

Minutes of the ExCom Reunion of the IATC in Tbilisi, Georgia, 6-7 October 2015

Day 1

1. Approval of the agenda

It is approved as it appears hereafter.

2. Members present, apologies for absence

Were present: Margareta Sörenson (President), Michel Vaïs (Secretary General), Octavian Saiu (Adjunct Secretary General), Stéphane Gilbert (General Treasurer), and the following members of Excom: Jean-Pierre Han (France), Jeffrey Eric Jenkins (USA), Ivan Medenica (Serbia), Peng Tao (China), Mark Brown (GB), Mariko Anazawa (Japan), Deepa Punjani (India), Emmanuel Dandaura (Nigeria), as well as Savas Patsalidis for *Critical Stages/Scènes critiques*.

Maria Säkö (Finland) was absent and excused.

Tomasz Milkowski (Poland) was also absent and replaced by Konrad Szczebiot.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Malmö ExCom reunion (27 May, 2015)

They are approved unanimously.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes:

Candidacies for the ExCom – should they be presented two weeks before or can anyone present a candidacy during the General Assembly? After a debate in which Margareta, Michel, Jean-Pierre, Jeffrey, Mark, Stéphane, Ivan and Deepa express different points of view from different perspectives, it is decided that the matter should be postponed for the next ExCom meeting.

5. Reports

A discussion takes place, as to whether or not the reports should be presented orally during the ExCom reunion. Margareta's recommendation is that the reports should be brief and that they should refer to ExCom-related work, not general activities. **All the reports follow these Minutes.**

5.1. The President's report is presented, as well as the letter sent to ExCom members concerning the responsibilities of each of them. Margareta informs the ExCom that IATC is now present on all continents and, also, that our next two congresses are already planned. She

thanked Ivan and the Serbian association for their rapid actions to secure the congress in Belgrade, in 2016.

5.2. The Secretary General's report is presented. Michel informs the ExCom about the transfer of the domain host of the website from Canada to Serbia, which is immediately approved. He also explains the recent developments with regard to the Arab regional section.

5.3. The Treasurer's report is presented. As of October there are twelve national sections that have not yet paid the dues. A third reminder will be sent. Stéphane gives details about different methods of payment and the fees involved: bank transfer, Moneygram, etc. He also informs the ExCom that new cards will be printed soon. Donations meant to support *Critical Stages* have been received from the national sections of Korea, Slovakia, English Canada, Romania, India, Japan, France, US. The University of Illinois has been making substantial donations since 2013.

5.4. Other Excom members – Aspects concerning the reports and/or added to the reports:

Jeffrey suggests that thanks should be sent to the sections that have supported *Critical Stages* financially.

Emmanuel reiterates the willingness of the Nigerian Section to organize a congress. He also mentions Malawi's interest in creating a national section, and the possibility of having one in South Africa.

Tao informs the ExCom about the forthcoming elections in the Chinese Section and about the possibility of organizing a seminar within the framework of the Beijing Fringe Theatre Festival.

5.5. Critical Stages

Savas informs the ExCom about the current state of affairs: lack of funding, editorial difficulties, communication problems with contributors and editors, insufficient publicity, the need for a logo of the publication, and the importance of acquiring a scholarly status. He also explains the complications deriving from attempting to include video interviews in the publication. Konrad suggests posting audio interviews on the website and promises to help with their editing. The plan is to get a high ISSN, reflecting the scholarly status of the publication. However, the first 8 issues are only partially accessible. The problems occur from the attitude of the previous webmaster, who is not willing to collaborate. All attempts have been made to convince him. Jean-Pierre proposes creating a New Series, if no clear response is provided by the previous webmaster within 3 months.

With respect to funding, Margareta proposes the strategy of approaching festivals, and she commends Savas on everyone's behalf for his work.

6. Programme

6.1. IATC 28th Congress in Belgrade: 2nd half of September, 2015

Ivan provides details about the state of affairs: the Ministry of culture in Serbia didn't offer to cover all the costs. However, the Cultural Department of the City of Belgrade will cover the whole amount for organizing the event: 70,000 Euros. This implies 6 nights' accommodation for the ExCom members, 5 nights' accommodation for other guests, food, local transportation, and the international transportation of the Thalia Prize winner. The number of participants will be approximately 120. It is planned that the congress will coincide with two days of Serbian Showcase and three days of BITEF. The exact dates will be decided in January. The moment will mark the 60th anniversary of IATC and the 50th anniversary of BITEF. Invitations will be launched by the end of January, and the registration will be open by the end of March.

6.2. 29th IATC Congress in Banff and Calgary, Canada: October 2018

Don Rubin has offered to facilitate the organizing of the IATC Congress following the one in Belgrade. It will take place in Banff and Calgary. The Executive Committee accepted with pleasure the Canadian invitation.

