
European Network of Information Centres for the Performing Arts
Réseau Européen des Centres d'Information sur le Spectacle Vivant

Report of ENICPA General Assembly in Ghent Belgium, 6 October 2007

Report prepared by Bianca De Waal

Attendance

Olga Perevezentseva and Dmitry Osipenko (Russian ASSITEJ Theatre Union), Audronis Imbrasas (Lithuanian Dance Information Centre), Michael Freundt (German Centre of the International Theatre Institute), Piia Ahonen (Finnish Dance Information Centre), Kamma Siegumfeldt (Danish Dance Information Centre), Dries Moreels and Nikol Wellens (Vlaams Theater Instituut), Laurent Sebillotte and Agnès Wasserman (Centre National de la Danse), Luciano Brogi (IALS), Bianca de Waal (Theater Instituut Nederland), Judith Staines (On-the-Move), Davide D'antonio (Teatro Inverso)

Budget 2008

Dries explained that there is more income from the membership fees. There are less members but the current members do pay.

There is a reservation for the meeting in Dublin. The meetings are always a co-production of the inviting member and ENICPA.

There were no objection to the budget 2008. Therefore, it was approved by the General Assembly.

Meeting Irish Theatre Institute, Dublin Autumn 2008

Michael came to the conclusion after the meeting in Berlin last summer, that we lost the focus on practical topics a little bit, topics that touch the daily work of the members: storing material and handling information, for example.

Piia and Bianca wrote an e-mail with a proposal for a topic for the next meeting, namely contact relation management systems.

Bianca suggested, after joining the Info-Cell *New Media Arts for Nitwits* during IETM, that a topic on how to collect documentation and materials in the field of New Media Theatre could be interesting.

Dries suggested that there could be a discussion on the scope of our databases. Where do you stop collecting and describing namely the international information? Where is the overlap in our databases and how do we deal with that?

For the meeting in Dublin a working group will be formed with Michael and Caroline and another member. Michael asked the members to think about joining the work group and step forward to help organize the meeting.

Michael asked if there were ideas about a format for presentations of projects of the members. Piia suggested to present projects that have just started or will start in the near future, which need input from the other members. So you have to be clear upfront about what you need from the members. Bianca said that it shouldn't be presentations of websites we already know, but that the projects should be new to us.

Kamma suggested to send the information on the projects before the meeting, so we have all time to think about it.

Michael also wanted to know if it was possible to present material about the member organisations in another way than just putting it on a table.

Bianca suggested that it would be interesting if the members tell a little bit more about the presented material and to leave enough time in the meeting for informal networking.

Dance Video Navigator

The Dance Video Navigator was presented earlier today during the Working Group on cultural portals. Michael's task is now to start with a promotion plan.

Luciano said that it is important to develop good documentation on the project for the current partners and possible new partners and also to have a banner to present on the partners' websites.

The Navigator will be presented at other meetings.

Piia asked what would be the best way to reach the dance researchers, for whom this website would be very interesting.

Judith suggested to present it at conferences for researchers and it would be an idea to contact the dance video festivals for linking the Navigator to their websites.

Kamma said that there is a network of dance video festivals which should be contacted.

Dries will look into the possibility to buy Google words.

The GA discussed whether there should be some kind of fee that possible non-ENICPA partners would pay. The size of the fee was discussed as well as the number of times the fees should be paid.

Laurent Sebillotte pointed out that if non-ENICPA members could join the DVN for free, it would become problematic, if not even impossible for the CND to be a member. This is due to the fact that their financing bodies are very strict that funding given to CND should not be channelled abroad or to their domestic competitors. He also said that potential new partners are professional organisations who should be able to pay a fee anyway.

Luciano Brogi pointed out that if the fee is not simply of symbolic value, it would also be a guarantee both of the partners involvement as well as the fact that their database will be technically stable. The GA gave the working group for the DVN a permission to start negotiations about partnership also with non-ENICPA organisation on the following terms: the non-ENICPA organisations should pay an entrance fee that is in line with the ENICPA membership fee aka 400 euros, or less, if the potential new partner has financial difficulties. It was also decided that non-ENICPA partners will be listed differently from ENICPA members on the DVN site.

Status of the publication project

Michael Freundt made a brief presentation on the current status of the possible ENICPA publication about contemporary dance in Europe. In short, the project has not developed since the meeting in Berlin in June 2007. Therefore the next phase is that the working group for the project (Bianca de Waal, Michael Freundt, Consolacion Martin and Piia Ahonen) will provide a national article each. These will serve as a try-out round for a future internet publication. The WG will present the projects current status in the ENICPA/IETM meeting in Ljubljana 15-18 May, 2008.

A few new ideas were presented. One possibility is to see if there is some way to collaborate with the IDEE network. Another possibility is dance festivals. Also the several upcoming or already existing European dance plans were mentioned as something to keep in mind in this context.

The new ENICPA website

The GA gave the board permission to continue to build the new ENICPA website, based on the general plan presented in Berlin in June. The deadline for the launch of the new site is the above mentioned meeting in Ljubljana.

The main idea is to take the best parts of the current site and to combine them with different already existing free webtools, like Skype chat etc. The new site will thus have two sections:

- 1) information for the general public, especially about European information centres;
- 2) tools for ENICPA members to keep in touch with each other, among other things.

ENICPA Board:

President: Michael Freundt [International Theatre Institute (ITI), Germany]

Treasurer: Dries Moreels [Vlaams Theater Instituut (VTI), Belgium]

Secretary: Caroline Williams [Irish Theatre Institute, Ireland],

Secretary: Consolacion Martin [Centro Documentación Artes Escénicas Andalucía (CDAEA), Spain],

Luciano Brogi [IALS, Italy], Jan Christiansen [Danish ITI & Theatre Union]

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