Prints and texts on folk puppet theatre

Puppetry museum education: a series of prints and texts on folk puppet theatre and techniques

On our www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl website, we have posted Poppenspe(e)l-technieken en -figuren: een handvol (volks)poppentheaterfiguren, -attributen en -technieken nader verklaard (Puppetry techniques and figures: a handful of characters, objects and techniques from folk and mainstream puppet theatre explained in detail) which highlights general subjects relating to puppet theatre. Word puzzles, small finger puppets, masks, and a colouring picture invite you to the Try it yourself? activity.

The series was inspired by pictures, books, photographs, graphics, prints, film fragments, small theatres, and puppet theatre figures from the Puppetry Museum’s international collection.


Project concept and texts: Otto van der Mieden.

In our museum shop (museumwinkel) you can obtain a loose-leaf folder of this publication, containing 57 A-4 pages, printed on one side, on 100-gram Biotop paper. Price: € 47.50 (excluding handling charges, postage and packing).

On receipt of your order we will send you an invoice. The goods ordered will be dispatched upon receipt of the amount payable.

Tableau de la troupe

A random pick from the themes covered: hand puppet theatre, Bunraku – traditional Japanese puppet theatre, ‘marionnettes à la planchette’ or paddle puppets, the peep show, paper theatre, the Sicilian rod marionette, marionette theatre, wayang kulit – leather shadow puppets, hand shadow play, ‘ombres chinoises’ and Turkish shadow puppet theatre.

Of course, several national and international puppet theatre heroes are also shown, including: Polichinelle, Pulcinella, Gašparko, Semar, Vitéz László, Kasperl, Mr Punch, Jan Klaassen, Guignol with his friend Gnafron, Karagöz and Hacivat, and many others.

Websites and museum shop

Would you like to learn more about folk and mainstream puppet theatre and related arts? Then visit the Puppetry Museum or consult one of our websites.

Make an international journey through the wondrous world of puppet theatre on our Dutch-language website www.poppenspelmuseum.nl/onderwijs.

On our multilingual websites www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2 and www.poppenspelmuseum.nl you will find information about the museum, exhibitions, library, and collection.

The Dutch-language poppentheater-abc (ABC of Puppetry) gives explanations for a wide range of puppetry and theatre techniques, concepts, terms and characteristic figures.

In the museum shop you will find a wide range of postcards, books, documentation, teacher’s lesson packs, puppetry games, and puppets.

Tips, additions and suggestions

Any tips, additions and suggestions are more than welcome. Please send your reactions, stating your name and contact details, via Contact or to otto@poppenspelmuseum.nl.

We will get in touch with you as soon as possible. Have fun. Applause!
Subjects, pictures and texts

Puppetry techniques and figures: a series of prints and texts on folk puppet theatre and techniques

- Front cover – Puppetry techniques and figures.
0. Index – Educational series of prints and texts.
1. Quotation – Silence is the most powerful language * (‘Een pop is geluidloos’) – Feike Boschma (Dutch puppeteer).
4. Pulcinella (Naples, Italy) – Chicken, egg and baby.
5. Polichinelle (France) – Cat, stick and gallows.
6. Vitéz László (Hungary) – Objects.
7. Guignol and Gnafron (Lyon, France) – Left hand and scenery.
8. Gašparko, a marionette (Slovakia) – Variety act with the little gray horse, Miško.
9. Sicilian rod marionette – Mad Orlando, Angelica and ‘cartellone’.
10. Super stars – Descendants – Try it yourself? activity – Draw or paint the Klaassen family and others, write a poem or a story and receive a poster. **
11. Turkish shadow puppets – Karagöz and Hacivat.
12. Wayang kulit (Java, Indonesia) – Skin shadow puppets – Semar, Krishna and Gatotkaca.
15. ‘Ombres chinoises’ – Fairy tales and illumination prints.
16. Bunraku (Japan) – Ningeōtsukai (puppeteer), Tayū (chanter) and Shamisen (music players).
17. Hand gymnastics – Live or human shadow play.
18. Paper theatre – Curtain and Kasperl (Germany).
19. Theatre and ritual masks – Half-mask – Try it yourself? activity – Create a mask, take a photograph, and receive a little present. **
20. Peepshow man – Show Box.
21. Tin and Vegetable puppets – Romance between a rod puppet and an actress.
22. Collection – Puppetry museum pamphlets, newsletters and shop – Try it yourself? activity – Colouring picture and illustration on the website. **
24. Logo – Emblem with tragicomic characters from folk puppet theatre.
25. Acknowledgements – Puppetry Museum Information Centre and Doepak (educational publication).

* ‘A puppet is soundless, silence is its most powerful language. But, because – from a pantomime viewpoint – it is not powerful enough, we tend to resort to texts.’ Quote: Feike Boschma (Dutch puppeteer).
** Two pictures. Website-version numbers 0 to 25: zoom in by clicking on the picture in the document.
PDF: You will need Adobe Reader to make optimum use of this information.

Appendix: Pamphlet/Pamphlet no.118e. See also: Pamphlet no. 25d, no. 27d and Doepak no. 171e.

Poppenspel(e)lmuseum ©
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