

## FIA's Logo

by Catherine Alméras, SFA, France

In 1952, when FIA was created by the French SNA (Syndicat National des Acteurs) and by British Equity in the UK, the question of a “logo” arose.

The SNA had a special section called the “Bureau V” (V stands for “Vedette” - the French word for a star of stage or screen). This section was composed of well-known actors, who held a 2<sup>nd</sup> membership card, on which you could read the words “It is necessary that trade unionism should not be solely the business of the less privileged. THE GREATEST too must turn their attention to the same problems. – General Assembly, 1947”

This special section existed until 1957-58, which was the date of the re-founding and modernisation of the union under the leadership of Gérard Philipe. The SNA then became the SFA (Syndicat Français des Acteurs).

Jean Marais was an actor, well-known since 1938 thanks to Jean Cocteau’s “Parents Terribles” and its later release as a film, and he was a member of the “Bureau V”. He had got to know Jean Cocteau at an audition for “Oedipus the King” in 1937. Cocteau fell in love with Jean Marais and they began a liaison which continued until the start of the 1950s, then gradually transformed into a friendship and a more filial relationship, which lasted until the death of Cocteau in 1963.

It would seem therefore that it was via the “Bureau V” that the request was extended to Jean Cocteau to create the FIA “logo”, the double face of tragedy and comedy.

FIA’s first President Fernand Gravey was also a member of the “Bureau V.”

### Jean Cocteau (1889-1963)

A Poet (he identified most with this term) – Graphic Designer – Artist – Playwright – Writer – Cinema Director

He collaborated in the 1910s and 20s with Russian Ballet productions in France and with all that the artistic world encompassed at that time: writers, musicians, painters etc.

He was also involved in most of the literary movements, like surrealism and Dadaism, starting from before the war of 1914, though always maintaining his individuality and independence.

### Jean Marais (1913-1998)

Theatre and cinema actor – director – writer – painter – sculptor – potter – and a stunt-man in his films, who never used a body double!

At the Gala of the Artists’ Union he performed an acrobatic number that remains famous today.

He performed in many of Jean Cocteau’s films and theatrical works.