



Union Internationale de la Marionnette
Organisation Internationale non gouvernementale bénéficiant
du statut consultatif auprès de l'UNESCO fondée en 1929

Electronic Newsletter of the General Secretary N° 11 – April 2013

To all UNIMA National Centres: please forward this electronic Newsletter to all your members.

Dear UNIMA Members,



Already one year,

Time is passing so fast. Already almost a year has passed since our big and marvellous Chengdu UNIMA Congress where many of us had the chance to exchange in the most adequate context due to the good work of the organising committee put on by our Chinese friends that I congratulate once again for having created an event far over our expectations.

We are sad to hear that there was a new earthquake in the Sichuan province and UNIMA is offering our deepest sympathies to the families of the numerous victims.

In a few months, from November 9th to 11th, 2013, the **UNIMA Executive Committee will meet in Baku, Azerbaijan**, invited by the Ministry of Culture and the Centre UNIMA-Azerbaijan, in the frame of the Second International Puppet Festival of Baku.

For further information about the festival, see the two following links:

[Call for Participation](#) - [Registration Form](#)

Next UNIMA Council Meeting: Cuba 2014

I would like to officially inform all the UNIMA Councillors, all the Centres and the members that the next Council Meeting will be held in Varadero (Cuba) on the **22nd, 23rd and 24th of April 2014** during the Festival called Taller Internacional which presents its activities usually in the city of Matanzas but which, for the occasion, will also offer shows and activities in the cities of Varadero and La Habana. The dates of the Festival are from April 19th to 27th. (*not 29th as written in my official communication by email dated on 19/04/2013*). In a few months, the Cuban UNIMA Centre will open an internet site giving all the information about this important UNIMA event.



Centro de Convenciones Plaza América
Playa Varadero - Autopista de Varadero km. 11
VARADERO (Matanzas)

This place is at the foot of one of the most beautiful beach on the planet.

Our realisations:

The year 2012-2013 was quite fertile in realisations and we put our energies to make concrete the decisions taken by the congress participants. So let me inform you of the evolution of the projects bore by UNIMA.

Translation of the WEPA

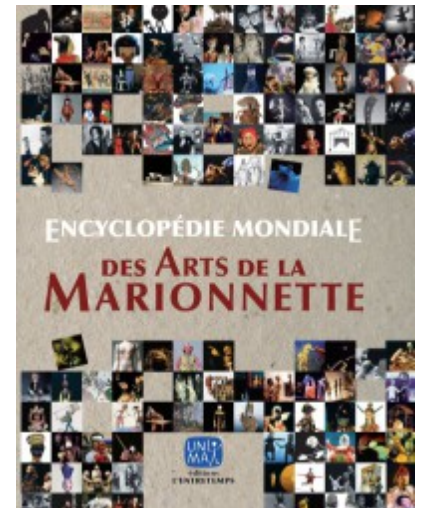
English language: the team of translators, directed by Karen Smith, president of the Publication and Communication Commission, has completed at 99% its duty. A last verification has to be done.

Spanish language: UNIMA-Spain's president Idoia Otegui and Miguel Arreche have created links with a Spanish university and 2 eminent supervisors.

Close to half of the work has been done.

Publication of the WEPA on the web: the members of that commission have thought of the best way to present this unique book on the web.

Some propositions are under study ; but one thing is sure, the Encyclopaedia will appear in its globality on the new UNIMA website.



Rebuilding the UNIMA Website

The Publication and Communication Commission had also the mandate of rebuilding the UNIMA internet site. The president worked in coordination with the UNIMA President and the Secretary General. We received the precious help of Raphaële Fleury, active member of the Commission and Lothaire Claudel, an UNIMA ad hoc employee. After having analysed many submissions our choice goes to a sophisticated proposition made the company E-magineurs from Lyon (France).

This new site will allow more interactivities and communication among all partners and will assert the presence of UNIMA in the 21st century, giving us access to immense possibilities. (See [other sites created](#) by E-magineurs).



We should inaugurate this new site, in September, during the World Puppet Theatre Festival of Charleville-Mézières.

On this subject, the General Secretariat has already sent two e-mails on February 2013 to all the national centres asking them to send us two short texts which describe the main steps of their history and the main projects that they are actually developing.

Only few Centres had already sent their information and we sincerely thank them. I must insist on the importance of the participation of all the UNIMA Centres to feed this new tool of communication which should reflect the state of our art in every parts of the world. I beg the president of each UNIMA Centre to answer quickly to our request.

Project of a visual and numerical bank of information and a documentary on traditional puppet forms on the 5 continents

The people present at the Chengdu Congress might remember that, on the last day, I presented the idea of this new project which was later voted and accepted. The project has since been developed and materialized. It has received the financial approbation of the members of the Executive Committee for its first phase and a first shooting was made in Italy.

The main objective of this bank of information is to keep track of the largest quantity possible of traditional puppet theatre forms, emanated from their own specific cultures, some of them being in danger of disappearance in certain countries and for different reasons; the main ones being the acceleration of time and the homogeneisation of cultures.

Our wish is, through the awakening of a feeling of urgency, to register the words and the art of master puppeteers and also further a culture of transmission.

The UNIMA partners for this project are Enrique Lanz and Yanisbel Martinez of the Etcétera Puppet Company from Granada (Spain) who, for a number of years, are concerned about this thematic and have accumulated many images taken during their stay in many countries. Other partners and broadcasters will joined the project. A first glimpse will be shown during the World Puppet Festival of Charleville-Mézières, next September.

