

## PRESS RELEASE

# 2021 IIM AWARDS FOR TRANSMISSION AND CREATION/EXPERIMENTATION

6<sup>TH</sup> EDITION IN CONJUNCTION WITH 40-YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL DE LA MARIONNETTE – SEPTEMBER 25, 2021



**Violaine Fimbel** received the **2021 IIM Award for Creation/Experimentation** for her on-going experimentation combining puppetry with other artistic mediums.

**Anna Ivanova-Brashinskaya** received the **2021 IIM Award for Transmission** for her contribution to contemporary education in puppetry arts.

For its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Institut International de la Marionnette chose to award an **Honorary Püberg**: the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the IIM Awards, created in 2011 for its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, led to the creation of an honorary Püberg paying tribute to the career of a great puppet master. This first honorary Püberg is awarded this year to **Michael Meschke**.

The IIM Awards are granted by an international jury composed of artists, directors, programmers, university professors, and educators after consultation with French and foreign leading figures in the puppetry world.

The Award for Transmission celebrates a leading figure from the world of puppetry who has worked on training young generations of puppeteers with a view to transmitting his or her techniques and way of working through the elaboration and implementation of an adapted pedagogy.

The Creation/Experimentation Award celebrates a young artist or a relatively recent company that has renewed the languages and practices of puppetry through experimentation and new aesthetic forms.

The trophy was designed by Luc Amoros, great master of shadow theatre. It is a replica of the Püberg character, avatar of Punch and Karagöz, created by the artist over 30 years ago. The 2021 trophies were painted by Marina Simonova, a graduate of ESNAM's 12<sup>th</sup> class.

# VIOLAINE FIMBEL FRANCE

## 2021 IIM AWARD FOR CREATION/EXPERIMENTATION

Violaine Fimbel - photo Justine Maillard - Gimme Shelter - Violaine Fimbel and the Puberg. (photos: all rights reserved).



The Jury, composed of leading international figures in the world of puppetry, has chosen to distinguish **Violaine Fimbel**, artistic director of the Yôkai Company, by granting her the **2021 IIM Award for Creation/Experimentation**.

Violaine Fimbel's approach is one of permanent experimentation in combining puppetry with other artistic mediums and in particular, “new magic” and special effects. She collaborates continuously with other artists and researchers in her creative activity to invent new forms for representing the living, the inexpressible and the invisible, and to renew aspects of dramaturgy and the relationship with the audience.

### BIO

Upon graduating from ESNAM (École Nationale Supérieure des Arts de la Marionnette) in 2014, **Violaine Fimbel** created the company Yôkai, whose first show, **VOLATILE(S)** toured to Finland, Germany, Brazil, Japan, and Avignon.

To deepen the instinctive practice of magic present in her first show, Violaine Fimbel then got training in New Magic offered at the CNAC by Raphaël Navarro and Valentine Losseau, of the Company 14:20. Following this experience, she created the show *POSSESSION* and the animated exhibition *KILLING ALICE* (2017-2019) in which she pursued her research - making the impossible possible, cultivating disturbance in the audience member's perception, giving life/body to the supernatural.

In 2019, she continued her work on immersion and the senses of the audience with the post-apocalyptic fable *GIMME SHELTER* presented at the Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes in Charleville-Mézières and on tour in France and Europe.

In 2021, she is launching the *Invisible Awakening* project, which aims to study how to bring back to the stage special effects developed by filmmakers over several decades in the field of invisible animation and the creation of autonomous creatures.

# DR. ANNA IVANOVA-BRASHINSKAYA RUSSIA

## 2021 IIM AWARD FOR TRANSMISSION

Anna Ivanova (photos: all rights reserved) – Philippe Rodriguez-Jorda in charge of receiving the Püberg for Anna Ivanova, (photo: all rights reserved)



After deliberation, the Jury chose to award the 2021 IIM Award for Transmission to **Anna Ivanova-Brashinskaya** and to honour her for her contribution to contemporary education in puppetry.

Her pedagogical career in St. Petersburg as a teacher, then as director of the Turku School in Finland, as well as her multiple interventions in numerous professional training courses and schools throughout the world represent an example of puppetry teaching that is open to culture, contemporary and demanding in artistic creation. Her work as a researcher and director at a high international level, magnificently complements her skills in the field of transmission.

### BIO

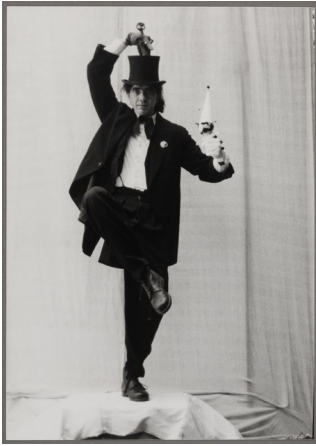
**Anna Ivanova-Brashinskaya** is a director, teacher, and researcher. She has been working in the world of puppet theatre and teaching theatre for over 30 years.

