**

I attended with a pleasant surprise a great festival magnificently organized by Mrs. Tang Dayu and her team, which attends the companies with the same dedication as the guests, a Festival complemented with a seminar on different subjects for the profession and a meeting between directors of Festivals and programmers and companies in order that they can "sell" and "buy" their products that can establish contact. Frankly, I should like to congratulate Tang Dayu and his collaborators on the work being done by the Asia Pacific Commission as an attempt to bring the Western puppet closer to the Asian puppeteers and to bring programmers closer to Asian shows so that they can meet them and "buy" them for their schedules. I must also say that anything that was said to me that it did not work or that it should improve took note immediately with the purpose of improving it if it could at the moment and if not for the next edition of the Festival.

Taking advantage that in the Festival there were many members of C.E. I suggested that we meet during breakfast, a proposal that was very well received, here below, I include the Working breakfasts Act

Participants:

Idoya Otegui - Secretary General  
 Karen Smith - Vice President  
 Lucile Bodson - Treasurer

Cariad Astles - Research Committee  
 Albert Bagno - MOAN Committee  
 Tang Dayu - Asia Pacific Commission  
 Louise Lapointe - Commission International Festivals  
 Tito Lorefice - Commission Vocational training

Greta Bruggeman - Subcommittee on contemporary writings (June 4)  
 Frans Hakkemars - Subcommittee online magazines (4 June)

Presence at the festival of Charleville Mézières

**Launch WEPA - 22 September 12 noon - Musee de l'Ardenne**

- Develop a reusable roll up so that we can use it whenever we need it, anywhere the encyclopedia is going to be presented.
- Invite the local and national French press and if possible, from other countries: Fabrice will ask the institute for a list of contacts
- Elaboration of the guest list - Dadi, Lucile, Karen and Idoya,

- Preparation of the press pack - Contents: history of WEPA from its inception. Karen will provide the texts to Adriana
- Preparation of a PPT presentation in English, French and Spanish: Cédric and Adriana.
- Preparation of an online WEPA brochure
- At the end of the event, a glass

### **Activities UNIMA 18-22 September - Headquarters UNIMA**

- Once it is verified that it is permissible to make vinyl with the UNIMA logo to be affixed to the floor of the streets of Charleville, specifically from the festival office and, for example, the International Puppet Institute, showing the way to the venue of the UNIMA.
- Make a banner to place on the exterior facade of the UNIMA

- Reapply the UNIMA brochure that was made to take to UNESCO: a diptych in A5 format, very visual, in 3 languages and with many photos, which should include:

- \* Text about UNIMA in general
- \* 1 photo of children watching or making puppets
- \* 4 or 5 photos, including cover photo
- \* Photo Credits
- \* Logos of the institutions
- \* UNIMA address and social networks
- \* Members of the Executive Committee

Brochure commissions: in the same format and design as the general, one will be made for each commission

- \* Text on the commission
- \* 4 or 5 photos, including cover photo
- \* Photo Credits
- \* Logos of the institutions
- \* UNIMA address and social networks
- \* Official address of the commission chair
- \* Members of the commission

Finally we agreed to do the same thing in Nanchong, that is, to meet each morning at breakfast at UNIMA, each day one or more commissions will bring bread and croissants and Idoya and Adriana will prepare tea, coffee and the rest of the breakfast. All members of the Executive Committee present at the Festival are welcome. The time will be announced well in advance once we know the program of the Festival.

World Puppet Day

Idoya proposes that the message of the year 2018 be written by William Kentridge

It also proposes to have a type of slogan for the day and for all the activities organized around this day (this can also be used for "World Performance Week" - Idoya suggested it in Cape Town) including the message written by William Kentridge (if he accepts)

Poster for the World Day: the poster will be in PDF format so that each national center can download it as each National Center must add the day in its own language: "21st March 2018" and the text: "World Puppetry Day" , placing it in the space established for it.

The poster image should be related to the artist who will write the message

There is a slogan proposed by Albert Bagno: "Together we create the movement"

**12 JUNE**

### **STRASBURG MEETING GRANDEST**

#### **Meeting with Mr. Pascal Mangin - Head of Culture of the Grand Est Region.**

The meeting was important since we were aware that the Region had doubts about the subsidy to UNIMA since someone had informed them that our Association was not doing activities and that it did not deserve to receive a subsidy.

The meeting took place during a meal, Mr. Mangin asked us a lot of questions, among them a few about our relationship with Anne Françoise Cabanis, it seems that the answers they received, the explanations about what UNIMA is doing , the projects for 2018 and 2019 convinced them, as they have kept us subsidized last year. Mr. Pascal suggests that a Congress or Council be organized in Charleville, we say that it is up to us that it is up to the National Center to organize it, but we are delighted

**4 - 7 July 2017**

### **FRANCE - CHARLEVILLE - MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS**

#### **● Lunch with Mr. Marquet (City Councilor) and Carole Marquet-Morelle (Director of the Ardennes Museum)**

- Request for the presence of Mr Boris Ravignon in the presentation and launch of WEPA
- The Museum agrees to facilitate the technical needs and be able to offer a glass on the ground floor on WEPA presentation.
- Exchanges of opinion on the seat of the Council in 2018