6.3. Executive Committee meetings

Octavian presents the framework of the Craiova Shakespeare Conference in April, 2016 and invites ExCom members to participate. The topic will be "Local, Global, International Shakespeare". He would welcome local and transnational perspectives on Shakespeare in the context of the twenty-first century world of performance.

The following (Autumn) Excom meeting will be in Belgrade, before and after the 28th IATC Congress.

6.4. Young Critics' Seminars

Jean-Pierre Han and Mark announce that there are no Young Critics' Seminars scheduled for 2015. However, the Turkish Section has proposed a seminar for 18-22 May, 2016. The framework has been discussed, and Deepa will be the monitor. Margareta is trying to initiate a seminar in the context of a UNIMA event in Bilbao.

Day 2

6.5. Established critics symposiums

For the Belgrade Congress, the adopted decision is that the board of the conference will consist of Mariko, Savas, and Octavian. They will work closely with Maria Shevtsova. The working title of the conference is “Newness and Global Theatre”. An extensive discussion follows, concerning the notion of “newness” and that of “market”. At Mark’s suggestion, the word “market” will not be included in the title of the conference.

Octavian insists on the three aspects of the theme: newness, specificity vs. globalism, and the role of the critic in the context of contemporary world theatre.

Margareta invites Ivan to elaborate the guidelines of the conference; afterwards Margareta and Emmanuel will provide feedback.

6.6. Other proposals – Europe Theatre Prize

Margareta explains that this is a costly affair for Craiova, because, although it is under the patronage of the EU, the prize is not funded by the EU. The IATC is one of the founders of this prize. Michel considers that Europe Theatre Prize is a venue for promoting IATC, which should be present in events that are not directly organized by the association.

7. Website and social media

Margareta indicates that it would be valuable to have the faces of ExCom members on the IATC website. Stéphane alerts the ExCom to the fact that many sections ask for information already available on the website; therefore, the website needs to be more visible. Michel explains that the procedure of posting things on the website is rather convoluted. Jeffrey draws attention to the importance of social media in this process.

Konrad promises to create IATC pages on FaceBook and Twitter, and Deepa suggests that a committee should be appointed for social media. It is decided that the committee will consist of Deepa, Maria (who will ask Cecilia to join them), with the help of Emmanuel, and that Michel will continue to manage the website.

8. Relations with other organizations

Margareta has been voted President of UNIMA’s Election Committee. Michel informs the ExCom about the possibility of creating a liaison with ASSITEJ, considering that the president of this organization is interested in the various aspects of criticism of theatre for young audiences. He will send details about the ASSITEJ congress. Margareta highlights the possibility of cooperating with Pen International.

9. Membership and recruitment

Michel explains that the Arab regional section is in the process of being organized; and the details of it joining the IATC will be discussed in Craiova.

Emiliya Dementsova has been officially accepted as associate member in Russia.

The Brazilian Section has submitted an application for joining the IATC. The 25 members have sent all the required information, including samples of articles, and paid the fee. The application is officially accepted.

The Argentinean application for creating a national section is incomplete: information is missing about the affiliations of some members. The decision will be delegated to the Cabinet until more information is provided.

Michel announces that there is talk about creating a Caucasus Section, which will use Russian as official language.

Stéphane, Mark and Jeffrey launch a discussion about the definition of criticism in different cultural contexts and the ways in which this affects the admission of new members. Ivan insists on establishing some guidelines for new members' applications.

10. Thalia Prize

Deepa makes a proposal regarding the prize. She suggests appointing a committee consisting of five multilingual members of IATC who will shortlist a number of candidates for the award. The committee and the ExCom will together make a decision, and *Critical Stages* will be involved.

Jeffrey mentions the problem of the laureate's absence during the award ceremony.

Emmanuel's opinion is that the recipient should be there in person, and that she/he should be encouraged to popularize the award through her/his work. Savas accentuates the importance of the quality of the ceremony. However, Jean-Pierre considers that award has importance beyond the context of the ceremony and of the festival potentially hosting it. Mark's view is that the prize should recognize someone who is not necessarily famous, possibly a personality from outside Europe.

After discussion, on a proposition from Margareta, it was decided unanimously that the final choice would be made by e-mail among the members of Excom. The announcement of the laureate will be made at the end of February or in March, 2016.

11. IATC juries

Postponed to the next meeting.

12. Other business

Statutes (Deepa) and new logo (Mark): postponed to the next meeting.

13. Closure of the meeting

The excom meeting was closed at 1:30 PM on 7 October, 2015.

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Octavian Saiu

Adjunct Secretary General

Michel Vaïs

Secretary General

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REPORTS

President's report
Margareta Sörenson

1.