The first official shooting associated to the documentary project UNIMA-Etcetera, called temporally 'The Soul of the people' was realized in Italy. It allowed us to shoot, in Rome, unforgettable images from the Maria Signorelli's collection and a passionate talk of her daughter Giuseppina Volpecelli.

In Acerra, words of the directors and images of the Pulcinella's museum. At the heart of Naples, to feel the warmth of the studio own by Bruno Leone and its partner Il Capitan.

Finally, in Maiori, on the amalfitain cost, to shoot a part of the collection of *pupi napolitani*, a dying tradition which might be saved by transmission, as did the master puppeteers Bruno Leone and Salvatore Gatto for the traditional art of Pulcinella, which after almost 500 years of existence, was almost dead around 1990s.

The filming team will fly to Vietnam in a few days to record the evolution of this unique form which constitute the puppets on the water. We will go, among other ones, in the small villages of Nguyen Xa and Nam Chan (Delta of the Red river) where the transmission seems to be fragilised.



First puppet made by Bruno Leone

The World Puppetry Day 2013 and its Message

UNIMA chose this year to give its pen to Maestro Roberto de Simone from Napoli, who followed the course of its memories to make us live through the astonishing tradition of the famous Pulcinella and its repercussions all together in the napolitan, italian and international culture.



His message was diffused, at its own amazement, in dozen of countries due to you, the UNIMA Centres all over the world. My deepest gratitude to the Maestro for having accepted our invitation and thank you to each one of you, dear friends, to celebrate in a festive and creative way this particular day, which stays one of the best manner to make our art known in all its forms and manifestations.

UNIMA is joining UNESCO to celebrate the International Day of Peace



As I mentioned it in my last Newsletter, we established privileged links with the president of the Committee for Peace at UNESCO, Mr Michel Thouzeau, in order to celebrate the International Day of Peace, that will held on the coming September 21st.

Close to 35 non governmental organisms (NGO) are part of the organizing committee, including UNIMA. A contest is organized and will reward the best videos inspired by the thematic «The puppets get involved for peace». The limit date to send videos is May 15th 2013.

<http://www.marionnettesdelapaix.org>

UNIMA is glad to inform you that this special day about peace will be first celebrated in Charleville-Mézières, at Le Musée des Ardennes, on September 21st 2013 before its closing feature, in Paris at the UNESCO headquarters on September 24th. A big thanks to the Mayor Claudine Ledoux for its support. More details will be given in the official program of the World Puppet Festival of Charleville-Mézières under the section Presence of UNIMA.

The UNIMA Working Commissions

UNIMA continues, through its 16 commissions of work, to infuse always more dynamism to the world of puppetry and its numerous manifestations including art, education, therapy, scientific research.

Many UNIMA grants are offered for workshops of formation, participations to international festivals, woman involvement, international cooperation, etc.

Please, consult our internet UNIMA site at <http://www.unima.org> under the section «Commissions».

The members of those commissions are gathering in different cities around the planet thanks to the invitations from some Ministries of Culture, directors of international festivals, universities and UNIMA Centres.



Photo: Castelliers - Marc Gibert

It's the case of two recent meetings, the UNIMA Training Commission and the International Festivals Commission that occurred in Montreal (Canada) thanks to the invitation of the festival Les 3 jours de Casteliers, supported by the University of Quebec in Montreal, the Ministries of the Culture and of the International Relationship of Quebec, the Association Québécoise des Marionnettistes and the UNIMA-Canada.

Other UNIMA Commissions meetings will be held this year in the following countries: Slovakia, Japan, Benin, Niger, Mexico, Germany, USA and others. UNIMA congratulates all of them for their initiative and support. It expresses its deepest appreciation.

Thanks:

I would like to thank the UNIMA Centres, the Institutions and Puppet Festivals which invited and received me with such amability in the recent months: the Etcétera Company and el Parque de las Ciencia of Granada (Spain), le Centre national de marionnettes de Tunis (Tunisie), the first Asean Puppetry Festival (Singapore), the 3rd International Festival of Shanghai and its International Institute of Puppetry, the vice-president of Indonesian government joined to the UNIMA-Indonesia, as well the organisers of the first International Wayang Summit in Jakarta, , including Karen Smith and Gaura Mancacaritadipura.



Photo : L'Osservatore Romano - Servizio Fotografico



Credit : Aldo de Martino, president of UNIMA-Italia

Many thanks to Aldo de Martino, Veronica Olmi and Antonietta Sammartanno from UNIMA-Italy for having organized the Anniversary Day of the Migrants, the meeting with the Pope Benedict XVI and recently, the World Puppetry Day in Maiori. A special salute to the Museum of Pulcinella di Acerra, which honoured us, Dadi Pudumjee and I, in attributing us, last December, the title of world ambassadors of Pulcinella. Unfortunately, the president of this wonderful museum, Mr Eustacchio Paolicelli, died in last February. We offer again to his family and friends our condolences.

I remind you that the membership fees must be sent, by the Centres, to the UNIMA secretariat as soon as possible in order to help financing our projects. Fabrice Guilliot will be able to guide and inform you if you have any questions on that matter.

Dear friends, let's continue together to bring life and light to our art !

Jacques Trudeau
UNIMA Secretary General

UNIMA acknowledges the support and thanks the city of Charleville-Mézières, the Conseil Général des Ardennes, the Conseil Régional de Champagne-Ardenne and the Ministry of Culture for their valuable and continuing help.



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