#### **● Meeting with Anne-Françoise Cabanis / FMTM**

- Point on rumors of criticisms and slanderous statements made by UNIMA before the Region.
- Launching of activities of the Festival: agreement on the time and day of the inauguration for the day 18 at 19:00 hours to ensure their presence.
- Soirée chapiteau (20h to 22h with a pause of approximately 20 minutes.): On Tuesday 19/9
- Festival rules must request Charline Dupont
- We must prepare a security file.
- Meeting with the GrandEst Region: AF Cabanis invites company members of UNIMA (Germany, Finland, Norway ...)
- Projects 2018: collaboration for World Puppet Day

● Projects 2019: The Festival does not want to collaborate with the exhibition of the 90th anniversary. Porpone that the exhibition is made the Hôtel de Ville de Mézières, to which I refuse, since it is a place that does not meet the conditions, neither by location nor by technical conditions to make an exhibition worthy of the 90 years of the Association the oldest theater in the world. I think the UNIMA deserves a respect and more from the FMTM of Charleville that owes its beginnings to UNIMA.

● We talked about the Festival bags of the possibility of including the UNIMA brochure on these bags.

### **Meeting with Eloi Recoing / IIM**

- The date of World Puppet Day 2018 is already in the planning of the pupils (stage F. Soehnle and Mary Sharp - presentation of an open essay of the end of stage)
- Réflexion en commun on the development of World Puppet Day 2018 in the form of a circuit.
- Work on the animated films planned at ESNAM in 2019, a track for World Day?

### **Projects 2018/2019:**

- Exhibition 90th anniversary: inform Raphaële Fleury - reception space is reduced but could be at our disposal

**13 – 23 septembre 2017**

**FRANCIA – CHARLEVILLE MÉZIÈRES – FESTIVAL MONDIAL DES THÉÂTRES DE MARIONNETTES**

### **September 13th:**

Interview on the Radio with Mrs. Esquevin on UNIMA, which is the Association the activities we do and the activities that were planned during the Festival

I met at the Headquarters of UNIMA with Mr. Montat and Poupart responsables for the Departmental Archives in order to see and evaluate the files of UNIMA and the possibility of reaching an agreement of assignment or deposit of the same for us. We asked them to send us the two possibilities we have, under which conditions the cession or deposit could be made etc. They want to join the celebration of World Puppet Day on March 21.

Meeting with Mr. Danne and Biston director and President of the Maison de la Culture et Loisir Ma Bohème, in order to deepen the collaboration for the celebration of the World Puppet Day 2018. Its availability is total, so we just have to decide in which activity will be done. The WPD also coincides with the week of poetry, so probably will do something relate to it. As the previous week is festive in France will try to create a puppet show with children that can be presented in different spaces of Charleville as a result of the workshop during the festive week. They will also hold puppet workshops on March 21.

### **September 14:**

Interview with Marc Pasic journalist from l'Ardennais who was interested in UNIMA and the activities that we were going to carry out during the Festival, I proclaimed that other years had not been done, etc. etc.

During the days of the Festival, the presentations of the Commissions were carried out in the space conditioned for it at the headquarters of UNIMA. On the first day, UNIMA was presented as an official inauguration of the week. This inauguration was very successful with representatives from all Charleville Institutions and the Region, as well as from the Cultural Institutions of the city and representatives of the civil society and the press. The presentations of the Commissions were o very successful.

Working breakfasts were held every day with the chairpersons of Commissions.

The headquarters of UNIMA was open to everyone from 9 in the morning until 9 at night.

The launch of the WEPA on-line was another event of the cultural life of Charleville, the hall was full of people, and the presentation was widely applauded by the public.

**LISBON 23th 27th OCTOBER 2017**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The meeting took place from 23th to 27th October in Lisbon in the *Museu de la Marioneta de Lisboa*. From the 18 members of the E.C. Attended the meeting the following 14: **Dadi D. Pudumjee** - UNIMA President, President of the Social Justice Commission; **Lucile Bodson** - UNIMA Treasurer; **Karen Smith** - UNIMA Vice-President, President of the Publication & Contemporary Writing Commission; **Hamidreza Ardalan** - President of the Heritage Commission; **Albert Bagno** - President of the Middle East & North Africa Commission; **Stanislav Doubrava** - President of the Statutes Commission; **Katarina Klančnik Kocutar** - President of the Communication & Public Relations Commission; **Boris Konstantinov** - President of the Youth Commission; **Livija Kroflin** - President of the Education, Development & Therapy Commission; **Louise Lapointe** - President of the International Festivals Commission; **Helena Nilsson** - President of the Europe Commission; **Pierre- Alain Rolle** - President of the Cooperation Commission; **Tang Dayu** - President of the Asia-Pacific Commission; it was also present **María José Machado**, President of UNIMA Portugal and Director of the Museu, **Emmanuel Castang**, new assistant of the General Secretary and project Coordinator, **Cédric de Mondenard** web and social network expert of UNIMA and myself.

The meeting was perfectly organized by María José Machado and her team, in the mornings we hold the EC meetings and in the afternoons we had wonderful and interesting visits to different Museums in Lisbon, except one day that we had to cancel the organized visit to continue with the meeting of the EC as we had many things to discuss and we hadn't enough time. A perfect organization that we must thank to the charming and helpful team captained by María José.

