



International festivals commission

MEMBERS

Thanks to the ease of organizing virtual meetings since the pandemic, the IFC has expanded the number of members of the commission to include representatives from the five continents. The IFC now counts 18 members:

Louise LAPOINTE, Casteliers (Canada), Presidente / Omar ALVAREZ, International Puppet Festival (Argentina) / Chia-Yin CHENG, The Puppet and its Double & Lize International Puppet Festival (Taiwan) / Roberta COLOMBO, Teatro del Drago & Festival Arrivano dal Mare! (Italy) / Annette DABS, FIDENA (Germany) / Ulla DENGSOE, Festival of Wonder (Denmark) / Stanislav DOUBRAVA, Naivni Divadlo & Festival Materinka (Czech Republic) / Miguel GUTIERREZ, Luna Morena & Festin de los Munecos (Mexico) / Kristin HAVERTY, Chair of the Communication Commission (United States) / Kurt HUNTER, Puppeteers of America & National Puppetry Festival (United States) / Jude JUNMENO, Festival Teni-Tedji (Benin) / Teng Teng LAM, Rolling Puppet and Coloane Art Festival (Macau) / Shahr MAROM, Train Theater & Jerusalem International Puppet Festival (Israel) / Helena NILSSON, Marionetteatern & Pop Up Puppet Festival (Sweden) / Anne RAIMBAULT, La Salamandre & Festival Saperlipuppet (France) / Blair THOMAS, Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival (United States) / Ria Tri SULISTYANI, Papermoon Puppet Theatre & Pesta Boneka (Indonesia) / Mohamed Hemaidi ZOURGUI, UNIMA & Journées nationales de la marionnette (Algeria)

OBJECTIVES

- Develop and consolidate networking between festivals from around the world
- Stimulate discussion on the development of the art and encourage emerging artists
- Build links with Centers and presenters devoted to puppetry arts
- Communicate the IFC projects on the UNIMA website
- Offer a space for reflection on the responsibilities of festivals

MEETINGS

The IFC meets every two months, via zoom. In total, 11 meetings between April 2021 and March 2023 allowed members to discuss the health situation in their different countries, to exchange information on their festivals and to work on the various Commission projects. These exchanges were beneficial, while we were all in the same state of uncertainty and change, due to the COVID crisis, and then that of the war in Ukraine.

Moreover, it was these conversations that led the IFC to organize an OPEN SESSION on April 7, 2022 around the theme: FESTIVALS IN THE DIGITAL ERA, which brought together 31 festival directors, around four panelists who talked about different digital initiatives they have developed during the pandemic. Annette DABS (FIDENA), Miguel Angel GUTIERREZ (Festin de Los Munecos), Omar ALVAREZ (International Puppet Festival of Buenos Aires) and Ria Tri Sulistyani (Pesta Boneka). Several other participants also took the floor as the meeting offered a closed caption translation from English to French and to Spanish. The event was a success.



UNIMA DIRECTORY OF FESTIVALS

The Directory of Festivals has been updated, after contacting the 500 previously listed festivals. We removed all festivals whose emails remained unanswered or were returned due to incorrect addresses. The new version of the DIRECTORY is now online:

https://www.unima.org/fr/infos-pratiques/annonce-de-la-marionnette/?fwpp_annonces-fr=festival

A form is available to register a new festival or request an update of the information. The IFC thanks Miguel Moro and Terence Tan for their valuable support.

PASSPORTS

The IFC has changed the name of the sponsorship program to PASSPORT, a more attractive and descriptive name. The pandemic temporarily stopped the program which was set up again in the fall of 2021. Since then, 13 festivals have offered a PASSPORT, but the IFC has received few requests. A committee made up of Louise LAPOINTE, Blair THOMAS and Kurt HUNTER is working to improve the promotion of PASSPORT in order to make this magnificent program better known, both to festivals and to participants.

OTHER PROJECTS

- **Nordic Countries Festival Network:** The IFC encouraged the creation and supports the new Nordic Countries Festival Network, participated in its founding meeting in October 2021 (via zoom) and the live meeting in November 2022 during the Tip- Fest in Turku, Finland.
- **Presence At Festival de Charleville – Mézières - September 2021 :** The IFC actively participated in the animation of the UNIMA space at the Charleville – Mézières Festival in September 2021, thanks to the presence of our members Annette DABS, Kurt HUNTER and Roberta COLOMBO. We took advantage of the meeting scheduled for September 23 to present the PASSPORT program and encourage festivals and puppeteers to register.
- **Documentary Object Theatre:** The IFC supports the formation of a committee on documentary object theater in the Latin America and in Quebec, with the aim of developing a professional network of exchanges and training. This committee is made up of puppeteers, researchers, professors and festival directors. Three virtual meetings have taken place and the next one is scheduled live, in April 2023, during the Festival Festin de los Munecos in Guadalajara, Mexico.
- **4th International Symposium:** The IFC is collaborating with Annette DABS for the organization of a 4th international meeting of festival directors around the theme: "ATTITUDE IN DEMAND? INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS IN TIMES OF TRANSFORMATION". This meeting will be organized from May 10 to 12, 2024, during the FIDENA Festival (May 8 to 16, 2024).

CONCLUSION

Throughout these first two years of activity, we have been able to use the new digital tools developed during the pandemic to carry out our action plan established according to the objectives of the IFC. On the other hand, we must improve in the next year the communications of our activities on the UNIMA website and social networks.

We defend performing arts and it is important to value the irreplaceable richness and the indescribable qualities of the encounter of beings, matter, gesture, light and sound. To this end and with the hope of an easing of the health and political crises, we will devote our efforts in this direction over the coming years.

Louise Lapointe, January 2023