After our ExCom meeting in Malmö, I went to O'Porto, Portugal for the FITE festival in June. Rui Pina Coelho invited me and some other critics for talks about festivals in Europe and their changed conditions, particularly in terms of budget planning, and about the tendency to combine theatre with dance, music and other performing arts in the context of festivals. Round table talks were also organised on criticism and new media. Diana Damian Martin from the UK presented her view on "imbedded critics" in festivals. She and other younger critics from the UK wish to be members of the British Circle, and I contacted Mark about this. Another participant, Daniela Avila Small from Brazil, asked me about how to create an IACT national section. I explained the process to her, and the result is to be confirmed during the ExCom meeting in Tbilisi.

RuiPina Coelho wants to organise a young critics seminar on scenography in June 2016 in the context of FITE and will contact Jean-Pierre about this.

2.

In August I closed the case of candidacies for UNIMA as president of their election committee, an "honorary" mission I have taken on after many years as a member of the committee. The congress, where the new board will be elected, is taking place in May/June 2016 in Bilbao in conjunction with a big international puppetry festival. I am in contact with the Spanish organisers, who wish to host a seminar for young critics or a seminar for established critics on "contemporary puppetry and animation". They are studying the possibilities for this to happen, and I have given them info about the structures of either a seminar or a seminar for young critics. I hope to have an invitation in time for the ExCom.

3.

Through Swedish Lis Hellström Sveningsson we are discussing the possibility of having a seminar (for young or established critics) on dance and criticism during the Göteborg Dans & Teater Biennale in August 2016. It looks uncertain so far, and I will meanwhile try to look for a bigger event in dance, such as the ones in Berlin or in Lyon.

4.

In the middle of July an intense e-mail-exchange took place, in preparation for the signing of papers between the IATC and the city of Belgrade for our congress in 2016. The protocol was signed by me and the mayor of Belgrade in a formal ceremony in the City Hall on the 16th of September. Thank you Ivan, and thanks to Dusana, who assisted a lot.

The day after, I went to Novi Sad for the two-day conference titled “The Critic is Present Or Towards an Embodied Criticism” where I presented a paper. The conference was organised by us, i.e. Ivan, and FIRT. The participants went to Belgrade for two days after the conference for BITEF, which will be the theatrical framework for our congress next year.

5.

Buenos Aires - thanks to Halima Tahan a conference/workshop with the input of IATC members was organised during September 27 and October 4 in conjunction with FIBA, Festival International of Buenos Aires. Emmanuel Dandaura (Nigeria), Manabu Noda (Japan), Yi Joung Noh (Korea) as well as Argentinean and Brazilian critics were involved in various discussions on performing arts. The Argentinean critics are planning the formation of an IACT Section, and more reports on this will follow in Tbilisi.

I have had many ”meetings” with Michel on Facetime, planning the agenda, etc. I am very pleased that Octavian is now working with him as an adjunct. The general secretariat has many bigger and smaller things to do, as the organisation seems to grow.

I have written a letter to all ExCom members about how we can divide our work more evenly. It is not so easy, but I am convinced that we can do better and I would like to encourage each of the ExCom members to propose what they would like to do, and to define their respective responsibility.

Best wishes, from Buenos Aires,
Margareta

Secretary General's report – Tbilisi, 6-7 October, 2015

Since our meeting in Malmö (May 27, 2015), my work with IATC has been as follows:

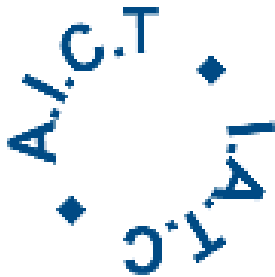
1. Extensive correspondence with the Excom and Emiliya Dementsova, who was finally accepted as associate member (see below, #12).
2. Exchanges with Ludmila Patlanjoglu about the Thalia prize. She succeeded in securing five more silver knob canes for our next laureates, and wishes to be invited to our five next award ceremonies, as Emil Boroghina was invited to our five last ones (since 2006).
3. I started to initiate my new adjunct, Octavian Saiu, into the work of secretary general. He was especially helpful with the final wording of our official letter to the Belgrade Mayor.
4. With Octavian's help, I had discussions with Emil Boroghina about our next Excom meeting in Craiova together with a meeting of the editorial board of *CS/SC* (April 18-19-20, 2015), and about our next congress in Belgrade (September, 2016).
5. I started discussions with Don Rubin, Martin Morrow, Janice Price and Margareta about the 2018 congress in Banff, Canada.
6. I was contacted at the last minute by the director of a puppet festival in Saguenay, Quebec, Canada, who wished to invite some international critics. Finally, although positive replies were sent from some of our members (from Italy, Bulgaria –Azen Terziev, Kalina Stefanova—, Korea, Africa –Emmanuel Dandaura--...), the offer is postponed until 2017.
7. I circulated a message from our member in Singapore, Richard Chua, about *The Journal of Theatrex Asia* and a message about a Circus residency programme for young critics in Montreal (Stephen Hunt, from Calgary, was accepted: he's the one who is organizing our 2018 congress in Alberta).

