

**Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the
International Association of Theatre Critics,
Maribor, Slovenia, on the 23rd of October 2010**

1. Attendance

Those present: Yun-Cheol Kim (President), Michel Vaïs (General Secretary), Margareta Sörenson (Vice-president and director of symposiums, Sweden), Jean-Pierre Han (Vice-President and director of seminars, France), Ivan Medenica (Adjunct General Secretary, Serbia), Brigitte Purkhardt (Canada), Tomasz Milkowski (Poland), Jeffrey Eric Jenkins (USA), Katayoun Hosseinzadeh Salmasi (Iran), Mark Brown (adjunct director of seminars Great Britain) and Zhang Xian (China).

Also present: Zhu Ning, interpreter for Zhang Xian.

Absences and excuses: Akiko Tachiki (Japan), Irène Sadowska-Guillon (Treasurer), Lis Hellström Sveningsson, adjunct director of seminars.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes of the ExCom meetings in Yerevan, June 15 and 18, 2010

Approved unanimously.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

5. Reports

5.1. President

No additions to the already sent report, which is in annexe to these minutes.

5.2 General Secretary/Treasurer

Michel informs us that we have a new individual member in Kenya, Ann Manyara. Her membership is approved unanimously. We should have shortly a new individual member coming from Thailand who has heard about IATC from the website. We have a new official address due to the fact that Irene has moved to another place in Paris (since IATC doesn't have an office in Paris, Irene's personal address is at the same time its official address). The new address of IATC has now been officially and unanimously accepted:

**Tour Helsinki, 50 rue du disque,
75645 Paris cedex 13 France**

Michel explains once again how the payments for dues could be regulated via Western Union.

Michel presents the treasurer's report, stressing that the income is slowly increasing (actual situation is around 14.000 euros on our bank account). In Irene's report there is a list of the countries which have not paid their membership fee: Norway, Croatia, Russia, etc. Mark argues that Yun-Cheol's idea that the membership has to be suspended for a country that is not paying its membership fee for three years in a row, has to be put in the statutes. Michel answers to Zhang Xian's question about our incomes and expenses: besides the membership fees, we don't have other regular sources of income (except some 6,000 euros from Seoul's cultural foundation given exclusively for *Critical stages*), and our main expenses are travel costs for the Thalia laureates, the website maintenance (a symbolic amount), travel costs of the ExCom members when it happens that somebody can't cover them (the total maximal authorized amount of money for this particular purpose is 2.000 euros per year), etc.

5.3. Other members

Mark was in Omsk with Michel where he realized that Russian colleagues were not very well informed about IATC activities and he thinks that Premio Europa in St Petersburg could be a great occasion for improving this situation. It was raised a long discussion about the "Russian case". It was explained that Nikolai has a lot of work at his University and that there is nobody willing to take some of the responsibilities in their national section. According to our Statutes, there is always a possibility to recognize another group of critics in Russia, but we all have agreed that this solution should not be encouraged. Mark supports this position, explaining that, upon his insight, Russian colleagues want to have only one, active national association.

Katy invites us to send articles for an Iranian publication. Ivan informs us that the international MESS festival in Sarajevo has decided to host an IATC jury from its next edition (October 2011). Jean-Pierre informs us that he has been invited to organize an established critics' conference in Almada (Portugal) in July 2011.

5.4. Critical Stages

Yun-Cheol informs us that the third issue should appear by the end of October 2010. One part of the issue will be dedicated to the Yerevan Congress (papers from the conference). He encourages us and our colleagues to write reviews about our national theatre productions – there should be at least 20 articles of this kind per issue (and now we have less than 10). Maria-Helena is going to withdraw from the post of editor in chief after this issue and Yun-Cheol will take her responsibility till we find another person willing and capable of doing this hard job. Margareta stresses that Maria-Helena has executed an enormous and a very good work and it is suggested that we send her, on behalf of the ExCom, the expression of our gratitude. Michel will write to thank her on our behalf. Another proposal is added: that each editor of *Critical stages* has an adjunct, because it could happen that somebody can't finish, due to his/her main professional activities, the work for CS. The deadline for the fourth edition of CS is March 2011 and we are all invited to send proposals for its main topic.