She was professor and head of the puppetry department at the Academy of Theatre Arts in St. Petersburg (1995-2001). She taught at the Turku Academy of Arts, Finland (2001-2015) and continues to write about puppetry, conduct workshops on visual storytelling and direct visual theatre and puppet shows in many countries (Finland, Italy, Spain, Lithuania, Croatia, Estonia, Poland, France, Great Britain, and Russia). She is the artistic director for the Summer Laboratory of Figurative Theatre in St. Petersburg. Anna Ivanova-Brashinskaya is an honorary member of UNIMA Finland (since 2014), and winner of the Russian National Theatre "Golden Mask" Award as "Best Puppet Theatre Director" (2020).

# MICHAEL MESCHKE GERMANY/SWEDEN/FRANCE

HONORARY PÜBERG

Michael Meschke, (photo: all rights reserved) - Workshop with ESNAM  
6<sup>th</sup> class students (photo: Christophe Loiselet) - Michael Meschke,  
(photo: all rights reserved).



The Jury unanimously chose to distinguish **Michael Meschke** for his entire career and for his work in education by awarding him a **PÜBERG D'HONNEUR**.

His career as a teacher is remarkable in many ways. He has trained generations of puppeteers who in turn have committed themselves to the transmission of their puppetry know-how.

The Jury underlines the exceptional international dimension of Michael Meschke and his extraordinary commitment to UNIMA.

## BIO

**Michael Meschke** is a puppet designer, director and teacher who has trained generations of artists.

He founded the Marionetteatern in Stockholm (Sweden) in 1958, directed it for 40 years, and created the International Puppet Museum in 1973 which he directed for 48 years. He contributed to the creation of several schools in Sweden, Norway, and Finland. At the Marionetteatern he welcomed and trained artists from all over the world such as Toru Nishikawa, Dadi Pudumjee, Chrissoula Alexiou, Clio Kiolpali, Arunee Vasanserekul, Hannu Räisä, Jorge Onofri, Anurupa Roy, Namboon Chaisingharn and others...

In 1981, along with Margareta Niculescu, Jan Dvorak, and Henryk Jurkowski, he co-directed the first international summer course of the Institut International de la Marionnette, which lasted three months and was entitled: *From the first idea to the first performance; the string puppet*. Michael Meschke was vice-president of UNIMA for 30 years and encouraged the creation of national UNIMA centres in different countries (Sweden, India, Thailand, Mexico, Iceland, etc).

## NOMINEES FOR THE 2021 IIM AWARD FOR CREATION/EXPERIMENTATION



Yngvild Aspeli, photo : Kristin Aalloy Orsdan

### YNGVILD ASPELI (Norway)

Yngvild Aspeli trained at the Jacques Lecoq International School of Theatre in Paris (2003-2005), then at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts de la Marionnette (ESNAM) in Charleville-Mézières (2005-2008).

Although human-sized puppets are at the heart of her work, Yngvild Aspeli explores an extended language that uses the double presence of the actor-puppeteer, music, light and video to share our singular stories and plunge into the troubling depths of the human soul.

Her shows are created in France and Norway and tour internationally.

With her company Plexus Polaire, she has created: *Signaux*, *Opéra Opaque*, *Cendres*, *Chambre Noire* and *Moby Dick*. She is currently working on an adaptation of *Dracula* with the Puppentheater Halle.



Johanny Bert  
photo : Christophe Raymond Delage

### JOHANNY BERT (France)

A hybrid artist (director, visual artist, puppeteer), his creations are born of an encounter with a script, a performer and, above all, the desire to tackle a subject, an issue. All the projects are linked by an intimate necessity, and it is as a team that he builds a new arrangement for each creation.

Committed to contemporary writing, his creations are often the result of commissions or texts by authors such as Aude Denis, Prunella Rivière, Marion Aubert for *Les Orphelines - CDN de Vire* (2010), Stéphane Jaubertie for *De Passage* (2014) in co-production with the Tréteaux de France, Magali Mougel, *Elle pas princesse / Lui pas héros* (2016) then *Frissons* in 2020 in co-production with Théâtre Sartrouville CDN, *Waste* by Guillaume Poix at Théâtre Poche in Geneva (2016), Catherine Verlaguet, Gwendoline Soublin, Arnaud Cathrine, Thomas Gornet for the creation of *Une épopée* (2020).

His latest creations: *HEN-* non-gendered cabaret, *Là où tes yeux se posent* commissioned by the Festival d'Avignon and the SACD as part of the Vive le Sujet programme with musician Thomas Quinart (July 2021).

He is preparing a new puppet creation about new sexual and amorous identities: *La (nouvelle) Ronde*, a rewriting of Arthur Schnitzler's play (1897) by Yann Verburgh.

VIOLAINE FIMBEL, prize-winner, is featured on page 2.





## Yael RASOOLY (Israel)

Yael Rasooly is a visual theatre director, actress, singer, and puppeteer.

Born in Jerusalem in 1983, she first trained in classical piano and singing before studying theatre in London at Central Saint Martin. Her unique theatrical language, which she began to develop during her time at the School of Visual Theatre in Jerusalem, is based on a multi-disciplinary approach, where all the elements of the staging have equal importance in the narrative.

