



UNION INTERNATIONALE  
DE LA MARIONNETTE

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE NON GOUVERNEMENTALE FONDÉE EN 1929  
BÉNÉFICIAIRE DU STATUT CONSULTATIF AUPRÈS DE L'UNESCO



JEM festival for the 95 years of UNIMA  
theatreperuchet.be

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## CELEBRATING 95 YEARS OF UNIMA INTERNATIONAL AT THE JEM FESTIVAL, BRUSSELS 2024

IN-PERSON AND ONLINE: 20TH MAY 2024

### *A Roundtable on the Culture of Peace*

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:45 PM CET

**Venue:** Théâtre Royal du Peruchet, Av. de la Forêt 50, 1050 Ixelles, Belgium

**Format:** Hybrid (Online and In-Person)

**Part of:** JEM Festival, Brussels

**Language:** English

**Moderator:** Madam Svetlomira Stoyanova, President of UNIMA 2024/2025 Elections Committee,  
Bulgaria

**Contact:** [info@unima.org](mailto:info@unima.org)

**Registration Required for Both In-Person and Online Participants:**

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**Speakers:** 11

**Countries:** From May 17 to June 9, the JEM Festival will host 40 shows from 19 different companies, featuring 10 premieres by foreign companies and a special focus on Korean puppetry. This celebration of puppetry arts is a must-see, featuring international talents from 22 different nations.

| <b>Monday 20 May 2024 – 10:00 AM to 12:45 PM CET</b> |   |
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| <b>10:00-10:31</b><br>(31 min)                       | <b>Opening Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Dimitri Jageneau</b>, General Secretary of UNIMA, Belgium (7min)</li><li>• <b>Mr. Nick Newland</b>, President of <a href="#">UNESCO NGO Liaison Committee</a>, UK (7min)</li><li>• <b>Madam Karen Smith</b>, President of UNIMA International, Australia (7min)</li><li>• <b>Madam Lucile Bodson</b> Treasurer and board member of UNIMA, representing the board of UNIMA International, France (10min)</li></ul> <p>The event, taking place on May 20th at the historic Théâtre Royal du Peruchet in Brussels, will be opened by the General Secretary, <b>Mr. Dimitri Jageneau</b>. His opening remarks will be followed by a keynote address from the distinguished guest, <b>Mr. Nick Newland</b>, President of the UNESCO NGO Liaison Committee. This will be followed by a special message from <b>Madam Karen Smith</b>, President of UNIMA International, sharing her insights and aspirations as we head towards 100 years of existence. The meeting will also feature the official announcement of the <b>2024 UNIMA Members of Honor</b>, led by <b>Madam Lucile Bodson</b>, representing the board of UNIMA International.</p> |
| <b>10:31-12:42</b><br>(2h 11 min)                    | <b>Roundtable Culture of Peace Panel</b>  |
| <b>10:31-10:46</b>                                   | <b>Session 1: Historical Context (In person - 15 min)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Madam Nina Malikova</b>, Emeritus Professor and Honorary Member of UNIMA International</li><li>• <b>Topic:</b> "The Challenge of the Founding Time of UNIMA (1929): Idealism and Foundation, What is UNIMA? And Why?"</li></ul> <p><b>Madam Nina Malikova</b> is a graduate of the Faculty of Philosophy at Charles University (Univerzita Karlova) in Prague, specialises in the history and theory of theatre. She is a professor at the DAMU School of Dramatic Arts in the Department of Alternative Theatre and Puppetry. She also lectures on the history of Czech and world puppet theatre. Additionally, Malikova is a dramatist and translator from French to Czech, and she serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the world-renowned magazine <i>Loutkar</i> ("The Puppeteer")</p>  |
| <b>10:46-11:01</b>                                   | <b>Session 2: Digital Participation (15 min)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Husam Abed</b>, Palestinian-Jordanian artist and researcher</li><li>• <b>Topic:</b> "The Resisting Puppet - How Does the Puppet Build a Peace Process?"</li></ul>   |