The main points we spoke about during the meeting were as follows:

**Africa:**

Presentation: no representative

Remarks

The representative of the Africa Commission, Check Amadou Alheri Kotondi, is absent. He has not been present at the last two congresses (2012 and 2016), and has only rarely attended the Executive Committee meetings since his election to the EC. He seems to be suffering from health problems.

Shared observation: a member is missing from the Executive Committee.

**Recommendations / Proposals**

**Proposal** to review the rules in the "Rules of Procedure" regarding running for office as a member of the Executive Committee: the need to be present at the Congress when one is running for election on the EC.

**Proposal:** To send a letter to Check Kotondi telling him that the EC requires his presence at the next UNIMA meeting. If he doesn't answer or says he cannot be present, the EC will contact the person who was elected in 19th place at the time of the Executive Committee elections at the 2016 Congress to replace him as a member of the EC.

**Proposal:** If Check Kotondi cannot come to the next meeting or does not respond to the letter, UNIMA will invite in his stead an African adviser who will attend the meetings as an observer. That



person could be assisted to attend the 2018 Council meeting, if needed. People suggested: Boniface Kagambega (vice-president of the Africa Commission), Jude Zounmenou (who attended the 2016 Congress in Tolosa).

#### Vote

Approval of the two proposals > Vote: Approved unanimously

#### **Asia-Pacific Commission**

Presentation: Tang Dayu

As the headquarters of UNIMA Asia-Pacific Commission is located in Chengdu, China, the Commission has seized every chance to promote the visibility and influence of UNIMA, by making efforts in enhancing connections with governments, related departments, and cultural organizations in China in order to gain their support for UNIMA activities and to realize exchange and manifestation platform for artists from all over the world.

#### Questions

- How can other Asia-Pacific countries be more involved in the Commission? It is China that finances the shares, which is why they are in China. Other Asia-Pacific countries are informed. - Which Asia-Pacific regions are members of the Commission? India, Indonesia and Iran. It is an international commission that brings together 15 countries.

#### Remarks

It seems that some Asia-Pacific countries are complaining about not having news while the Commission is sending out information.

The General Secretary requests to be copied on e-mails sent to the Asia-Pacific Commission and countries of the Asia-Pacific region so she can be kept up to date regarding the projects and to avoid any complaints.

#### **MOAN Commission - Middle East and North Africa Commission**

Presentation: Albert Bagno

Twenty-five countries are members of the Commission. Communication is difficult. There are political difficulties within the Commission in assessing current global problems. There have been requests from other countries of the Commission to attach Israel to another geographical commission. These countries' members have refused to come to meetings as long as Israel will be present at such meetings. Albert Bagno requests mediation from the UNIMA Presidency.

#### Questions

- There is no National Centre in Israel. So, does this put into question their active participation in UNIMA commissions?

Answer: No, people who do not yet have a national centre can be members of commissions.

#### Remarks

- Dadi Pudumjee has already sent a letter. The situation is unchanged. He travels to Tangier this month and he will discuss this problem with members of the MOAN Commission.

Question has been asked to a UNESCO representative: There is no problem with Israel joining the Europe Commission.

- The fact that the MOAN Commission is headed by a European also seems to be a problem.

### **Recommendations / Proposals**

Dadi Pudumjee is handling the problem of Israel and will write a letter to the members of the MOAN Commission.

Dadi Pudumjee will contact the interlocutor for Israel, Dikla Katz, to invite her to join Europe Commission

### **Europe Commission**

Presentation: Helena Nilsson

The Europe Commission is composed of 8 members. We had two meetings. In the first year of this new presidency, the Commission took the time to build, find its way of communicating, define its objectives and agree on projects to focus on for the next four years.

The UNIMA Europe Commission aims to focus on the research of contemporary European puppetry. In close cooperation with the National Centres of the region, the intention is to dig into the cultural richness and great diversity in order to find out about similarities and differences in terms of conditions, needs, methods and artistic expressions among the contemporary European puppetry.

The Commission aims to respond to identified needs, to create opportunities for contact, to support networking, and to facilitate different types of exchanges - all in an effort to make the continent seem less widespread.

From the perspective of puppetry, the Commission wants to put in focus the relationship between Europe and the rest of the world, both in past times and today.

### **Communication and Public Relations Committee**

Presentation: Katarina Klančnik Kocutar

The Commission made a Skype meeting in July 2016 to define its objectives. The general objective is to work on external communication tools: newsletter, communication documents, Instagram account.

About the UNIMA Newsletter

- Contents

> Everyone enters their information directly on the website in the 3 languages of UNIMA: <https://www.unima.org/fr/outils/suggerez-une-actualite>

> The validation mode has to be defined.

- Public

> It is addressed to all councillors and members of National Centres

> Perhaps another newsletter will be addressed to a bigger audience in a second time.

> Need to build a database (councillors, members, audience).

> Include possibility of unsubscription on the newsletter.

- Periodicity

> According to the news.

Make a “database protection plan” to ensure the National Centres that data will be in "good hands".

Other newsletters?

Each of these commissions belongs to UNIMA and their information will be relayed in the newsletter of UNIMA. No individual newsletter for consistent communication.

