

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

Report of ENICPA meeting in Berlin, 26-27 June 2007

By Conso Martin

Enicpa board

Members attending the meetings

Mary Ann DeVlieg (IETM & On The Move), Bianca de Waal (Theater Instituut Nederland, Netherlands), Caroline Williams (The Irish Theatre Institute, Ireland), Dries Moreels (Vlaams Theater Instituut (VTi), Belgium), Jan G. Christiansen (Danish ITI & Theatreunion, Denmark) Stig Jarl (Danish ITI & Theatreunion, Denmark), Laurent Sebillotte Resp. du Mediateque (Centre National de la Danse, France), Agnes Wasserman, Resp. Dept. Metiers (Centre National de la Danse, France), Luciano Brogi (IALS - Istituto Addestramento Lavoratori Spettacolo, Italy), Michael Freundt (German ITI, Germany), Anna Valls (Centre de Documentació i Museu de les Arts Escèniques (Institut del Teatre), Spain, Piia Ahonen (Communications Officer, Finnish Dance Information Centre, Finland), Michaela Mojzisova (The Theatre Institute Bratislava, Slovakia), Osman Alkas and Hakan Elmasoglu (Nicosia Turkish Municipal Theatre), Andrea Keiz & Thilo Wittenbecher (Mime Centrum, Berlin, Germany), Dorota Buchwald (Theatre Institute Warsaw, Poland) Lola Vargas Zúñiga (Director of the Performing Arts Department, Empresa Pública de Gestión de Programas Culturales, Spain), Conso Martin (Centro de Documentación de las Artes Escénicas de Andalucía, Spain).

Guests

Judith Staines (On The Move)

26/6/2007 Academy of Arts, Berlin

Welcome by Michael Freundt.

Introductory round and brief newsround on projects in progress or for the near future by members attending the meeting.

Dries Mooreels presented PokuMOn a project for Performing Arts Multimedia dissemination to tackle the problems of online distribution and archiving of multimedia. Project with a tough technological and legal content. Soon there will be an English version of the projectpaper.

Luciano Brogi (IALS) talked about his current work on a website for Commedia dell Arte and a digitization project of tapes in order to preserve the tradition of this theatre. They are also opening a new space / facilities for viewing of videos.

Laurence Sebillote (Centre National de la Danse) mentioned changes in their direction and redefinition of their objectives at the CDN. Agnes Wasserman, also presented their new brochure in English and Spanish for the department de Metiers, that work mainly advising and answering legal questions to professional working in the sector.

Anna Valls the new director of Centre de Documentació i Museu de les Arts Escèniques (Institut del Teatre de Barcelona), presented her institution and new programme to develop the future Museo Virtual del Teatre.

Bianca de Waal (Theater Instituut Nederland) talked about many changes happening in her institution, also about current projects: conversion to a new database for the collection and productions and a new contact relations management database, the Theatre Encyclopaedia that is to be launched in November 2007, two exhibitions and a new international website.

Piia Ahonen, the Finnish Dance Information Centre, Finland, will be doing Dance in Focus in English and French, also is working on another promotional DVD and in the last two years her centre is taken part in four collaborative projects with Japan and with France.

Jan Christiansen Danish ITI & Theatreunion are interested in organizing their database and collecting and digitalizing collections. Looking to find a way of presenting all together the information from Denmark.

Mary Ann DeVlieg (IETM) commented on the next IETM meeting that is to be held in Gent, Belgium in October and mentioned projects that could be of interest to Enicpa members such as **On the move.net**, the **LabforCulture or Culture 360**.

Caroline Williams presented the Irish Theatre Institute in the BJM session.

Conso Martin introduced “**Plays on the web**” a new project that will be launched in 2008 to publish online the text, in full, of works by contemporary playwrights. All plays will be first editions and will include not only the text, in full, but also an introduction to the play, a profile of the author and information of the performance, if the play has already been staged.

Andrea Keiz (Mime Centre Berlin): Mimecentrum is launching the new database for the video archive soon. This will be worked on probably during the next year, but already now it offers a better possibility to research on the videos we have and in addition to that find some texts by local journalists and writers about a few chosen choreographers as a pilot project.

The other thing is that we are connected very closely to the new high-school education for contemporary dance in Berlin (Hochschul-Zentrum Tanz HZT). In addition to the physical connection we take care for the documentation for the HZT and we are aiming to develop towards being a mediateque for them to.

Michaela Mojzisova (Theater Institute Bratislava) made a description of her institution: collections, online databases, exhibitions, seminars, festivals etc.

General Assembly

Bookkeeping for the year 2006, was presented by Dries including details of membership fees paid and costs.

Dries gave an overview of members that have paid and the members that did not. Total Theatre has not paid and Writersguild (UK) has been in contact to say they will not be paying 2007.

The bookkeeping of the year 2006 was approved by members. There's is a very legal sentence for this, which, according to Dries, should be in the report. Maybe ask him.