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|             | <p><b>Mr. Husam Abed</b>, born in 1980, is a Palestinian-Jordanian artist known for his versatility and multidimensional art projects. He is a theatre creator, director, performer, puppeteer, musician, and producer based in Prague, Czech Republic. Abed is currently pursuing a practice-based research PhD at Bath Spa University in the UK. He holds a Master's degree in Directing for Drama and Theatre from the Alternative and Puppet Theatre Faculty at the Academy of Performing Arts in the Czech Republic. He is the director and founder of Dafa Puppet Theatre.</p>  |
| 11:01-11:16 | <p><b>Session 3: Heritage and Resistance (In person - 15 min)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Madam Daria Ivanova</b>, President of UNIMA Ukraine. Works at Kyiv National I.K. Karpenko-Kary University of Theatre, Cinema and Television, Heinrich Heine University (Düsseldorf)</li> <li>● <b>Topic:</b> "Heritage: The Resisting Culture of Puppets." Preview of her book, "Puppet Theatre - Art of Resistance (Ukrainian Puppeteers Under the Soviet Ideological Occupation)"</li> </ul> <p><b>Madam Daria Ivanova-Hololobova</b> is the President of UNIMA Ukraine and an Associate Professor at the Department of Puppet Theatre Art at Kyiv National I. K. Karpenko-Kary University of Theatre, Cinema, and Television. She is also a visiting researcher at Heinrich Heine University (Düsseldorf).</p>         |
| 11:16-11:21 | <p><b>Short 5-Minute Break</b></p>  |
| 11:21-11:36 | <p><b>Session 4: Digital Participation (15 min)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Mr. Fedelis Kyalo</b>, Mr. Fedelis Kyalo, Vice President of the UNIMA Africa Commission and a representative of UNIMA Kenya</li> <li>● <b>Topic:</b> "Puppetry as a Learning Process" (Kenyan Puppet Institute)</li> </ul> <p><b>Mr. Fedelis Kyalo</b> has been involved in folk media, puppetry-based community education, and health education and sensitization in Kenya since 1995. He is the founder of Krystall Puppet Theatre, which has performed in the USA, China, Russia, Argentina, and over a dozen other countries worldwide. Kyalo is the lead puppeteer for the controversial and subversive political satire television show, XYZ Show, and currently serves as the Vice President of the UNIMA Africa Commission.</p> |
| 11:36-11:42 | <p><b>Short Film Showcase: "Walking Man" by Madam Ko Kyumi (6min)</b></p> <p>At the event, we will feature "Walking Man" by <b>Madam Ko Kyumi</b> from South Korea, a mini-puppetry piece born out of the Virtual International Puppetry Residency between the Netherlands and Southeast Asia. This project highlights the 500-year-old historical ties initiated when the Dutch first sailed Southeast Asian waters. It inspired puppeteers and cultural creators to craft mini-puppetry performances exploring our shared history, present challenges, and future prospects for all life on Earth.</p>  |

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| 11:42-11:57                 | <p><b>Session 5: Digital Participation (15 min)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Madam Cariad Astles</b>, Professor at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London, President of the Research Commission, and Vice-President of UNIMA International</li> <li>● <b>Topic:</b> "Puppetry, Prods, and Pranks: What is Peace Anyway?"</li> </ul> <p><b>Madam Cariad Astles</b> is a Professor at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London, and the Director of CROPP – the Centre for Research into Objects and Puppets in Performance at the University of Exeter. She serves as the President of the Research Commission of UNIMA International and as Vice-President of UNIMA International.</p>   |
| 11:57-12:12<br>(7 min each) | <p><b>Session 6: International Collaboration Presentation (In person - 15 min)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Mr. Edin Kmetas</b> from Puppet Theatre Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina</li> <li>● <b>Topic:</b> Mr. Kmetas will reflect on the process of rebuilding puppet theatre after the Yugoslav war, the consequences, and ongoing collaboration in the region.</li> <li>● <b>Madam Claudia Lamantea</b> from Irish UNIMA, representing the UNIMA Puppetry Collaboratorium in Mostar 2023</li> <li>● <b>Topic:</b> Ms. Lamantea will share insights from her experience with the UNIMA PC project in Mostar.</li> </ul> <p>World Puppetry Day 2024 with representatives and CEOs from Rijeka City Puppet Theatre (Croatia), <b>Madam Magdalena Lupi Alvir</b>; Puppet Theatre Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), <b>Mr. Edin Kmetas</b>; Theatre for Children and Youth Kragujevac (Serbia), <b>Madam Jelena Stojanovic Patrnogic</b>; and UNIMA PC - Puppetry Collaboratorium Mostar 2023 Representative, <b>Madam Claudia Lamantea</b> (Ireland).</p> |
| 12:12-12:27                 | <p><b>Session 7: Peace-Building Through Puppetry (In person - 15 min)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Madam Agneta Attling</b>, Performing Arts Producer specialising in Puppet Theater for Children and Youth, Sweden</li> <li>● <b>Madam Tiina Suhonen</b>, CEO of Pisto Puppets, Norway</li> <li>● <b>Madam Greta Clough</b>, Director and Creative Producer at Handbendi, Iceland</li> </ul> <p>The event will also feature a presentation by UNIMA Nordic on an ongoing project involving Ukrainian puppetry arts. This includes sharing ideas for puppetry peace-related initiatives from festival and theatre producers, as well as CEOs of puppetry companies.</p>  |
| 12:27-12:42                 | <p><b>Session 8: Open Discussion and Audience Q&amp;A (15 min)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Facilitated by <b>Madam Svetlomira Stoyanova</b>, a theatre critic and cultural manager from Bulgaria.</li> </ul>   |

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| 12:42-12:45 | <p><b>Closing Remarks and Birthday Celebration with Photo Session (3 minutes, extendable)</b></p> <p>Mr. Dimitri Jageneau hosts the closing remarks and birthday cake slicing, accompanied by Mr. Nick Newland (UNESCO), Madam Lucile Bodson (UNIMA Board), Madam Emmanuelle Castang and Mr. Goran Zelic from UNIMA Office, along with the presenters of the roundtable and UNIMA guests celebrating UNIMA's 95th birthday.</p> |
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### Thanks and Acknowledgements:

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to everyone involved in the planning and preparations of this international roundtable. Special thanks are due to the **UNIMA Communication Commission**, notably **Madam Kristin Haverty**, **Madam Emmanuelle Castang**, and **Madam Kembly Aguilar**, for their dedication and efforts.