### **Education, Development and Therapy Commission**

Presentation: Livija Kroflin

The Commission continued its intervention activities on conferences and thematic publications. They work in particular to permit accessibility in the three languages of UNIMA. Question of the Commission: possibility of having funding for professional translations? Information: If you know people who are involved in this type of practice, we are interested.

#### **About a budget for translation:**

It is a general orientation of UNIMA not to finance translations because all of the commissions need to carry out translations and UNIMA relies on the solidarity of its members because it doesn't have sufficient funds.

- Proposal to work with student translators and proofread their “best efforts”.

#### **Recommendation**

Clarify the terms indicated in the title of the commission, especially the term “therapy”.

### **Heritage Commission**

Presentation: Hamidreza Ardalan

The goal of the commission is the conservation and restoration of ritual and traditional puppet theatre worldwide ; creating a connection between ritual and traditional puppet theatre with contemporary art and culture ; Financial benefit for beneficiaries of ritual and traditional puppet theatre ; Documentation and global inscription of ritual and traditional puppet performances as world cultural heritage.

Since the last Congress, the commission held two meetings and organized an international seminar in Tehran. One of the aims of the commission is to develop the presence in museums of a traditional puppets which could be representative of all countries traditions and rituals.

#### **About the projects**

**Request** for more information about the project with Toni Rumbau.

This is a project on the visibility of puppetry and research: The Heritage Commission will provide more information when the project has further advanced.

#### **About the conceptual background**

**Request** for more information about the distinction between the ritual puppet and the traditional puppet. Answer (in synthesis...): Tradition exists everywhere. Ritual is practised in a village or community and corresponds to a larger set of practices (dance, food, etc.). It's a complex question that would require a seminar.

- When a heritage is declared as intangible by UNESCO, does it subsequently become “fixed”?

**Answer:** It is a complex question that would require a seminar.

- Does the Heritage Commission deal only with living tradition?

**Answer:** Yes, the Commission deals with living heritage.

### **Recommendation**

Clarify the distinction between tradition and ritual.

Proposal to send a statement to the National Centres to make them aware of this work and identify researchers who are currently working on these issues.

Change the name of the "Jacques Trudeau Award".

### **Vote:**

Change of name from the "Jacques Trudeau Award" to "UNIMA Heritage Award" > **Vote: Approved unanimously**

### **International Festivals Commission**

Presentation: Louise Lapointe

The International Festivals Commission worked hard to support a European project submitted by the FIDENA Festival in collaboration with 14 countries but for which it has not obtained funding. It mainly worked in 2016 to define its actions, in the continuity of the works previously undertaken, and to develop them: Festivals Fellowship (formerly Cultural Cooperation Commission), repertoire, recommendation to the organization of the festival of Congress 2020, and Symposium.

### **Professional Training Commission**

Presentation: Lucile Bodson

Since 2012, the Commission has been engaged in concrete actions to advance training and its development in the field of puppet theatre. It offers scholarships and organizes seminars on pedagogy.

### **Additional remarks**

> The Professional Training Commission wishes to accentuate exchange of pedagogies.  
> The live capture at the Târgoviște meeting was a real success (200-300 people from all over the world). > Currently, there is the possibility of accessing the texts of many interventions of the 2017 Meeting of Târgoviște (Romania) by downloading the document on the webpage of the Commission. In a few months, an online edition will be made by Moin-Moin.

### **Recommendation**

Instead of the Commission proposing two grants to two puppeteers to participate in a training course in puppetry in a school, the Professional Training Commission could offer grants for the organizing of training (i.e. by supporting the costs of training) in countries that ask for certain training but that do not have the money to organize the training. Or, another possibility is to have a mix of these two options: offer one grant for a puppeteer to train at a puppetry school, and one grant for the organizing of a training course or programme.

### **Youth Commission**

Presentation: Boris Konstantinov

The Youth Commission met at the Obratsov festival in October. Everyone wanted to do something but to go where, no one understood the same thing. We are open to your proposals. Created in 2016 for the development of young, new and future members of UNIMA.

The Commission's objectives include:

- (1) Develop opportunities for young UNIMA members to observe and support various UNIMA activities;
- (2) Supply UNIMA commissions and national centres with ideas on the perspectives, needs and desires of young puppeteers;
- (3) Attract young UNIMA members to their national centres and international commissions.

### **Recommendation**

There are a lot of projects. The EC requests that the Commission focuses on a maximum of 2 or 3 projects in order to be able to achieve optimal results.

### **Cooperation Commission**

Presentation: Pierre-Alain Rolle

The two main missions of the Cooperation Commission are the "Kanguru Project" and the "Emergency Help". The Commission has worked and is working on drafting a "request for help" form. The "Kanguru Project" works with children who are victims of conflict. The "Emergency Help" concerns financial and material assistance following material damage due to climatic events.

The Commission is looking for additional funding and questions the lack of reactivity of the members of the network and the communication tools.

### **Question**

Why does the "Kanguru Project" not support companies that set up show projects for children who are victims of trauma following climatic events?

Because it's the setting the commission gave itself and the help is not going to support shows.

### **Publication & Contemporary Writing Commission**

Presentation: Karen Smith

The Publication & Contemporary Writing Commission has developed and continues to develop 3 main projects: WEPA, contemporary writing for the puppet theatre, and puppetry publication online.