6. Programme

6.1 Congress 2012, 2014

There are good signals from the Polish Ministry, but it is still too early for the final and official answer from their side. The Polish Theatre Institute, which is going to be our host, is continuously working on preparations for the Congress: now they are working on a book on Polish theatre in the last twenty years which will be a present for all foreign participants. Although there were some problems with the dates, the date is now fixed: April 2012. Zhang Xian wonders who is deciding about the dates of the Congress, the answer is: the organizers should make their proposals and we are the ones who are deciding. He hopes that after the Congress in 2012 they could get an official demand from IATC to organize a Congress in Beijing in 2014. They are asking us to send them proposals for the topic of the symposium and they want some of us to give lectures at the University in Beijing. The answer to their question about the number of participants is: between 70 and 100.

6.2. ExCom meetings

St. Petersburg – 13th to 17th of April, 2011. Reims, France – December 2011 (almost 100% sure), with a conference on theatre audience. There is a possibility to organize an ExCom meeting in Montreal (with one day in Quebec City) in autumn 2012 or spring 2013.

6.3. Young critics seminars

Jean-Pierre informs us that there are a lot of proposals, so we have to make a selection: St. Petersburg in April 2011, Warsaw in April 2011, Montreal in May 2011, Ottawa/Toronto/Stratford in June 2011 (this offer was later withdrawn), Charleville-Mézières in September 2011, Latvia in autumn 2011. The most important one is in St Petersburg with three groups of participants: English, French and Russian speaking. Jean-Pierre is not sure whether we will have enough participants for all three groups (ten per group). After a short discussion we agreed to have seminars in 2011 in St. Petersburg, Montreal and Charleville. A general question is raised: who could be a participant of the seminar? Jean-Pierre is against the idea to have students as participants: they could participate only if they are already active in criticism. There are a few ways of informing potential candidates about seminars: a) through national sections, b) through our web site, c) through other means of information such as invitations sent to theatre magazines and universities. Katy insists on authorisation given by the national section. Margareta thinks that we shouldn't have more than two seminars per year in order to be able to preserve their quality (there aren't so many young critics in the world). A few proposals are made about how to attract more participants: by giving them a detailed information about the festival hosting the seminar and by focusing on elaborated topic of the seminar. There is a proposal to organize a seminar in collaboration with UNIMA in Beijing in 2012 (it could be for established critics as well).

6.4. Established critics seminars/Thalia prize

A debate was raised about the topic of the conference in St. Petersburg because it happens that Nikolai and Alessandro Martinez do not agree on this issue (IATC is not the

only organizer of the conference, some other associations are in charge as well: ITI, some Russian associations, etc). One of the proposals is to dedicate the conference to the issue of Thalia Award and/or theatre prizes in general (Premio Europa included). The argumentation is that we never seem to have enough time for a profound discussion about the Thalia Award. Anyhow, we agree that this issue is too narrow for the Premio Europa conference and that we should discuss this issue among ourselves in the first place. The second conference will be in Gävle (Sweden) and the third one in Reims (together with the ExCom meeting) and this one is going to deal with the topic of theatre audience. We continue discussing the Thalia prize issue (we added item number 9 to this one). Some new questions are raised: should there be a special jury for the award, should the award have a financial side as well? We agree that the choice of the Thalia prize laureate is going to remain a responsibility of the ExCom. Margareta argues that we should do more in promoting the Award which is quite new, and still not a prestigious one. We agree that we have to make it truly international. The ExCom members themselves could and should search for possible candidates in non-Western cultures.

6.5. Asian Forum

The Asian forum is going to be held in Tokyo in November 2010 and there are no news to be added to Akiko's report. See in annexe.

6.6. Other proposals.

None.

7. Relations with other organisations

Yun-Cheol presents us a possibility of collaboration with the UNESCO Chair of ITI (which is not the same body as ITI itself) and explains that this collaboration is important for us in the sense that it gives us an opportunity to develop our relations with UNESCO. Brigitte accepts to take part, on behalf of IATC, in the educational project of UNESCO Chair of ITI which is going to be organized in three European countries in September 2011.

8. Membership

We have a new individual member interested in Thailand and an attempt to create a national section in Brasil.

9. Thalia Award

See number 6.4.

10. Book projects

Our Armenian hosts ask us for the articles we wrote about their productions presented in the frame of the Congress in Yerevan. They intend to publish these articles as a book (on the other hand, they don't intend to publish the proceedings from the conference). Katy informs us about the willingness to publish some articles from *Critical Stages* as a book in Iran (in English, French and Farsi). There are still no news about the IATC book project.