We are profoundly grateful to the members and artists from **UNIMA centres** across the globe, including the Netherlands, USA, Ireland, Slovakia, Italy, Iran, RDC Congo, Greece, Czech Republic, France, Germany, South Korea, Belgium, China, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Sweden, Iceland, Norway, Bulgaria, and Ukraine. Their participation enriches our event and the JEM festival.

### We are honoured to welcome notable participants:

- **Madam Biserka Assenova**, an eminent artist and pivotal figure behind the legacy of Théâtre Royal du Peruchet.
  - **Mr. Edi Majaron**, an eminent artist, Honorary Member of UNIMA, Master Director, and Professor of Puppetry Arts from Slovenia.
  - **Madam Agata Freyer**, Master Painter, Puppetry Designer, and Technologist, Honorary Member of UNIMA from Slovenia
  - **Madam Kateřina Ešnerová**, esteemed fiancée of the President of the UNESCO NGO Liaison Committee Mr. Nick Newland and Accredited Interpreter for the European Union.
  - **Mr. Tito Lorefice**, Vice President of UNIMA International, President of the UNIMA Professional Training Commission and Three Americas Commission, Professor at the National University of San Martín, UNSAM, Argentina and at the Central Academy of Drama, CAD, Beijing, China.
  - **Mr. Philippe Sax**, President of UNIMA Belgium.
  - **Mr. José Géal** (Toone VII) and **Madam Andrée Longcheval**, who manage Toone's Archive at the Royal Theatre Toone in Brussels, which was recently distinguished with the European Heritage label.
  - **Mr. Frans Hakermars** and **Mr. Matt Jackson**, esteemed International Councilors from NVP UNIMA, Netherlands.
  - **Mr. Hubert Mahela**, valued International Councilor from RDC Congo UNIMA.
  - **Mr. Fabien Forti**, Director of the Department Colloquium of Wallonie-Bruxelles International.
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**Special acknowledgment to our guests from China:**

- **Madam Yingxian Chen**, President of the China Puppetry and Shadow Association (UNIMA China).
- **Madam Yan Huang**, International Councilor of UNIMA China.
- **Madam Tang Dayu**, Secretary-general of the Chinese Puppetry and Shadows Association (UNIMA China), President of UNIMA Asia Pacific Commission, and executive of UNIMA International.

Artistic contributions from notable artists such as **Katanari** from Slovakia and **Mr. Thomas Baker** from Your Man's Puppets, UNIMA Ireland, as well as **Mr. Matt Jackson** from the Netherlands, are greatly anticipated.

UNIMA Belgium and 16 other centres will grace us with their physical presence, while numerous other centres from countries like Kenya, Algeria, Ivory Coast, Korea, and Australia will join us digitally, ensuring a truly global celebration of puppetry.

We are immensely thankful for the generous support and patronage that have made this festival possible.

**Our event is proudly supported by:**

- Wallonie-Bruxelles International
- Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles
- Image de Bruxelles
- COCOF Relations Internationales
- COCOF
- Nationale Loterij
- Loterie Nationale
- Commune d'Ixelles

Moreover, we have the patronage of the **Minister-President Mr. Rudi Vervoort** of the **Brussels-Capital Region** and the **Minister-President Mr. Pierre-Yves Jeholet** of the **Federation Wallonie-Bruxelles**. This high-level support also highlights the importance of arts and culture in fostering community and international dialogue during the Belgian presidency of the Council of the European Union.

We look forward to the creativity, insights, and international friendship that this event will undoubtedly foster. Let us celebrate together the 95th Birthday of UNIMA and the enduring spirit and legacy that puppetry brings to the world.

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#### Technical support for the event:

- **Mr. Goran Zelic**, UNIMA Digital Communication Officer and Assistant General Secretary
- **Mr. Filip Zivaljic**, CEO of the digital company 'What Else is New', Croatia
- **Madam Eva Zivaljic**, CEO of the digital company 'What Else is New', Croatia

**NOTE:** The meeting will be recorded and photographed, with digital assistance in the facilitation of the meeting provided by Mr. Filip and Madam Eva Zivaljic from the digital company 'What Else is New', (Croatia).

**UNIMA (Union Internationale de la Marionnette)** is a global organisation affiliated to [UNESCO](#), uniting enthusiasts and professionals who advance puppetry arts worldwide. Our mission embodies the pursuit of peace and understanding across cultures, races, and beliefs, aligning with the core human values outlined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations.

**This special event not only celebrates UNIMA's 95th anniversary but also reinforces our dedication to fostering global peace through the art of puppetry.**