8. I replied to Yvette Hardie, president of ASSITEJ about some possible future cooperation, namely in relation with their congress in South Africa, in 2017.
9. I continued to update the website with news, photos, corrections of the membership list... which I sent to DusanaTodorovic, always as kind and helpful!
10. Other requests I had to deal with came from Iran (Azarian Afshin), Algeria (Ben Brahim Abderrahmane), and Chinese Taipei who had "IATC students membership cards" ... Some members asked for invoices to renew their membership dues, change addresses; an artist from Ottawa, Canada (Jocelyn Todd) sent a complaint on a question of ethics, etc. I changed some names on the Caribbean Regional Section, as some members have left and new members have arrived; there is also a new president in the Romanian section (Oltita Cintec) and in the Latvian section (Dita Jonite).
11. I sent reminders to the membership for paying the dues for 2015.
12. New candidates for membership: Rita Sebestyen (individual, Denmark), Emiliya Dementsova (Associate, Russia), Brazilian section (Daniele Avila Small), Panna Adorjáni (individual or section member...?). For the Arab Regional Section, see below. DECISIONS NEEDED.
13. I exchanged several e-mails about the website, because the hosting needed to be renewed with ColbaNet, or moved to Serbia...
14. I received as usual several invitations to festivals and symposia, but had to turn them down because the flight was not supported.
15. As usual, I translated and circulated the minutes of the excom meeting, the "in memoriam" announcements (Akihiko Senda, Japan, TamásKoltai, Hungary). I also prepared with Irina Gogoberidzé our meeting in Tbilisi.
16. I continued discussions with our long-time members in Morocco (Saïd En Naji) and the Sultanate of Oman (Abdul Karim Ali Jawad Al Lawati, who is coming to Tbilisi) about the new IATC Arab Regional Section. Margareta and I are invited to Oman (6-15 December, 6th Omani Theatre Festival, directed by Abdul Karim), by the Ministry of Heritage and Culture to sign the agreement. After a suggestion from our Moroccan member, I also sent a letter to the Minister of Heritage and Culture of Qatar, Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al Kuwari, to support the organisation of a congress on International theatre criticism in the Arab countries. Margareta and I both signed this letter (in French) to Mr Al Kuwari, who is candidate for the directorship of Unesco. I have not received yet the number of members of this future Arab Regional Section, nor the names of their countries (they should be "more than 12"), but I suggest we accept this Section in principle, and entrust the IATC president and secretary general to take the final decision on behalf of the Excom while in Oman, in December.

Michel Vaïs

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Treasurer's report



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153

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(29.V.2015)

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Rapport du Vice-Président Jean-Pierre Han

Après le Comex de Malmö, ma principale activité concernant l'AICT a été l'organisation de séminaires pour jeunes critiques.

Concernant la proposition de la Thaïlande pour un stage de jeunes critiques pour le mois de novembre à Bangkok, après de nombreux mails avec Pawit Mahasarinand, nous n'avons à ce jour aucune réponse positive concernant l'organisation de ce stage. J'ai donc écrit à Pawit pour lui dire qu'il me semblait désormais trop tard pour organiser quoi que ce soit. Il m'a demandé une semaine de délai. Près de trois semaines plus tard, je n'ai toujours aucune réponse...

La section turque m'a proposé l'organisation d'un stage à Istanbul en mai 2016. Après une réponse positive de ma part, j'ai pu rencontrer une délégation turque pendant le festival d'Avignon pour mettre au point les modalités de ce stage. L'une des demandes de Handan Salta concernait la possibilité d'avoir comme animatrice du groupe de langue anglaise Deepa Punjani. Avec l'accord de l'intéressée, mais aussi de Margareta et de Mark Brown, j'ai pu donner une réponse favorable à cette demande.

J'ai pu rencontrer à Paris la responsable de section Caraïbe, Alvina Ruprecht qui fait par ailleurs partie de la section canadienne. Concernant le Canada, elle a pu obtenir la réponse à Paris même de la possibilité pour le Canada d'organiser une Assemblée générale en Alberta avec le centre Banff. C'est m'a-t-elle dit le critique de Calgary Stephen Hunt qui a mené les discussions pour obtenir l'accord de Janice Price des programmes de Banff. Le budget est d'ores et déjà bouclé.

Avec Alvina Ruprecht, je me suis entendu pour régler une question concernant les membres de la section caribéenne : les membres de la Martinique, de la Guadeloupe, etc. doivent d'abord s'inscrire dans la section française de l'AICT...

Je poursuis les négociations avec le CDN de Limoges que dirige désormais Jean Lambert-wild que certains d'entre ont connu à Caen. Il y aura possibilité d'organiser un séminaire pour critiques « établis » à la prochaine rentrée théâtrale, en septembre 2016.