11. „Theatre Summit“ Agenda

The General Secretary of ITI, Tobias Biancone has proposed annual gatherings of the presidents of all the international theatre associations (in 2011 this meeting should be in Paris). Yun-Cheol intends to organize such a meeting in Seoul in autumn 2012: he wants to make a big event with a lot of participants. He asks us to send him proposals for the topic of this meeting, because it is of essential importance.

12. Web site

Ivan proposes a new concept for the IATC website, which will make it more dynamic and up to date. He asks Margareta and Jean-Pierre, who are responsible for conferences and seminars, to regularly send him official informations about these events (application forms, deadlines...) and, in addition to this material, our web site administrator, Mr Rasha Doderovic, will put some news about the festivals in which frameworks the conferences are going to be held. Rasha also proposes to search on his own for additional links and info dealing with world theatre. It was decided that the news about our forthcoming activities should be visually divided from the rest of the info on our home page and underlined. Mark accepts to write a kind of very general report for the website on the meeting in Maribor.

14. Date and place of next meeting

St. Petersburg, Russia 13th – 17th of April 2011.

Michel Vaïs, Secretary General

Ivan Medenica, Adjunct Secretary General

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ANNEXES

President's Report—Maribor, September 23, 2010

After the congress in Yerevan, I participated in the jury meeting of Europe Theatre Prize, which was held at the Roma airport hotel on July 3. The jury has decided to give six people the new theatrical realities award plus one Europe Theatre Prize, whose name I am not allowed to reveal until the official announcement by the secretariat in early October.

Then I participated in the World Conference of Theatre School Directors, organized by UNESCO Chair-ITI and the Peruvian Theatre Institute in Callao and Cusco in Peru. I presided over one session out of seven, and discussed with the 21 participating directors about possible collaborations between IATC and the World Festival of Theatre Schools. This festival could be quite interesting, since it is taking place every two years in one of the UNESCO designated World Heritage cities. The directors agreed to ask IATC to direct the student criticism workshop and supervise the criticism-students publication of theatre reviews of the festival performances. It is up to us whether we will cooperate or not. The Festival definitely needs a better organization, but the next version will take place in Romania, Germany and Poland for a whole month in September, 2012, moving

from one country to another on the Danube by ferry. Here I also met ITI secretary general Tobias Biancone and discussed for the meeting of leaders of international theatre organizations.

From September 20 till the 26th I participated in “Theatre Arc” of the Baltic House Festival with 7 editors of Critical Stages. Maria Helena presided over the meeting and we have decided to change the releasing months of the journal from April and October to June and December to accommodate more reviews of performances of the regular season. Upcoming third issue of Critical Stages will be Maria Helena’s last contribution as editor-in-chief. Until her replacement is found, I will take be editor-in-chief for the interim period, which could be until December 2011.

I have also been editing the section of “Critics on Criticism” of Critical Stages and helping Maria Helena in general editorial works for the upcoming third issue.

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Report of the Secretary General, Michel Vaïs
Maribor, 23 October 2010

1. Our official address is at our treasurer’s apartment in Paris, but Irène will move in November. So, we need **to approve** to move the official address of IATC to her new address. The following must be included in the minutes:

« Le Comité Exécutif de l’AICT approuve le changement de siège social de l’AICT, anciennement 17 rue du Dr Paul Brousse, 75017 à Paris, à:

**AICT/IATC
Tour Helsinki
50 rue du Disque
75645 Paris cedex 13
France**

2. Paying dues

Our treasurer also made some research to find ways by which the dues can be paid on time, by Western Union and by Paypal. Paypal is most interesting when large amounts are sent. Larger than what we usually deal with.

So, for those who have difficulty sending their dues through the banks in their countries, or have expensive commissions to pay, they can now send the amount by Western Union, to the order of the treasurer, Irène Sadowska-Guillon, at her address. Since she will move in November, I will send the news to the whole membership next month. The person sending the amount must write an e-mail to Irène with the details of the invoice, the date, the code number, the name of the IATC section or of the individual member, etc.

