Minutes of the meeting of the International Ibsen Committee
27 August 2004 (09.00 at the Observatory)

Present:

Professor Errol Durbach, professor Laura Caretti, professor Helge Rønning, professor Mark Sandberg, professor Astrid Sæther, professor Joan Templeton, professor Sanda Tomescu

According to the by-laws of the International Ibsen committee the IIC is empowered to decide on the conference structure and to make recommendations to the local organising committee (LOC) on the following points:

1. The date of the 11th International Ibsen Conference in Oslo 2006

The committee recommends that the 11th Conference take place from Monday 21st August to Saturday 26th 2006, with participants arriving on the 20th and departing on the 27th.

The committee also recommends that the focus of the 11th conference should be the Ibsen theatre festival and that the every effort should be made for the conference and the festival to coincide during the conference period. (The local organizing committee is requested to liaise with the National Theatre to effect this arrangement.)

2. Venue

The committee strongly recommends that the conference should take place in “downtown” Oslo in preference to Blindern. The proximity to the theatre was considered to be of primary importance. The majority was in favour of holding the meetings at the old University, Karl Johans gate, with the possibility of the conference rooms at the Grand Hotel as a back-up. The local committee will ultimately be responsible for securing a suitable venue in the city.

Accommodations for the participants should be secured by the local committee, and the following hotels were suggested: e.g. the Grand Hotel, Hotel Europa. A rate of US $ 100 was suggested as the desirable upper limit.

The Aula was suggested as an appropriate venue for the opening ceremony.
3. **Conference structure**

After some discussion about the options of a completely open conference, or a conference defined by certain themes, it was eventually decided by consensus to specify a broad and general title, to be followed by an invitation to all participants to write papers on topics of their choice. The title for the conference will be: *The living Ibsen* and the general invitation will be based on the wording for the 10th International Conference in Brooklyn. (Joan Templeton will send her rubric to the local organizing committee.)

4. **Keynote speakers**

The starred names in the list below are highly recommended by the IIC. The local organizing committee is invited to consider our suggestion at their discretion.

Peter Hall*, Jonathan Miller

Liv Ullmann*, Margarete Garpe

Richard Sennett*, Antoni Tabucchi

Hans Magnus Enzensberger*, Terry Eagleton*

Jon Elster*, Lars Saabye Christensen

Kole Omotoso*

A panel of actresses consisting of “Noras” to discuss *A Doll’s House*

5. **Call for papers**

The IIC recommends to the LOC that a call for papers should be sent out not later than 18 months in advance of the conference. (Joan Templeton offered to send all names in her data base from the Brooklyn conference)

6. **Finances**

The LOC is advised to seek economic support for this conference. The money left over from the Brooklyn conference and earmarked by *Fritt Ord* for subsidies will be transferred from the Long Island University account to the LOC account. (Attention Joan Templeton.)

7. **Other business**

There was some discussion about the publication of all the papers delivered at the 10th International Ibsen Conference as a volume of proceedings – unedited – but collected as a record of the Brooklyn meeting. The Ibsen Centre will consider the possibility of publication as part of the *Acta* series and will seek the finances for achieving this. All the papers are available on the *Ibsen Society of America* (ISA) web-site and can easily be retrieved.
The International committee finally met with the representatives of the local organizing committee and passed on the information contained in these minutes.

The general sense of the meeting with the LOC was that these suggestions were helpful and that *The Living Ibsen* was a very acceptable title for the 11th International Ibsen Conference.

Oslo, 30 August 2004

Errol Durbach                      Astrid Sæther
President IIC                      Secretary