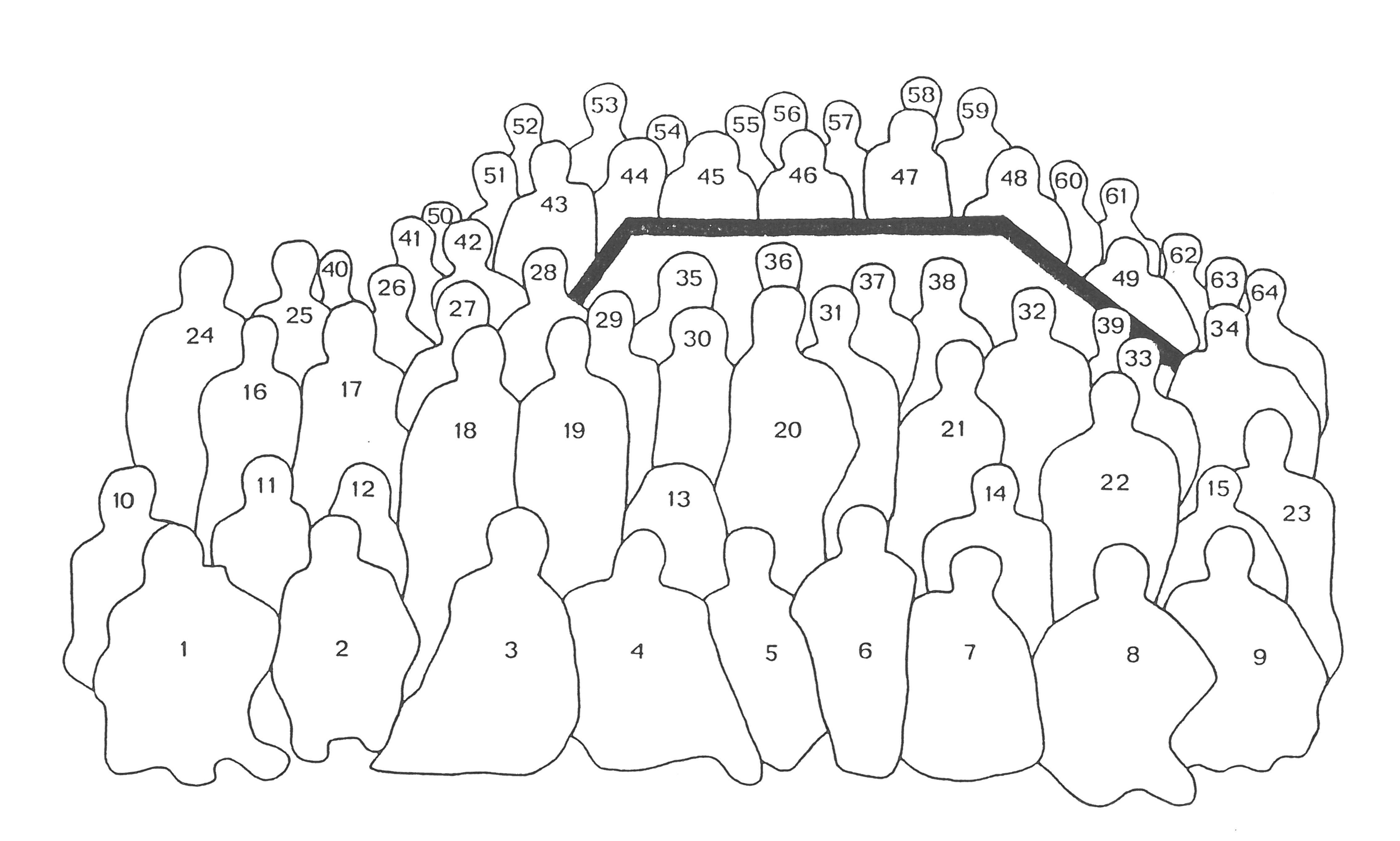


EUROPEAN MIME FEDERATION

conference 13 - 14 - 15 September 1991 Amsterdam, Felix Meritis





THE CONFERENCE

The first major meeting of the European Mime Federation (EMF) took place in Amsterdam on September 13, 1991. Approximately sixty mime players, pedagogues and organisers from fourteen different countries attended the meeting.

The aim of the conference was a first acquaintance and to bring in new members. Because this meeting provided the first possibility to meet one another, priority was given to an initial, general acquaintance, a primary exchange of data and a first, joint brainstorming session about what the EMF could mean for its members.

In fact, this conference turned out to be a catalyst for the development of a network, intended to stimulate the inter-action among European mime artists and pedagogues.

FOUNDATION EMF

In 1989, Ide van Heiningen (the director of the Nederlands Mime Centrum at that time), called a first meeting for mime artists and pedagogues who were concerned about the invisibility of mime in the international theatre circuit. Representatives from the Netherlands, Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and the former German Democratic Republic attended the meeting. It turned out that not a lot was known about what was going on in the field of mime abroad, what the educational facilities were and what their standards consisted of. This lack of transparancy has to do with the fact that few countries have a central organisation that looks after the interests of mime players, collects data and takes care of the distribution of information. In 1989, only the Nederlands Mime Centrum functioned as such.

Together with advisor Ruud Engelander, a draft version of the articles of association was drawn up and was further developed along the lines of a model which was to be valid in law for all of Europe. In order to present the articles at the conference, they needed to be ratified first. For this purpose a founding committee was appointed, consisting of: Ide van Heiningen, Yves Marc of Théâtre du Mouvement (who, together with Claire Heggen represents a very consistent source of communication within the French mime). They were later joined by David Ryan of the Mime Action Group in London and Kootje Krüse (business manager Nederlands Mime Centrum). It was decided that, for the time being, the foundation was to be incorporated within the framework of the Nederlands Mime Centrum. At that point, none of the attendants was backed by an organisation through which the foundation could establish itself. The merging of these two institutions is in itself not merely coincidental. The Nederlands Mime Centrum as well as the EMF aim at improving the quality and at stimulating the professionalism within the art of mime.

EMF: LOOKING AFTER IMMATERIAL INTERESTS

The EMF creates a substantial place for discussion to be joined only by those who are willing to improve the general interest of the art of mime.

In short: what the EMF will never become, is a subsidy fund in disguise; it will never serve as a jury with respect to its own art form; it will not award prizes, offer scholarships, nor organise festivals. What the EMF can do is to offer a contribution to the stimulation and development of festivals and, when scholarships or other financial affairs are concerned, to point out the various possibilities. Furthermore, the EMF can