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Report to the Executive Committee

International Association of Theatre Critics (AICT-IATC)

=====6 October 2015=====

Jeffrey Eric Jenkins (American Theatre Critics Association, USA)

- 1) American section member Glenda Frank was scheduled to participate in the recent Novi Sad seminar.
- 2) For the Craiova meeting, we expect to have an American delegate who is a Shakespeare specialist.
- 3) Since our last report in May, when it was noticed that Illinois Theatre had not paid for its advertisement in *Critical Stages*, we paid \$5,000 in the summer and another \$5,000 has been ordered for wire transfer. This brings Illinois Theatre to \$15,000 paid in advertising revenue. An additional \$5,000 will be paid in Academic Year 2016-2017, which will bring us to a total of \$20,000.
- 4) We have spoken with Treasurer Stéphane Gilbert about keeping track of donations and advertising to *Critical Stages* so that we may issue letters of thanks from the AICT-IATC Executive Committee and from the editor, managing editor, and executive editor of the publication.
- 5) We have worked closely with Savas Patsalidis and Don Rubin on editorial and fund raising needs for *Critical Stages*. We may have a new solution to the website-migration challenge to share at the Excom meeting.
- 6) Foundation ATCA, a wing of the American section paid \$500 in cash euros as a donation to *Critical Stages* at Malmö in May.
- 7) The American section will be represented at the Fadjr Festival in Tehran this coming January.

- 8) The American Section continues to support international activity through its web presence in the ATCA International blog, which chronicles news, events, and other reports from AICT-IATC sections around the world.

===END===

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Ivan Medenica's report: Tbilisi 2015

My work for the IATC has never been as intense as it was in the period after our Malmo ExCom meeting.

In June I had to finish the Essays section for the 11th issue of Critical Stages. In Malmo I agreed with Savas that, concerning the fact that I am already the Director of conferences, we will switch the positions, starting with the issue number 12: he will take over the Essay section and I will be responsible for the Proceedings section.

Simultaneously with this, I have been working in June on the abstracts for the 15th International Symposium of theatre critics and scholars that was scheduled for September 2015. The topic of the Symposium "The critic is present: towards an embodied criticism" and the fact that the call for papers was widely spread on different internet sites, resulted in a surprisingly big interest for the Symposium: we got more than 30 entries, so I had, as a Symposium chairman, to make a selection (our capacities were 20 participants). Besides the key note speaker, prof. dr Christopher Balme, and Margareta as our President, none of other participants got a personal invitation: all of them were chosen through the application procedure – which is great. The second important thing is that we had, more than on the previous editions of the Symposium, a lot of IATC members as speakers. They were from Portugal, Sweden, Great Britain, Italy, Turkey, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Slovenia, USA and Serbia and none of them, except Margareta and myself, were the IATC officers or ExCom members, which is also important. We should motivate as many as possible IATC members to take part in our activities. I am grateful to Jeffrey and Deepa for animating, through personal correspondence or web sites, the members of their national sections to apply.

At the end of June I started negotiations with the Belgrade authorities concerning the project of organising the IATC Congress in 2016 in Belgrade. I came to this solution when I realise that the already started talks with the Ministry of Culture wouldn't get us to a satisfactory result. This happened to be a good decision because the Belgrade City authorities decided, in

a period that was surprisingly short, to cover financially to whole event. That was the info I shared with you in July.

In August I have been working with the Department of Culture of the City of Belgrade, on one side, and Margareta and Michel on the other side on a draft of the Protocol between IATC and City of Belgrade. Our work was finished in mid-August but then we waited until the beginning of September for the Mayor's office and the City legal authorities to confirm it. Finally it was ready for Margareta and the Mayor of Belgrade to sign it, which happened on the ceremony in the City Hall on the 16th of September. The next step will be for the City of Belgrade to sign a contract with Yugoslav Drama Theatre, the host of the Congress, which will precise the budget in all details. This work has to be finished until the end of October.

The Symposium in Novi Sad and an additional program we had in Belgrade, on BITEF, went very well. Once again, after the Symposium of the Beijing Congress, it was confirmed that the guidelines for organising IATC conferences function well, that it is possible, although it doesn't look like this from a first glance, to structure a conference which will animate and give a floor to both critics-journalists and critics-scholars. In a talk I had with Christopher Balme, who was the President of The International association for theatre research (IFTR) until a few months ago, he told me that he thought this "duality" is not a disadvantage of the IATC conferences but an advantage: something that makes them unique on the international scale. The fact that some participants of the Symposium who are scholars learned for it through the IFTR network (the call for papers was on IFTR site as well) and that the actual president of IATC and the former president of IFTR took part in the Symposium, makes out of it, both on symbolic and pragmatic level, a successful meeting of two associations and a productive cultural and scientific exchange between its members.