### **Social Justice Commission**

Presentation: Dadi Pudumjee

The concept of Social Justice is not easy to define and differs from one country to another. The Commission has the goal of working on the establishment of a merit award; it plans to identify good practices in National Centres, to work closely with UNESCO, and to do research on communities experiencing difficulties in the spreading of their art. The President of the Commission met with the proposal for projects that followed his major objectives, or the inquiry that could support the intervention of his Commission.

### **Statutes Commission**

Presentation: Stanislav Doubrava

Five countries have applied to join UNIMA: Morocco, Lebanon, Tunisia, Sudan, and Afghanistan. Proposal to implement an easier process about applications for entry into UNIMA

- 1 / Requests made to the General Secretariat,
  - 2 / Requests submitted by the GS to the Statutes Commission which verifies the viability of the application in relation to the statutes of UNIMA,
  - 3 / Statutes Commission's response sent to the SG and / or the President to make their recommendations and to return to the requesting country.
- >> Proposal validated by SG and President.

#### > **Proposals for the evolution of statutes / rules of procedure**

##### Ability to attend remotely / virtually / digitally

##### Vote

Proposed by: Three Americas Commission via Louise Lapointe, Seconded by: Idoya Otegui  
Possibility of the councillors to attend meetings remotely by following an online video stream provided by the host (if technologically possible).

The voting process, however, remains the same according to our Rules of Procedure.

Vote: Yes: 13 // No: 0 // Abstention: 1

- Presence at the Congress

- Congress schedule:

Proposal to review the schedule of the Congresses in order to allow sufficient time required to discuss projects.

- Election of EC members and selection of work topics to take place earlier in the Congress schedule. It is not possible to add an extra day of Congress for councillors due to financial reasons.

- A meeting of the newly elected EC must take place in order to discuss and share exchanges before commissions are allocated to which presidents.

- Candidates who stand for election on the EC must plan ahead in order to be present on the day after the last day of the Congress (so as to attend the first EC meeting if they are elected to the EC).

##### Vote

Proposed by: Idoya Otegui, Seconded by: Louise Lapointe and Karen Smith To add to UNIMA's Rules of Procedures, article IIIB3

A candidate must be present at the Congress in order to run for election. > Vote: Approved unanimously

##### Vote

Proposed by: Idoya Otegui, Seconded by: Dadi Pudumjee

Task for the board and Statutes Commission - article IIIA8 of the Rules of Procedures

Propose a modification of the agenda of the Congress

Deadline: Next council (2018)

- Order

- Lack of time for project discussions

- Early Executive Committee meeting

Vote: Approved unanimously

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

- Approval of 2 new National Centers Afghanistan and Malaysia.

- Approval of the budget for 2018
- Approval of the Call for Young Authors
- Approval of the project 4 shows - 4 continents
- Approval of the project of online puppet magazine
- Approval of the project of Puppet Exhibition celebrating 90th years of UNIMA
- Approval that for the 90th anniversary all Commissions will work together in order to make a GREAT anniversary
- Approval to organize an event (Workshop + conference) about Youth and Heritage in Charleville in September 2018.

**QUANZHOU 7<sup>TH</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

**THE 5<sup>TH</sup> CHINA QUANZHOU INTERNATIONAL PUPPET FESTIVAL**

**THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MARITIME SILK ROAD INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL**

**GUANGZHOU 12<sup>TH</sup> – 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017 CHINA INTERNATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS FAIR AND SILK ROAD INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF THEATRES ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Invited by Tang Dayu President of the Asia Pacific Commission I attended both events. I must say that the work that Tang Dayu is doing for the visibility of UNIMA in China and the presence of UNIMA in the biggest events of Scenic Arts in this country is incredible. I could experience it with these two events, perfectly organized, in which she managed to make UNIMA be present and not only this but have a relevant presence.

Beside this, what I have seen is that the Asia Pacific Commission is organizing Festivals with the objectives of bringing foreign companies that can show different ways to make puppets, different techniques, etc. and also bringing Festival organizers or programmers that can “buy” asian puppet shows for their festival. She is also organizing together with the shows workshops, conferences and meetings that makes that the Festivals are a very reach experience for all puppeteers and guest that can profit for the whole sojourn in China not only enjoying performances but also learning form the workshops or the interesting conferences she is organizing.

In the 5th China Quanzhou International Puppet Festival participate 31 companies from which two were from the Netherlands, one from Australia, Belgium, Croatia, Germany, India, Iran, Mongolia, Philippines, Russia, Spain and 19 companies from China, the hosting country. There were also workshop and conferences.

The opening Ceremony of the 3rd Maritime Silk Road International Arts Festival was an amazing show hold at the Straits Sport Center of Quanzhou City with hundreds of participants.

From Quanzhou we travelled to Guangzhou for the China International Performing Arts Fair and the Silk Road International League of Theatres Annual Conference. The Silk Road International League of Theatres, is a project to build by the Chinese Ministry of Culture in which are involved important theatres from all over the world as Japan Opera Center, Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre, The Teatro Real from Madrid, etc. and the Asia Pacific Commission from UNIMA has been accepted as member of the league. I was invited to give a speech presenting UNIMA on the opening of the Meeting, what I did. We must thanks Tang Dayu that makes possible that UNIMA was present among the representatives of the Baltic Sea Festival, the Ministry of Culture of France, the Committee Europe-China Culture & Tourism Development, among others.