3. Since our last excom meeting, I have traveled to Omsk, Siberia, in September, for the Akademia International Theatre Festival. Mark Brown and our two Chinese colleagues (Zhang Xian and Peng Tao) also participated. I spoke about the IATC in many occasions, and most critics and journalists present were decided to re-animate the Russian section. They came from Novosibirsk (Irina Ulyanina), Khabarovsk (Anna Shavgarova), Krasnoïarsk, Perm (Tatiana Tikhonovets), St.Petersburg (Tatiana Dzhurova), Ekaterinburg, and Moscow. Some know Nikolai, having been his students. They were surprised to hear that for me, the Russian section of IATC does not exist anymore, because the dues have not been paid for more than one year. So, I am expecting developments on this soon. Many of these critics will be in St. Petersburg for the Europe Prize in April. I told them to see with Nikolai if they can join his association, or if they want to form a new one. (Maybe Nikolai is alone in his association...) All I need is the name of a contact person, the names of 10 critics (minimum), and the fee.

One Hoyt Hilsman, from the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle wrote to “participate in international conferences” with IATC. This association has 16 members and has been active for some 40

years. I answered him that our representative in the USA is ATCA, and advised him to read our statutes on our web site to learn more about our activities.

I have received an invitation for the Baghdad International Festival of Theatre, which was due to be this Fall, but it has been postponed.

I have also received an invitation for Baku (Azerbaijan), where I will go in November. The ministry of Culture is organizing the first Baku International Theatre Conference and they have asked me to give a 90 minutes workshop on criticism.

4. Two persons are now working on the history of IATC through its publications: Sanja Nikcevic in Zagreb –for a course she is giving– and Zhu Ning in Beijing, for a PhD dissertation. Both have asked my help to find IATC's existing publications and archives.

5. Membership

New member to approve (details on the web site): individual member Ann Manyara, in Kenya. The Uruguayan section has applied again for membership, after many years of silence (but I had kept them on my distribution list so they were informed). But the fee has not arrived to our treasurer yet.

One critic in Recife, Brazil, Paulo Michelotto, wishes to apply for individual membership. He is recommended by Ian Herbert.

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Association Internationale des Critiques de Théâtre International Association of Theatre Critics

	2010		
		Débit	Crédit
Poste		142,82 €	
Fax - Internet		89,60 €	
Page Web		402,02 €	
Fournitures		109,51 €	
Divers		5 450,64 €	

Total	6 194,59 €	
En caisse au 1/1/2010		16 217,05 €
2010 Cotisations		4 235,00 €
Crédit		39,00 €
Total général		14 296,46 €

Comptes arrêtés le 3 octobre 2010

**La trésorière générale
Irène Sadowska Guillon**

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10.10.10

Dear colleagues,

The following comprises a small report which is as follows:

- 1-** As previously mentioned, three judges are depicted, regarding the **International Fadjr Theatre Festival**, (Tehran).

As unanimously came to an agreement, **IATC Iran Branch**, will be honored to welcome the followings: **Margareta Sorenson, Jean Pierre** and **Michel Vaïs**. Needless to say, the preliminary stages, pertaining the trip to Iran are being undertaken.

- 2-** We had had a discussion with the chief of this Festival, thus apart from the above-mentioned, another critic was also invited to come over. To top it all, he was assigned to participate in the live critic meetings along with the respective performing group and the recipients.

According to the consultation I had with **Yun-Cheol Kim**, he submitted a list of legible members, among whom, we sent an invitation letter to the first subject, who was **Don Rubin**. Consequently, he accepted our welcome and will be attending the **Iran Festival** in 2011.

Looking forward to meeting you all in Maribor.

Katy Salmasi

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Dear Michel
I send you my short report hereby.
See you soon in Maribor
Tomasz

Tomasz Miłkowski
Short report

- . I was the moderator of the seminar organized by Polish Section: "Excluded. Without return?" within the confines of European Program of The Year of battle with poverty and social exclusion" at the end of September.
- . I confirmed possibility to organize the seminar for young critics in Warsaw during the Warsaw Theater Meeting at the April (5 days for 12 person) in English only. Our main partner is Theater Institute in Warsaw. The special accent of the seminar is the critic and Internet.
- . After our talking at the Ministry of Culture - Polish section is preparing the financial application to the Polish Minister of Culture for the next Congress of AICT (we have to wait for the new regulation which is now to change). These procedures should be completed in early April next year. Despite of the economic crisis, I hope that the decision should be positive.
- . I am just preparing a regional seminar "Mono-theater: poor or bizarre" to held be in Wroclaw, in November this year during the Mono Theatre Festival; the participants will include: Ludwik Flaszen, Milos Mastrik and others.□□

Tomasz Miłkowski

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Report of Akiko Tachiki

AICT International Symposium on Asia "International Collaboration and the Role of Criticism"

When performing art becomes the axis of an "International collaboration" of diversified Asia, people and information transgress the country borders, or even subverts such boundaries. On the other hand it creates disparities between countries, and vanquishes order and uniformity. How can such phenomenon ever be judged? We have invited critics from around Asia and the world to feature on these border ripping, experimental collaborations to explore the potential of theatrical expression.

