

Report: Scenography Working Group
LISBON July 2009

The Scenography Working Group met for 4 sessions and 12 papers accompanied by two book presentations. Three planning and business meetings preceded and followed these presentations. The sessions were attended by up to 20 people at a time – a mix of scholars, practitioners, and those who perform both roles. We were particularly happy to be joined by new and younger scholars in the field of scenography. Contrary to the information provided to some IFTR members who expressed an interest in hearing our presentations, our meetings were indeed open sessions. We continue to seek an open scholarly exchange with all members of the IFTR. For example, our sessions were scheduled to provide a maximum opportunity for SWG members to participate in the Theatre Architecture meetings. The changing and dense schedule of the larger conference did not facilitate however the planning of a joint session for this 2009 conference.

During the business meeting we discussed plans to conclude the publishing collaboration with the Theatre Institute in Prague, the University of Lodz (PL) and Brock University (CA). The edited conference proceedings of the 2007 Prague meeting are expected to be published under the title *The New Space of Authenticity* in 2010. We also discussed the potential collaboration with the Society for Theatre Research (UK) for a conference on the theme 'Scenography Stages the Nation' in 2010. We will be continuing our plans for the IFTR Munich in 2010, and our probable collaboration with the Prague Quadrennial in 2011. For the Munich conference Dr. Dominika Larionow will be the convener.

Eleven of the 12 abstracts of the SWG meetings were omitted from the IFTR Lisbon program book. The members require an official testimonial or record of their participation that documents the 11 presentations made at this Lisbon conference. This is particularly necessary to facilitate the time-release and funding that permits our international membership to participate in IFTR conferences. Professor Brian Singleton, President of the IFTR, has stated that the conference organizer and NOT the IFTR is responsible for this error.

At the conclusion of the business meeting nominations were received for the convenership of the working group for the three year term 2009-2012. Professors Valerie Kaneko-Lucas, (Regent College, London UK), Dominika Larionow (University of Lodz, PL), and David Vivian (Brock University, CA) were unanimously re-elected as a slate for a second term. For your information, in order to facilitate the collaborative work of this international convenership we exchange ideas and documents across a wiki. We also look forward to exploiting the new IFTR website platform. We concluded our meeting with discussion about the need to complete current projects and to nurture both new scholarship and leadership in an appropriate transitional manner.

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