

## XXII<sup>e</sup> Congress of the International Association of Theatre Critics

### Minutes of the Assembly General Turin, 10 March 2006, 9am

#### 1. Delegates present, eligibility

The following 27 national sections, whose subscriptions were up to date, were officially represented, with the right to vote: Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Turkey, UK, USA.

A Bulgarian delegation was present, without the right to vote. Several individual members were also present, including Louise Ghirlando (Malta), Irina Gogoberidze (Georgia), Noëmi Gradwohl (Switzerland), Carola Oyarzún (Chile), Deepa Punjani (India), Boubakeur Sekini (Algeria), Halima Tahan (Argentine). Finally, there were a number of honorary members: Georges Banu, John Elsom, Zeynep Oral, Andrzej Zurowski, Paul Korenhof, Maria Helena Serôdio, Soila Lehtonen, and observers from a number of other countries including the host country, Italy.

#### 2. Opening of the Assembly

Before delivering his speech of welcome, in which he expressed especial thanks to the organisers of the Europe Theatre Prize who had made the meeting possible, the outgoing president, Ian Herbert, asked for a minute's silence in memory of André Camp, former general secretary, and Georges Schlocker, former auditor, who had died since the previous congress.

#### 3. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted and is as appears below. On a point of order, at the request of the Spanish section, explanations were given of the status of the Bulgarian delegation: as a result of a recent schism among the group of critics formerly constituting the Bulgarian section, a second, new group had been formed. Now the country has on the one hand the *Guild of Theatre Critics and Dramaturges of the Union of Bulgarian Actors* and on the other the *Society of Independent Theatre Critics*. From now on the two represent *de facto* the Bulgarian section of IATC. However, since they had not had the time to agree on a common delegation, they did not have the right to vote at this congress.

#### 4. Adoption of the minutes of the Assembly General of 5 November 2003, held in Bucharest

This was adopted unanimously without alteration, proposed by Yun-Cheol Kim (Korea), seconded by Lis Hellström Sveningsson (Sweden).

#### 5. Report of the General Secretary

Michel Vaïs recalled that his report had already been circulated by electronic mail. It appears as Annexe A.

He added that the Executive Committee would have before it the approval of a new application for individual membership, that of Noëmi Gradwohl, from Switzerland. The Mexican critics were now united in one paid-up section, led by Reyna Barrera, and represented in Turin by Rodolfo Obregon.

## **6. Report of the Treasurer**

**6.1** Irène Sadowska-Guillon presented the accounts and her report, which are at Annexe B. The assembly adopted them unanimously on a proposal from Alvina Ruprecht (Canada), seconded by Paulo Eduardo Carvalho (Portugal), and expressed its thanks to Irène.

**6.2** The two hon. auditors, Irina Gogoberidze and Halima Tahan, presented their report, confirming that the finances of IATC were in good order. After examining the supporting papers, they agreed that they approved the treasurer's report. Their own report is at Annexe C.

## **7. Reports of the directors of seminars and cultural bridges**

Margareta Sörenson gave her report on the seminars, which appears at Annexe D.

Kalina Stefanova gave her report on cultural bridges, which appears at Annexe E.

## **8. Publications / Website**

Michel Vaïs described the new website. Carola Oyarzún and Louise Ghirlando offered their assistance in running the English section of the site.

The publications of the *Proceedings* of the 2001 Montreal and 2003 Bucharest congresses were presented. Those responsible, respectively Hervé Guay and Ludmila Patlanjoglu, were warmly congratulated.

Nikolai Pesochinsky described the project to develop a network of theatre journals on the internet. In the first place, it was agreed to ask participating journals to send a list of contents, one complete article and summaries of the remainder.

Sanja Nikcevic proposed a joint academic project to produce an anthology on theatre criticism. Elke van Campenhout expressed her interest in collaborating on this.

## **9. Proposals for activities**

### **9.1 Future congresses**

#### **Seoul Congress**

Yun-Cheol Kim outlined the plans for the extraordinary congress in Seoul (21-26 October 2006), to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IATC. Invitations would now be put on the website.

#### **Congress 2008**

The president put forward an invitation which he had received from the Bulgarian Minister of Culture, to hold our 2008 congress in Sofia. This invitation was accepted unanimously, on the proposal of Hervé Guay (Canada), seconded by Larry Devine (USA). No other invitation had been offered to EcCom. The president was authorised to enter into discussions with the Bulgarian authorities, in conjunction with that country's two groups of critics.

### **9.2. Seminars for young critics, colloquia for established critics**

#### **Proposals for 2006:**

Margareta Sörenson recalled the seminars proposed for 2006:

1. Charleville-Mézières (France), 15-22 September (festival of marionnettes)
2. Vilnius (Lithuania), 26 September-1 October (Sirenos Festival; dates amended to 21-25 September)
3. Seoul (Korea), 20 - 27 October (Reunion of previous participants).