## CHARLEVILLE MEZIERES MEETING ANNE FRANÇOISE CABANNIS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF IIM

15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2017

Meeting with Anne Françoise Cabanis to speak about the World Puppetry Day 2019 and the possible implication as partenaire of the Festival, she want to be include as partenaire but as Festival they only can participate spreading the information through their web page. We spoke also about the Youth and Heritage project for September 2018 that we would like to happen coinciding with the J-365 Festival, she didn't know the date of the Festival. She inform us about the workshop on Paper Theater of Alain Lecucq. We also spoke about the exhibition 2019, they are going to set up an exhibition about Jacques Felix founder of the Festival.

## PARIS – CHARLEVILLE 23<sup>RD</sup> 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018

### 23rd - Paris

We had a meeting with **Frédéric Moreau and Fabienne Brut** from the **Ministry of Culture** to whom we explain the projects we have for this year 2018 and for the year 2019, they advise us that we should have the label of the “ Year of Cultural Heritage” that we have to ask and that they should give us. We asked for it and we just got it (on the 16th April) They also liked very much the projects we explained to them. And told us that they will support us. And help us in anything we need.

We met also **Philippe Beaussant** President of the Liaison Committee from **UNESCO** we spoke with him about the World Puppetry Day 2019 and about the Officialization of the World Puppetry Day, that must be done by the United Nations, and that we want to be done by next year 2019. He promised his help.

### 24th - 26th Charleville

#### 24th

We had a meeting all those taking part in the World Puppetry Day at Charleville Mézières, we must say that we were very happy for the involvement of most of the cultural institutions of Charleville: **L'Institut Internationale de la Marionnette, La Maison de Culture et Loisire Ma Bohème, Le Musée de l'Ardenne, l'Association Pirouette, Le Festival Mondiale des Théâtres de Marionnettes de Charleville Mézières et la MJC Calonne de Sedan, les Archives Départementales** were not at the meeting but they confirmed their participation on the event. In the meeting we agreed the timetable of the Day, and we finished the details about the program, invitation, etc.

In the afternoon we had a meeting with the **Institut International de la Marionnette and THEMMA** about Cédric because as most of you already know the contract of Cédric is shared between the three institutions, and we have to study the best solution for all of us: our Institutions and Cédric, so now we probably we will make a group of employers to secure Cédric the job. We are still working on it, but we have make a letter of compromise to Cédric.

#### 25th



We work in the office in the morning by midday we went to Reims where we had a meeting with **Bruno Desert** from the **Region GrandEst** we gave him the economic rapport from 2017 and the budget for 2018 as well as the project of activities for 2018 and 2019 .

## **26th**

We had a meeting with Mr Noël Bourgeois President of the Department of Ardennes but he cancelled at the last moment because he was called to Paris, so we worked at the office.

## **CHARLEVILLE 20<sup>TH</sup> – 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2018** **WORLD PUPPETRY DAY**

For the year 2018 from the General Secretary we made the following Actions in order to drive the World Puppetry Day:

- We prepare a Road Book to help everybody to organize the World Puppetry Day, to give ideas, etc.
- We have a commun slogan think up by Albert Bagno “Together we create the movement”
- We have launch a proposal to all national Centers, Councillors and Representatives: to make a Video in which it has to be said the slogan of this year in the language of the country, region... the videos received were joined together and spread all over the world.
- We had for the first time a poster, made by the multidisciplinary artist Joan Baixas that this year is celebrating 50 years as professional. Everyone can have the poster in his / her own language and download it from the UNIMA’s webpage.

We are quite happy of the results, the World Puppetry Day has been celebrated in a lot of countries and places, following our consignes or not, but the important is that it has been celebrated, you can see many of the celebration on the site in the special place that Cédric has prepare for it.

In Charleville Mézières were our headquarters is we celebrated as follows:

This year as I told you they took part on the celebration: **l’Institut International de la Marionnette, la Maison de la Culture et des Loisirs Ma Bohème, l’association Pirouette, la MJC Calonne de Sedan, le Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes, le Musée de l’Ardenne et les Archives Départementales des Ardennes**, all together as our slogan said for a day and a night to increase in value the Puppetry Art

Together, we had propose a route all public to make more visible during this World Puppetry Day what those involved in Puppetry Arts are doing at *Les Ardennes*.

All the activities we had propose were free of charge

### **At the Archives départementales, 11h30 a.m.**

« Est-ce une vie ? », short form show create and perform by Barbara Mélois (15 minutes - for all from 6 years on)

**During all afternoon from 14 h**

In front of the ***Maison des Cultures et Loisirs (MCL) MaBohème***: realization of graffiti of the slogan of the World Puppetry Day: Together we create the Movement!

At the MCL MaBohème: Workshop for parents and children about animated shadows given by Elisabeth Algisi and proposed by the Association Pirouette

At the MCL MaBohème: Screening of the international video "Together we create the movement"

Hall of ***l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts de la Marionnette (ESNAM)***

Exhibition of the puppets of Ubu Roi from the Company *Marionnettes de Nantes*

Graffiti Workshop proposed by **MJC Calonne** made from 26th February to 2nd March. The work will be hang in front of the **MCL Ma Bohème on the 21st March**

At the ***Musée de l'Ardenne*** at 15h and 16h.