When I come back to Tbilisi, most probably on that very day, I will continue with the preparations of the 2016 Congress, focusing on finalising the budget structure. In this very moment I am also finishing the editing work on the Proceedings section for the next issue of Critical Stages.

Ivan Medenica

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The report of Chinese section of IATC

1 : IATC China Section will have some administrative change in the second half of 2015. Prof. Zhang Xian has submitted his resignation to the Section. The annual meeting of China Section will be held in November. The new administration will be elected.

2: IATC China Section now is contacting with some active and influential theatre festivals in China, such as Beijing Fringe Theatre Festival, Beijing South Luo Guo Xiang Festival and Wu Zhen Theatre Festival. We plan to co-organize with one of them to hold a Chinese young critics seminar in 2016, preparing for the future organization of IATC international young critics seminar and other possible IATC events in 2017. We are trying to find a new mode and wider platform for future IATC activities in China.

3: I was invited to the International Theatre Festival, held by Tianjin Grand Theatre, and present a paper in July 2015. I write 3 critical articles: one is about a documentary theatre *Have/No* organized by LI Yinan, one about *Hamlet* directed by Tomas Ostermeier of Berlin Schaubühne Theatre, the other about *The Inspector* by Russian director Waleli Fokin. Except for the traditional magazine, the 3 articles are also released via a mobile app. called We-chat. In this way the number of readers has an enormous increase. For example, the article about *Hamlet* has 1530 hits, much more than those of traditional paper magazines.

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Mark Brown's report to IATC excom, Tbilisi, October 2015

Since our last excom meeting in Malmö, Sweden, I have:

- Attended Festival de Almada, the biggest international theatre festival in Portugal, in July, on the invitation of its director Rodrigo Francisco.
- Carried out my duties as an English-language editor on *Critical Stages* #11. Congratulations to editor-in-chief Savas, his assistants and all editors and writers on the publication of this important edition of our webjournal, despite the many practical difficulties we have faced.
- Lectured and tutored on the Theatre & Performance course at the Scottish Universities' International Summer School at the University of Edinburgh in August. My tutorial group included students from Brazil, South Korea, Canada, the United States and Ireland.
- Been involved in discussions, both online and in person, regarding broadening the membership of the Drama Section of the British Critics' Circle (the British section of IATC). As a consequence of these discussions, a number of critics in Scotland, including people who write primarily or entirely online, have been proposed for membership of the CC. I will continue to be involved in these developments and will, of course, keep excom informed as to their progress.
- Had a meeting, during the Edinburgh Festival in August, with our Thai colleague Pawit Mahasarinand regarding the planned young critics' seminar in Bangkok; this was planned for November of this year, but, despite numerous requests from Jean-Pierre and I, no confirmation had been forthcoming. Subsequent to our meeting, Pawit has finally been unsuccessful in his efforts to achieve funding for the seminar. He would, he says, like to hold a seminar at the same time next year.

- Talked to my friend Roger Huddle, the accomplished graphic designer from London, regarding our difficulties in finding a new logo. As a professional designer, he is of the opinion that we are unlikely to be provided with a satisfactory design with the modest amount of money we are able to offer for the competition.

- Submitted an article, entitled 'Between Journalism and Art: the location of criticism in the 21st-century', for publication in a forthcoming book, edited by Duska Radosavljevic of the University of Kent, England, which takes theatre criticism as its subject.

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Report for Georgia Excom (5th- 8th October 2015)

Deepa Punjani

Madhav Vaze, one of our senior members from Pune, attended the 15th international symposium of theatre critics and scholars in Novi Sad and in Belgrade, Serbia in September.

Madhav Vaze's essay on the new generation of playwrights in Marathi theatre appeared in the June edition of Critical Stages, published under 'Special Topics': The New Generation of Playwrights, edited by Manabu Noda.

For the same issue, I edited the section on 'Conference Papers' in which select papers from the IATC senior critics' seminar at the International Theatre Festival of Kerala (ITFOK) and from our Congress in Beijing have been published. The papers, in the order they are published, are by Renu Ramnath, Jean-Pierre Han, Margareta Sörenson, Stéphane Gilbart and Brad Hathaway. I was in touch with our Editor, Savas Patsilidis and with Lissa Tyler Renaud about this. I thank them both for their help and encouragement.

The Indian national section has been encouraging its members to write for Critical Stages. We were able to make a donation of Fifty Euros to the cause this year, and we hope that we can continue to support this valuable publication, as much as we can, monetarily and in spirit.

We have been gathering funds to formalise the registration of our section, and it appears that it may be finally possible to do so before the end of the year.

We have two new members from this year, one from Kolkata and the other from Mumbai.

