

**International Association of Theatre Critics  
Extraordinary Congress in Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Seoul, Korea, 21-25 October, 2006**

**In Association of the Seoul International Performing Arts Festival**

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Member sections of the IATC are invited to the Association's Extraordinary Congress in Celebration of the 50th Anniversary, which will take place in Seoul in the framework of the Seoul International Performing Arts Festival, from 21<sup>st</sup> (arrival) to 25<sup>th</sup> (departure on 26<sup>th</sup>) of October in 2006. It would be a wonderful occasion for theatre critics to experience the contemporary Asian theatre with the main focus on today's Korean theatre.

The main programs: the awarding of the first Thalia Award, and an interview with the winner; three-day long colloquium on "New Theatricality and Criticism"; daily watching of the festival performances; experiencing Korean cultures such as shamanistic dance and traditional mask-dance drama performance (subject to change); a young critics' seminar; workgroup meetings focused on journal exchange, code of ethics, next congress, criticism book project, regional sections; and the second excom meeting of the year.

**Congress Theme: "New theatricality and Criticism"**

Since the time when theatre abandoned the supremacy of the text in the name of postmodernism, new species of theatre have emerged. In Europe, perhaps the most obvious among them are "post-dramatic theatre" and "hybrid theatre." These are rapidly becoming the mainstream of contemporary European — if not world — theatre practice.

Whenever new forms of theatre have been identified, critics have tried to name and define them. Now it is our job to define the nature of this new theatre, and it is in this sense that we mean its theatricality. On the other hand, theatre practitioners are always trying to free themselves from critical definitions, which is why the relationship between practitioner and critic is always a tense one. But both practitioners and critics accept that, around the world, the theatre is rapidly expanding its boundaries, and thus creating many new kinds of theatre which cannot be captured well by existing definitions. Indeed, some of these new theatres, with their new theatricality, have or will become the driving force of the present or future theatre, and therefore deserve our closest attention, most scrupulous analysis, profound thinking, and insightful definitions.

We invite you to join us to do that work together in Seoul from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, when we have our Extraordinary Congress to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IATC. We want to examine how theatre practitioners expand the nature of theatre to meet their new perceptions of human beings and the world, and whether critics are doing their job in characterizing these new practices. Come and share your experience of the new theatricality in your country, and the critical methodology you use to define it.

We believe that the new theatricality requires new criticism. Today's theatre practices are laying down a challenge: your response to this challenge will engage both the academic and the journalist in world theatre and world criticism — on-line and off-line, now and later. In our fiftieth year, we believe that with your support this IATC congress could make a valuable contribution to the world theatre community for the next fifty years.

### **Deadline for Papers**

Those who want to present a paper in the colloquium are required to submit the excerpt of 400 words or less by June 15, and the final paper by September 15. It would be appreciated if the excerpts and final texts are submitted in two languages: English and French. Each speaker will be given 30 minutes for presentation. The colloquium will be focused on three regions: Asia, Americas, and Europe; and five speakers will represent each region. If there are too many applications, papers will be selected by their relevance to the colloquium theme and geopolitical considerations.

### **Congress Participation**

Members are reminded that each IATC section which has paid its subscription for 2006 is eligible to send two delegates, in addition to any officer or existing members of the Executive Committee. All hotel accommodation, local transportation, meals for delegates for the period of 21-25 October will be paid by the organizers, as well as theatre tickets and airport transfers. Delegates are responsible for their own travel costs to Seoul.

### **Practical Notices**

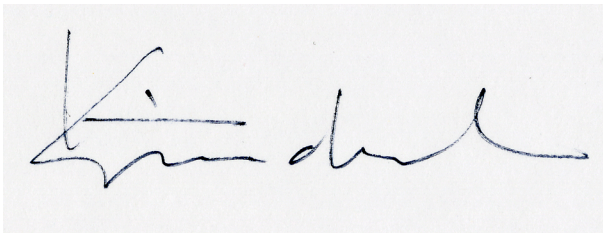
1. Delegates should fill in the registration form and send it by May 30, either by e-mail at [xocongress@korea.com](mailto:xocongress@korea.com) or by fax: 822 958 2669.
2. Excom members are expected to arrive on October 20 to have a meeting in the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup>.
3. Accompanying persons of delegates, and non-delegate participants are required to pay

**US\$500 for accommodation, airport transfers, local transportation, theatre tickets, and the invitations to farewell party and gala dinner with the Thalia award winner. Per diems will not be offered to them.**

**The organizers are working very hard to make this extraordinary congress really extraordinary, that is, comfortable, informative, exotic and enlightening, knowing that it is the first congress to be held in Asia in the history of fifty years of the I.A.T.C.**

**Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Seoul in October,**

**Yours sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read 'Yun-Cheol KIM'.

**Yun-Cheol KIM, Ph. D.  
Organizer of the Extraordinary Congress  
Vice-President of the I.A.T.C.**