Discussion about possible new members.

Jan mentions that ITI Switzerland may be interested in joining and Caroline says that ITI Hungary has shown interest too.

Michael mentions that ENICPA is losing members in the UK and also in the Baltic countries. Inviting guests to meetings as a way of getting new members has proven not to be effective.

In the last ENICPA board meeting in Copenhagen Dries questioned the profile and number of members.

The question, should ENICPA have more members or keep it as it is, leads to different points of view but the outcome of the discussion is that we like the size of ENICPA as it is. This number makes possible the close exchange during the meetings that with a large number of members would not be possible, but at the same time we will not limit the number of members, as we don't want to be an elitist network.

If any institution shows interest in joining, they will be welcome but with the condition of being active in the network, for **ENICPA is a living network, and a non virtual one**, so if they can't commit to this, they should not be members.

Proposals for a new website by Dries Moreels

The current situation is that there are parts of ENICPA's web that are abandoned, problems with members updating the databases for Festivals, Venues etc, also our ranking in Google is not good.

The idea is to make a more practical and attractive web, using new tools and platforms that are free and available on the web.

To built up different websites for different purposes: skipe to talk to other colleagues, Delicious could be used in the link section, using rss files and other web2.0 solutions make it possible to avoid double updating in different databases.

Once the website is running, a rotating editorship could be established. (PowerPoint presentation available on ENICPA site)

27th of June 2007. ITI Germany

Wellcome to the ITI Germany premises by Michael Freundt and Thomas Engel.

Participants: ENICPA members (above)

Guest institutions specializing in Dance from Germany: Tanzfilmnsstitut Bremen; Tanzplan Deutschland; Tanzarchiv Leipzig, Tanzarchive Koln; Theorie gruppe A.K.T...

Brief introduction of the web portal on On The Move by Judith Staines. www.on-the-move.org is a web site designed to give practical information on professional mobility to artists and cultural operators in the performing arts. She was interested in new "connectors" to contribute to their web site, but on the base of real commitment to the project.

Presentation of the DanceVideoNavigator by Luciano Brogi.

The European DanceVideoNavigator is an online tool to discover and locate dance videos in different collections across Europe. It is a cooperative project initiated in 2006 by ENICPA. The partners at this moment are: Vlaams Theater Instituut, IALS, Theatre Institute Prague, Theater Instituut Nederland, Mime Centre Berlin and Centro de Documentacion de las Artes Escénicas de Andalucia. The DanceVideoNavigator website has been tested and it is now online with five partners and almost 8.000 records. The Mime Centre Berlin will be soon added with its records on videos of dance.

The DanceVideoNavigator has been realized using the RSS-solution and IALS is proposing to use the same tool to create a new ENICPA database online to replace the old one.

This project aims at:

- making existing collections easier to find in the Internet
- making dance videos more easy to find across institutional databases
- generating more public interest for these special collections
- and intensifying the cooperation between the custodians

To achieve this, ENICPA members have developed a central database linking to the partners' online catalogues. The central database is harvesting a customized RSS-feed from the partners' webserver. Understood in advance is that the Internet presence should only provide core data, and that full detail is available through the reference to the catalogue of the respective archive.

The DanceVideoNavigator will be launched in October during the IETM meeting in Gent. The project will be presented in all the languages of the partners in the project.

Any members interested in the project can contact Luciano Brogi.

Presentation of current state of the project for the publication **Dance In Europe**

Michael Freundt presented the work done by the task group (Michael Freundt, Bianca de Waal, Kamma Siegumfeldt and Conso Martin).

Michael showed the previous idea for the project: 100 choreographers and how the reactions by the members made the task group consider to change the original idea of a selection of choreographers for a broader approach to the Dance in Europe publication.

Based on the analysis done on existing publications, on national web portals dedicated to dance and the evaluation of answers to the questionnaire sent to members, the new proposal for Dance in Europe is:

The publication should be on line, as something that can be updated and alive, providing quality information to all target groups.

The publication is to have 3 main areas:

Part A

- Articles on the contemporary dance scene per country written by a dance journalist on:
 1. Diversity in the national contemporary dance scene
 2. Approach to European collaboration
 3. Photo's

Part B

- Funding, exchange possibilities, subsidies written by a professional

Part C

- Addresses (festivals, companies, schools, venues, governmental organizations, etc.) provided by the ENICPA members

Discussion and comments on the Dance in Europe publication:

Someone suggested using a similar tool to the video navigator to provide access to quality information on dance in Europe well organized and with a signposting system to all interesting resources existing on Dance. Not to double work, but to provide one entry access to all.

Involving the artists and professionals from the sector is important to be considered when building the website.

Task to be done in near future

Clarify financing of the project before continuing.

Research on what is available on the web in relation to the dance project needs to be done.

Make an example with 3 countries.

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