Some of our members were interested to participate in the international festival of the arts of puppetry in Saguenay, Québec, but the invitation came too late.

I have been in touch with our new individual member, Rita Sebestyen from Denmark. For her interesting project on "Otherness", she has found an institutional partner with the Copenhagen International School of Performing Arts. I understand that she has also been in touch with Savas Patsilidis for contributing to Critical Stages.

In our last Excom, I had taken the responsibility to word a clause to be inserted in our statutes in case the General Assembly can have only one delegate per member association instead of two. I have already explained the background to this and my view in detail in my emails, addressed to Michel Vaïs, and marked to all Excom members. We will naturally discuss this further.

As regards the ongoing discussion about the Thalia Prize, I have written to Margareta Sörenson and to Peng Tao. We will discuss some thoughts about this in our meeting.

Jean-Pierre Han wrote to me about monitoring the English group of a proposed young critics' seminar in Istanbul in May 2016 in consultation with Mark Brown. I have accepted the invitation. I thank them both for this opportunity, which will be the first for me.

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Report from the Japanese section

After our meeting in Malmö, the Japanese section held its first bi-annual general meeting on the 17th of July, 2015. We commenced the meeting with an award ceremony for the AICT prize for the best theatre book of the year and also the prize Theatre Arts for the most talented young critic. We also held a memorial service dedicated to the memory of the late Mr. Akihiko Senda.

In this meeting, we received reports on our recent activities, such as for example our open lecture from the IATC, and also regarding the acquisition of a grant from the Tokyo Arts Council for publishing a book about the Great Tohoku Earthquake, etc. We also decided to hold a symposium for this book on the 13th of March 2016.

A journal (in English) will be completed soon focusing on the work of Akiko Tachiki following the translation by Mark Brown.

We received an ex post facto report that Manabu Noda is now the new chief editor of our web magazine "Theatre Arts".

The Japanese branch of the IATC published an article in journal Asahi concerning their displeasure and against the government's recent unconstitutional changes to the security.

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FROM: PROF. E.S. DANDAURA (NIGERIA)

DATE : 6th OCTOBER 2015

IATC -NIGERIAN REPORT TO IATC EXCOM MEETING IN TBILISI

Our last meeting in (May 29th 2015) Malmö coincided with the inauguration of Muhammadu Buhari as newly elected President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The President is yet to fully constitute his cabinet in terms of appointment of Ministers, so we are yet to ascertain the policy direction of the new Government with regards to theatre and the

culture sector generally. However, the Nigerian section of the IATC has successfully hosted a few activities inline with its 2015 annual plan.

2015 SONTA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

IATC sustained its annual collaborated with the Society of Nigeria Theatre Artists (SONTA) to ensure successful hosting of the 2015 edition of SONTA International Conference from August 3-6th 2015 in Abuja. During the conference, three IATC members chaired different plenary sessions of the. These include Professors Alex Asigbo (Secretary General), Abdulrasheed Adeoye (Financial Secretary) and Emmanuel Dandaura (President).

CRITICAL STAGES

My paper titled 'From Page to Stage: Influences and Challenges Shaping the New Generation of Nigerian Playwrights' was published in volume 11 of the Critical Stages. It has generated more interest in the Critical Stages journal now among members of the Nigerian national section.

CRITICS CIRCLE MEETINGS

The Vice-President and Secretary-General of the Nigerian Section of IATC attended meetings of the critics circle at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University and Univeristy of Ilorin respectively in July and September 2015.

LIAISON WITH CRITICS IN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

I had a meeting with three critics in South Africa two weeks ago when I visited Johannesburg and sensitised them on the need to consider joining the IATC either as a national section or affiliate members. There is a strong likelihood that this will yield the desired result in the next few months. Our colleagues in Malawi have requested for a guide on how to establish a national section of the IATC, I provided them that information via email in August, I await their decision on the proposal.

ABUJA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

I could not honour the invitation to serve as adjudicator at the 2015 edition of Abuja international festival which held from 22-25th September. However, I requested a colleague to stand in for me. I understand the event went well. The invitation extended to me was in my capacity as president of IATC-Nigeria

ATTENDANCE OF 10 FIBA IN BUENOS AIRES

I was at the 10th edition of the bi-annual Buenos Aires International Festival from September 26-4th October 2015 along side Margareta, Manabu and our colleagues from Brazil and Korea. It was a rewarding experience which has further sensitised the Argentine critics on the need to organise themselves under the IATC platform.

PROPOSAL TO HOSTING IATC WORLD CONGRESS IN 2018

IATC-Nigeria had at its last executive committee meeting in August restated its readiness to host the IATC World Congress in 2018. However this will be preceded by hosting of an excom meeting and probably the young or established critics seminar in 2017 as the IATC excom will approve. I have been mandated to intimate the excom about this confirmation of interest which I expressed on behalf of IATC-Nigeria at the Malmo meeting.