**15h:** "Family Visit" about the Theme Puppets from Mali at the new space of the Museum "Puppets in freedom"

**16h:** At the Auditorium meeting with **Werewere-Liking Gnepo**

At the ***Maison des Cultures et Loisirs (MCL) MaBohème*** at 17 h:

Finalisation-Exhibition and hang of the workshop shadow theatre

Finalisation and hang of the graffiti "Together we create the movement"

**Evening at *l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts de la Marionnette*, from 18h30**

The *Institut International de la Marionnette* host the guest and the audience

Reading of the message of the World Puppetry Day by its author Werewere-Liking Gnepo.

Shown of a step of the stage «*La marionnette à fils*» given by Frank Soehnle and Mary Sharp, with the students of the 11th promotion of the *ESNAM*.

The evening will be closing around a friendly apéritif offert by the Municipality!

All the events at Charleville and all around the world has been a great success, ands we are really proud for the answer of, as I said before, so many National Centers that have Celebrate our Day with the aim of making more visible the Puppetry Art, we will continue working on this purpose.

### **BALI 23th - 28th MARCH 2018**

Attendants:

Samodra Sriwidjaja

Yulita Samodra

Ugrasena P.

Dadi Pudumjee

Idoya Otegui

Karen Smith

**24th March**

We visit several Hotels: Grand Bali Beach Hotel, Prime Plaza Hotel, Hotel Sanur Argung, Patrishia Hotel, and Puri Dale M Hotel.

Grand Bali Beach Hotel and Prime Plaza Hotel are the two that have the possibility to host the Congress both of them have the facilities to host it enough meeting rooms with simultaneous translations booths or possibility to set it etc. But the first one is going to start renovation works so it is not sure that the works will be finished by our Congress so we have to give up this possibility and stand for the **Prime Plaza Hotel**.

At the **Prime Plaza Hotel** there are 187 rooms at a price per room in double or single occupancy at 47,40€ per day breakfast and tax included.

We visited other three hotels for lodgment one of them, the Patrishia Hotel we can not recommend as it has not the minimum conditions, the other two are:

**Hotel Sanur Agung** - walking distance from Prime Plaza Hotel - 42 rooms at a price of 20€ and 30€ per day and room breakfast included

**PuridaleM Hotel** - farther than the first one at a price of 33€ and 40€ per day and room breakfast included

All hotels has swimming pool that in a country where normally climate is quite hot is nice to have.

This day we also went to visit the Erlanger Art Shop, and we had dinner.

## **25th March**

**Barong Dance at Batubulan** - it was an interesting show of traditional Barong Dance, but in our opinion it is a bit too long for the Congress, it is better to do something shorter, some parts of this show but including more puppets.

We had lunch at **Bebek Tepi Sawah**, a beautiful restaurant located on a rice field where Our host suggest that may happen some even during the Congress, some lunch, dinner or... beautiful place!!!

After lunch we visit the temple of **Gua Gajah & Pura Samuan Tiga** in which it is possible to celebrate the opening or the closing ceremony. The temple is amazing and any of both events opening ceremony or closing ceremony could be unforgettable for those attending it.

## **26th March**

It was planned a meeting with the **Regent of Gianyar** but they cancelled it so we went back to **Prime Plaza Hotel** for lunch to experience the food of the buffet of the hotel and to talk with the Assistant director **Mr Jacob Omega - Jojo**, about some doubts we have and some details, we clarify the doubts:

We asked him to change the minimum attendants instead of 300 - 250, and he agreed, so the minimum attendants to have the conditions he is giving us is of 250.

There will be between 40 to 50 rooms for the Committee.

The participants will book directly with the Hotel

The venues for the meeting will be:

Congress meeting - Griya Agung Ballroom at 2nd floor

Secretariat - Bedugul Room at 2nd Floor

Executive Committee meeting - Legian Room at 2nd floor

Denpasar Room - Performance room? 3rd floor or meeting room

We will need other 3 small rooms in the afternoons (the same as the Legian room that will be used during the Congress only in the afternoons for the meeting of Commissions) we will concrete exactly when this room will be needed and the time.

They inform us that there is medical service 24 hours in 30 minutes and from Monday to Friday from 15 to 17 there is a doctor at the hotel.

We asked them to prepare special menus for vegetarians they said they can prepare also for other dietary needs if necessary.

They will maintain the prices they gave until 2020 if the Confirmation Guarantee is received no later than 60 days after 24th March 2018.

So for prices and conditions this hotel is chosen as the Headquarters for the Congress and the Hotel for the Executive Committee and the one to recommend to those that will ask for suggestions.

In the afternoon we went to visit the **Setia Darma Mask and Puppet Museum**, where we met Karen Smith, Ranjana Pandey and Carol Sterling, the place is really amazing, fantastic

This is a place where it is obvious that some event during the Congress MUST happen, It may be an excursion to visit the Museum finishing with a performance at the amphitheater and depending on the funding it can finish with a dinner or the dinner at the hotel as it is included in the package...