(Program language English & Japanese)

Nov. 21 (Sun) Venue: Owlspot Theater, Conference Room B (3F)

• 09:30 - 12:30

Lecture: “Contemporary Theater of Korea” by Kim Yun-Cheol (President of AICT)
Symposium: “Japanese-Korean International Collaboration ‘Yakiniku Dragon (by Chong Wishing)’ ”

Moderator: Kojin Nishido

Panelists: Chong Wishing, Kim Yun-Cheol, Kim Hyung-Ki (President of IATC Korea)

• 14:00 - 15:50

Symposium: “Contemporary Theater and Theatrical Interactions of Southeast Asia: focusing on ‘RINKOGUN + International Program in Cooperation with Philippine’” (with video presentation)

Moderator: Manabu Noda

Panelists: Yoji Sakate, Osamu Imamura, Hiroko Nishimura, Philippine critic (TBC)

• 16:00 - 17:30

Lecture: “Current Vietnamese Theater” by Lê Hùng (Director of Youth Theatre of Vietnam)

Nov. 22 (Mon) Venue: Tokyo Metropolitan Art Space, Medium Conference Room

• 9:30 - 12:30

Lecture: “Chinese Contemporary Theater” by Zhang Xian (Professor of the Central Academy of Drama)

Symposium: “China: Outlook and Issue of Collaborative Theater overturning the Social System”

Moderator: Hiroshi Seto

Panelists: Zhang Xian, Tao Qingmei (Associate Professor of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences),
Gilbert Fong (Professor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong), Norikazu Hirabayashi,
and more

• 13:30 - 15:20

Symposium: “Thai Theater: International Collaboration, a triggering explosive – Thai Theater before and after the theater experience of ‘Akaoni (Red Demon) (by Hideki Noda)’ ” (with video presentation)

Moderator: Akihiko Senda

Panelists: Hideki Noda, Pawit Mahasarinand (Professor of Chulalongkorn University), Yoichi Uchida

• 15:30 - 17:30

Lecture: “Post-Coloniality in Contemporary Indian Theatre: Practice of Fusion” by Ravi Chaturvedi (Professor of Dept. of Theatre and Film Studies Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, President of Indian Society for Theatre Research)

Symposium: “Indian Contemporary Theater: tradition, its present, and its future” (with video presentation)

Moderator: Yasushi Nagata

Panelists: Ravi Chaturvedi, Deepa Punjani (Theater critic), Minoru Tanokura

Nov. 23 (Tue) Venue: Tokyo Metropolitan Art Space, Medium Conference Room

• 9:30 - 12:00

Symposium: “The glamour and outlook of Asian Contemporary Dance”

Moderator: Akiko Tachiki

Panelists: Tang Fu Kuen (Critic, Dramaturge/Singapore), Deepa Punjani, Daisuke Muto, Katsuhiko Sakaguchi

• 13:00 - 15:00

Symposium: “ Physical Expression in Indonesia” (with video presentation)

Moderator: Kojin Nishido

Panelists: Shingo Kimura, Yukio Waguri, Indonesian critic (TBC)

• 15:00 - 16:00

Lecture: “Iranian Contemporary Theater” by Katayoun Hosseinzadeh Salmasi (Play writer, Critic/Iran) (with video presentation)

Nov. 24 (Wed) Venue: Tokyo Metropolitan Art Space, Medium Conference Room

• 9:00 - 12:00

“The View from Outside: Perception of European Theater Critics”

Lecture: “Multicultural Shakespeare of the current generation” by Andrzej Zurowski (Professor of Pomeranian University/Poland)

Concluding Debate

Moderator: Kojin Nishido

Organized by AICT International Association of Theatre Critics, Japanese Center

Co-operation by The Japan Foundation

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Tel: 080-5674-9379

Email: asia2010@activist.jp <http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/aict/>

Price: Symposium/Lecture: 1,000 Yen each day. 2,000 Yen for all programs.

To participate please follow the link below:

<http://aict.activist.jp/asia2010/> (entry is also permitted on the day of program)