

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting
of the IATC ExCom
Palazzo Venezia, Rome
The 16th of December 2017 (14:30-16:00)

1. Presences

Margareta Sörenson, Michel Vaïs, Stéphane Gilbert, Jean-Pierre Han, Irina Gogoberidze, Ivan Medenica, Konrad Szczebiot, Akiko Tachiki (proxy for Mariko Anazawa), Barry Joseph Gaines (proxy for Jeffrey Eric Jenkins), Zhu Ning (proxy for Peng Tao).

2. Reports

Given the short time we have (we must finish at 16h), we will only deal with the important points.

2.1. Michel makes a brief report on the symposium dedicated to theatre criticism, in which he has just participated in Tunis, together with Jean-Pierre Han.

2.2. Stéphane has received dues from a large number of members present in Rome, and he is distributing membership cards for 2018-2019.

3. Workshops for young critics

3.1. Konrad announces that a workshop for young critics could take place from 22 to 27 May 2018 in Bielsko, Poland, if the promised funds materialize. It would consist of 3 groups of 5 trainees each, in French, English and Polish.

3.2. Jean-Pierre announces a workshop in Limoges (France) from June 11 to 18, 2018, with two groups, one working in French and one in English. He added that there are other possibilities in Fez, Morocco, as well as again in Iasi (Romania), in October 2018.

3.3. Ivan mentions the possibility of a workshop led by Patrice Pavis in Slovakia. Officials will address Jean-Pierre. There is also mention of a possible workshop in Italy in the future.

4. Conferences

For future conferences for established critics, Ivan notes that there will be one during our 29th Congress and another one in Novi Sad, at the beginning of June 2018. Diana Damian and Bojana Jankovic (both living in London) are in charge of its organization, on the theme:

“Theatre and Migration”. Problem: the FIRT will have a conference in early July on a topic almost the same.

Margareta says she has had no news from the Bergman Festival in Sweden, which is due to take place in late August (on the occasion of Bergman's centenary).

5. *Critical Stages / Scènes critiques*

We mention the briefing on December 13th, at the Premio, as well as the little meeting yesterday with some members of the editorial board. In the next issue, we will try to put the magazine on line in installments over a period of six months, rather than a single shot. This should be more expensive in the future as the webmaster will be mobilized more often.

Special topic on Chinese theatre: Zhu Ning is part of the team of 10 collaborators; there will also be foreign collaborators.

6. Congress

The 29th Congress is scheduled to take place in Banff, Canada, in September 2018. Martin Morrow sent his report, but Michel warned the ExCom members that it will take at least one more night than the four nights currently scheduled (we must take into account the time difference for participants coming from far away). Otherwise, participation may be very low. Martin asked in his report whether it would be possible to charge entrance fees to the Congress, in particular to offset the costs of translation. The unanimous answer of the present members of ExCom is NO. However, if participants in addition to the official delegates want to attend, one might consider charging them a registration fee in addition to the hotel, meals, and theatre tickets.

Michel presents the idea of asking ATCA for help. He also suggests that Barry and Jeffrey encourage the participation of many American colleagues in the Congress, as it happened in 2001 for the 20th Congress in Montreal.

It is decided that Michel will send the call for participation in January, once the exact dates of the congress have been decided.

7. ExComMeetings

The next meeting will take place as planned in Craiova, at the end of April 2018, as part of the Shakespeare Festival. Michel will ask Octavian for the exact date of the meeting, as well as the days of arrival and departure.

8. Thalia Prize

We have received seven applications so far. They will be communicated to the members of ExCom, but will not appear in these minutes.

9. Other points

9.1. Director Kirill Serrebrenikov, who is under house arrest in Moscow, was unable to receive his prize in Rome. Margareta and Michel will prepare a letter together, to be sent to members and posted on the website. It will represent the position of the IATC, expressing regrets, alongside the Russian critics, with regard to the artist's situation.

9.2. Margareta will also send seasons' greetings. As planned, we organized three activities in the context of the Premio Europa, which went well: a briefing session on CS / SC, another on workshops, and finally this extraordinary meeting of the ExCom.

9.3. Russian section

There seem to be problems with the Russian Section, which has not paid its membership dues. With Marina Davydova, a member of the Russian Section, present in Rome, an attempt will be made to restore normal relations.

10. End of the meeting

The meeting ends at 4 pm.

Michel Vaïs

Secretary General