The invitation to Cisinou (Moldova) for the Ionesco Festival in May 2006 (which is on the web site) was mentioned.

Nikolai Pesochinsky suggested a seminar or colloquium in connection with this year's Baltic House Festival in St Petersburg, which takes place from 30 September-9 October 2006.

Tomasz Milkowski reminded us of the invitation for six established critics to the monodrama festival in Wroclaw, Poland, November 2006.

**New suggestions for 2007:**

1. Manuel Vieites proposed a seminar in Vigo (Spain), in March, on Theatre and Dance;
2. Nikolai Pesochinsky proposed a seminar in April in Moscow (Russia) at the Golden Mask festival, and also a colloquium on critical method; he mentioned the possibility of another Moscow seminar in April or May in conjunction with the Chekhov Festival.
3. Ivan Medenica proposed a seminar in Novi Sad (Serbia and Montenegro), in May, to cover the Sterijino Pozorje Festival ;
4. Ludmila Patlanjoglu suggested a colloquium in Sibiu (Romania) also in May; there were several other possibilities for events in Romania in conjunction with various festivals.
5. Manuel Vieites mentioned the possibility of a colloquium for around twenty critics in June, to coincide with a Spanish national congress at Santiago de Compostela (Spain); its topic would be the creation of an international code of ethics for theatre critics. Juan Antonio Hormigón added that the ADE proposal for a Law of Theatre would be put forward at their congress in Spain in October 2006.
6. Tomasz Milkowski proposed a seminar in Wroclaw (Poland) in conjunction with the Dialog Festival in October, for six young critics.

**9.3. Executive Committee meetings, other colloquia**

1. Irina Gogoberidze offered an Executive Committee meeting in conjunction with the Causcasian theatre meeting in Tbilisi (Georgia) in spring 2007.
2. Carola Oyarzún proposed an ExCom or colloquium in Santiago (Chile), in January 2007 or 2008.
3. Maria Helena Serôdio proposed an ExCom in Portugal in Autumn 2007.

All these proposals would be investigated by the incoming ExCom.

**9.4. Thalia Prize**

Ludmila Patlanjoglu and Emil Boroghina, director of the Craiova Shakespeare Festival (sponsors of the statuettes) showed three possible designs by Dragos Buhagiar for the Thalia Prize, both maquettes and drawings.

Coffee break; suspension of the General Assembly.

**Extraordinary Assembly of IATC**

The general secretary read out the ExCom's proposals for changes to the IATC statutes, intended to create a new category of non-voting membership, for those already members of associations close to our own such as IFTR (International Federation for Theatre Research) or ITI (the International Theatre Institute). These proposals are at annexe F.

They were proposed by Sanja Nikcevic (Croatia), seconded by Alvina Ruprecht (Canada) and adopted unanimously. The general secretary announced that they would now be incorporated into the IATC statutes.

**Extraordinary Assembly concluded.**

**Return to General Assembly.**

After discussion and a vote on the designs for the Thalia Prize it was decided to adopt a silver-topped cane (16 votes) rather than a head (10 votes) or a mask (1 vote).

A long discussion followed on the general criteria for the prize: should we recognise a critic or a creative artist? It was decided by a vote that we should offer the prize to someone who, through their writing, has influenced the practice of criticism, whether this was an actual critic or someone who had written works affecting critical theory. The following proposals were therefore rejected: to give the prize to an artist, to alternate between artist and theorist, or to defer the decision.

### **11. Election of President**

In the absence of one of our honorary presidents, Andrzej Zurowski, honorary vice-president, was invited to preside over the election. Ian Herbert was proposed by Alvina Ruprecht (Canada), seconded by Nikolai Pesochinsky (Russia). With no other candidate proposed, Ian Herbert was re-elected by acclamation for a third and final term.

### **12. Election of General Secretary**

Michel Vaïs was proposed by Yun-Cheol Kim (Korea), seconded by Paulo Eduardo Carvalho (Portugal). With no other candidate proposed, Michel Vaïs was re-elected for a fourth term.

### **13. Election of Executive Committee**

The following eleven countries were proposed as candidates for the ten seats on the Executive Committee. (The number of votes cast for them appears in brackets after their names):

Canada/Québec (24)

France (25)

Hungary (15) *not elected*

Korea (26)

Poland (23)

Portugal (26)

Romania (25)

Russia (27)

Spain (24)

Sweden (25)

USA (25)

### **14. Election of Auditors**

Irina Gogoberidze and Halima Tahan were proposed by Ivan Medenica (Serbia and Montenegro), seconded by Zuzana Ulicianska (Slovakia). Both were elected unopposed.

### **15. Closing of assembly**

The agenda having been completed and there being no other business, the president, Ian Herbert, officially declared the assembly general closed at 13.55pm.

**Michel Vaïs**

General secretary