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CRITICAL STAGES: In brief

Savas Patsalidis

Dear ExCom members, / chers amis,

1. We have a new site with a slightly modified link: www.critical-stages.org. Nothing has changed with the old address. It still functions for issues 1-10. The reason we created this new site was due to the difficulties we faced trying to transfer the material to Andrew's Amazon WordPress.

From the feedback we got thus far we are very pleased with issue #11. People like the new format and its structure.

I told Andrew and Yun Cheol that there is a small fee of about 2000 euros for the transfer. Tasos, the new webmaster does not want to do it because that was not part of the original agreement. Also he feels that it will be done faster and more efficiently if carried out by the original webteam that created it.

2. We are now in the process of putting together issue #12 **(due Dec. 2015)**. To be on time everybody has to hand in their stuff on time. This is very important.

3. We have began planning issues #13 (on dance), #14 (on Theatre and Statelessness in Europe) and #15 (on African Performing Arts). All very inviting topics which I am sure will appeal to an international audience.

4. I have sent out to hundreds of theatre people the two Calls for Papers (#13 & #14). They are also posted on the IFTR, ISTR, PSi and especially H-Net Notification which happens to be the largest platform for the circulation of CFP.

5. In the last two months I emailed promotion material to hundreds of theatre organizations, such as ITI, FIRT, Festivals, major theatre centers, training schools, cultural centers etc. What I found out is that, **most people had NO idea we exist!!!** That means, harder promotion work lies ahead. It will really help if all members of IATC post the CS link on their webpage and also forward it to local or international theatre centers they know (as I wrote in my last email, forwarded to all IATC members by Michel, I can contact these people if I have their e-address—**thus far I got none!**).

6. I am also setting up links with theatre/performance/dance departments, especially in areas where we are not known (i.e. Australia, South Africa etc). My feeling is that we should have some of these people, especially young academics, on our agenda. Opening up to their world as well (without necessarily turning the journal into a.... “boring” academic publication), is a positive

move. These people want to publish stuff. They have ideas. They are part of what is current and hot. For them the slogan “publish or perish” still carries some weight. Their contribution will certainly add to the quality, the cosmopolitanism and freshness of the journal.

7.FINANCES: I am working very closely with Don and Jeffrey to figure out ways to survive financially. We will talk about it in our meeting.

Jeffrey will tell us more about the support coming from his university.

As for Don, his last email to Jeffrey and me (29/09/2015), says that (I quote) he [has identified ten major international foundations that might accept an application from *Critical Stages* and is in the process of contacting each in advance of a written approach. Applications are expected to go out by November 1 with answers expected back in February and funds, if granted, in the spring. Once the large applications are out, approaches will be made to universities, then to IATC centres, then to corporations and then to individuals as outlined at the Malmö meetings. York University has supplied a grad student to help in this work. With a little luck, funds should start flowing to CS in 2016. If anyone on Excom has a specific contact at a foundation or a suggestion for a funding approach please let Don know as soon as possible.](#)

8. Although the operation of CS is mostly based on the work of volunteers, every now and then I hear IATC people saying that they want to get paid when they are asked to write something for CS. **I DO NOT blame them.** I wish we had more money to pay everybody. At this stage we cannot afford that. We barely survive. Let us hope our budget gets better in the future, in which case we can discuss again the possibility of paying some more people, like section editors, among others.

9. I have asked two graphic designers to propose a couple of logos for Critical Stages (no charge—a gift to IATC). Once I have something ready I will forward it to all ExCom members. It goes without saying that if you have anyone interested in proposing something, please tell him/her to go ahead. The more ideas we have the better.

10. Hervé Guay who was the guest editor for issue #11 (Interview section) does not have the time to do the same for issue #12. I thought that at least one of the sections needed the touch of a **non western person**, a woman in particular, so I felt that Katy Salmasi, an ex member of the ExCom, is the right person to turn to. I talked to her. She is very, very enthusiastic and full of ideas. I am sure her contribution to the interview section will be a big plus.

11. Talking about the interview section there is one thing we would like to realize: **interviews on video**. The reason we have not tried it thus far is because it costs money. Not much, but money nonetheless. If CS funding bears fruits, we will give it a shot. It will add that extra touch to the section.

12. Last but not least I have to say that without the help of Tasos, the webmaster and Katerina, his assistant, running CS would have been by all means an IMPOSSIBLE task. *Critical Stages* is growing. It takes collective effort and a positive spirit to keep it afloat.

These are just highlights of some of the editorial things I would like to share with you (and discuss) when we meet.

Jeffrey, who will also be attending the meeting, will tell you in more detail things related to the financing of CS.

There is also more news coming from Don—I will keep you posted.

Cheers to you all/amitiés

Savas

=====END OF REPORTS=====