The relationship between the objects/materials and the performer are at the heart of her work, as well as the choices of scenography, sound, and music. Her visual universe makes what is usually silent heard, inviting the audience to travel into what is unspoken in our society.

Examples of her creations include *Paper Cut*, a solo performance that received numerous awards; *The House by the Lake*, a musical cabaret for actresses, dolls, and objects, describing the story of three sisters in hiding during the Second World War; *Bon Voyage*, a co-production with the Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes of Charleville-Mézières. Her latest creation, *Un silence parfait*, was presented for the first time at the 2021 Charleville Festival - it is the second part of a trilogy on violence against women and children.

Her creations have been performed in hundreds of festivals and theatres in more than 30 countries, have received numerous international awards (Grand Prix at the International Festival of Solo puppeteers (Lodz), the Excellence award for solo performance at the NYC Fringe Festival and the Diploma of Excellence from U.N.I.M.A) and have been received by an enthusiastic press (Télérama, The Guardian and the NY TIMES).

## THE JURY FOR THE CREATION/EXPERIMENTATION AWARD

### Philippe Sidre

President of the Jury, Director of the Institut International de la Marionnette

**Pierre-Yves Charlois**, director of the Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes / Petits Comédiens de Chiffons (France)

**Annette Dabs**, opera and theatre director, director of the German Forum for Puppetry Arts and the FIDENA festival since 1997, vice-president of UNIMA (Germany)

**Mathieu Dochtermann**, journalist and theatre critic specialising in puppetry, former member of the Board of THEMMA, instructor at the Théâtre aux Mains Nues school (France)

**Irina Niculescu**, director and teacher (USA)

**Jean-Paul Perez**, president of the MARTO! Festival (France)

## NOMINEES FOR THE 2021 IIM AWARD FOR TRANSMISSION

**ANNA IVANOVA-BRASHINSKAYA**, prize-winner, is presented on page 3.

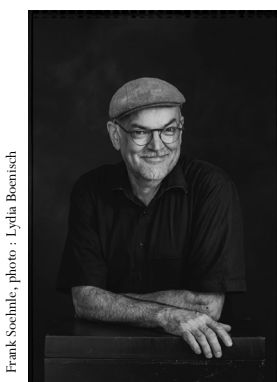


**AGNÈS LIMBOS** (Belgium)

Over the past 37 years, Agnès Limbos has created 19 shows – long and short – performed in more than 25 countries, developing step by step her singular research in the realm of object theatre and the object-manipulating actor. She organises masterclasses - object theatre festivals - accompanies young creators in their artistic projects - international laboratories...

Between travels, trainings, and creations, she has extended her vision, her technique and has created her own way of doing things. There is no repurposing, the objects are the founding elements of the play, imposing their presence as a pillar of the performance as much as the actor's ability to manipulate them.

**MICHAEL MESCHKE**, awarded a *Püberg d'honneur*, is presented on page 4.



**FRANK SOEHNLE** (Germany)

From 1987 to 1990 Frank Soehnle was the artistic director of the Karlsruhe Puppet Theatre.

In 1991, along with Karin Ersching, he founded the Figuren Theater Tübingen, and placed a special focus on string puppetry.

He is guest instructor at the University of Music and Drama in Stuttgart, the College of Puppet Theatre in Bochum, the School of Visual Theatre in Jerusalem, the Hochschule für Schauspielkunst Ernst Busch in Berlin, the François Rabelais University in Tours and ESNAM in Charleville-Mézières. Frank Soehnle has received

numerous awards and toured in Europe, Israel, India, Mexico, Canada, Asia, Russia, and the USA.



**MAREK WASZKIEL** (Poland)

Since 1978 Marek Waszkiel has been professor of puppetry art history at the Warsaw Theatre Academy, as well as a historian, critic, lecturer, and editor.

He was vice-chancellor of the Warsaw Theatre Academy, head of the Puppet Theatre Department at the Bialystok School (1999-2005), director of the Bialystok Puppet Theatre (2005-2012) and of the Animation Theatre in Poznań (2014-2017), as well as artistic consultant for the Amber Theatre (2016-2020) in Shenzhen, China. He collaborates with many puppet theatres, puppet schools and festivals in several countries as a lecturer, event organiser and consultant in puppetry arts.

He was simultaneously President of UNIMA Poland, member of the UNIMA Executive Committee, President of the UNIMA Communication and Publication Commission and of the UNIMA Training Commission.

**THE JURY FOR THE TRANSMISSION AWARD**

**Philippe Sidre**

President of the jury, director of the Institut International de la Marionnette

**Lucile Bodson**, director of the Institut International de la Marionnette from 2003 to 2014, president of the Mouffetard, theatre for puppetry arts (France)

**Claire Heggen**, artistic director of the Compagnie Claire Heggen - Théâtre du Mouvement, author (SACD member), actress, director, and educator (France)

**Jean-Pierre Lescot**, President of the Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes / Petits Comédiens de Chiffons (France)

**Fabrizio Montecchi**, director of Teatro Gioco Vita and educator (Italy)

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