## **27th March**

We went to meet the **Regent of Gianyar**, we presented him the project of the Congress, explaining him how many people we expect, where we have decided to celebrate it etc. They suggest us to celebrate it in another hotel that belong to the Government and is located at Gianyar, they also offered the help of a person as Event Organizer

After the meeting they took us to visit the **Archaeological Museum**, where we were accompanied by civil servants from the Government of Gianyar and received by the former director of the Museum.

From the Museum the Civil Servants took us to the **Pita Maha Resort & Spa**, the Hotel suggested by the Regent of Gianyar, a really amazing place beautiful!, but it has some problems, there is no any

room that can lodge more than 100 people it is far for everything, and it is too expensive comparing to the other prices we have seen the day before.

At the hotel we explain the civil servants that it is impossible to organize the Congress in this amazing place, and thanks them very much for all the kindness.

From the Hotel we went to the **Bali Safari Marine Park** to see the **Agung Bali Show** directed by Peter Williams 10 years ago, and that was offered for one of the ceremonies of the Congress opening or closing. We attend the show and after we were invited for a Safari tour on the park.

We feel that shorter and more varied cultural performances could be more appropriate for the Congress.

So as a resume of the 5 days inspection tour in Bali we have to say that:

The hotel chosen for the Congress will be:

**Prime Plaza Hotel & Suites Sanur - Bali**

Besides the big room for the plenary of the Congress we will need other four rooms for about 30 / 50 people plus one room for the secretariat with printer machine, photocopier, and WIFI, tables and chairs.

The Dates for the Congress will be:

14 April Executive Committee and opening ceremony

15 to 18 April Congress

16 April - Gala dinner at the beach (free for UNIMA members, paying for the rest)

18 April Closing of the Congress

19 April New Executive Committee meeting and taking part at the Gianyar Region parade.

The ideal places for opening and closing ceremonies are: the Gua Gajah & Pura Samuan Tiga temple and the Setia Darma Mask and Puppet Museum. The shows could be something very Indonesian, with puppets, dance..., but very important PUPPETS.

The idea of a Gala Dinner at the beach is a very nice and beautiful idea

An excursion to some market that can include some puppet maker, or mask maker would be very interesting.

And to finish we must thanks our hosts Samodra Sriwidjaja and Yulita Samodra that were very kind and fantastic hosts, they show us everything and all the ideas they have for the Congress, and we must say that if they achieve what they want it will be an unforgettable one.

## **In conclusion**

I must confess that when I was elected, I accepted with pride and aware of the work and

responsibility involved, but I never imagined what I was going to find. I think we have done quite a lot of things but there are still A LOT of things to do:

- We have to better communicate with the National Centers
- We have to try to communicate directly with ALL the members
- We have to keep regular communication with the Representatives
- We have to better maintain our archives
- We have to keep the Statutes of ALL National Centers
- We have to maintain updated the Data Base of the National Centers
- We have to communicate all we do to the political and cultural institutions
- We have to improve our relationship with UNESCO.... and so on

All this work must be done by the Secretariat but not only, it needs the help of the National Centers, the Councilors and the members of the Executive Committee, without their help is impossible to do it.

We are one of the oldest organizations in the world, we have more than 90 countries associated, near 100, and to be able to manage all this we must have everything updated and we must count with the collaboration of all of us.

None of us is here oblige to be here, each and every one of us is here because we want to be here, so we have not any excuse. When someone present itself or accept to be presented as candidate to the Executive Committee or as Councilor he or she knows or should know what is accepting, is accepting to work for free for a non profitable organization without expecting anything for his / her work, and giving the best of her / his to make puppetry more visible, better known, to help puppeteers all over the world, etc, etc. We are here to work for UNIMA and to do the best we can for our Association.

We have some examples in our Association that I would like to point out because they are people that really shows the spirit of what UNIMA is or should be **Karen Smith**, she has been working without rest for the WEPA online, this tool for which all of us are so proud, without **Karen** the WEPA online would not have been possible, of course there has been some people helping her, but she has been THE ONE. Another tireless woman without whom I will probably would not be here today is **Lucile Bodson**, our Treasurer and my right hand, she has always been there helping me with everything, probably both of them can tell us how many hours they have invest in UNIMA, but none of them have never think of themselves always thinking in UNIMA, this is what I mean with the spirit of UNIMA. Of course I also have always near me my dear **Dadi Pudumjee**, and this last year a bit less, I must say **Manuel Morán**, because he has been devoted to his dear son Manuel Gabriel. And I must not forget our fantastic webmaster wonderful webmaster well much more than this he is our Informatic / Design..... head our **Cédric de Mondenard**, I just have to tell him something and sometimes before finishing to explain him what I want he is already sending it to me!!!! Thank you Cédric; and **Emmanuelle Castang** what can I say about Emmanuelle she is my right and left hand, she is a great worker but besides that she is a great organizer, she has wonderful ideas.... She has one problem she is only one, the day has only 24 hours, and there is so much work to do... Thank you so much Emmanuelle. And no, I don't forget my dear, our dear **Fabrice** he is the most loyal person I have never ever meet, he is **UNIMA man**, he is now retired, but I know that as he promise all of us and he has already shown us he will continue been with us helping UNIMA in all he can. He promised

that he will never left UNIMA, and I must say that UNIMA will never forget him, his loyalty and his generosity.

Idoya Otegui  
General Secretary