



Welcome

We are proud to welcome you to the Puppetry Museum in *Vorchten*, an exciting and unusual museum about puppet theatre. *Vorchten* is a small town near the centre of *The Netherlands*.

Mr Punch, Judy and all their friends will be staying with us again this year in between their other engagements. The illustrious *Punch* family and others of their circle look upon the museum as their Dutch country estate. *Judy* sometimes calls it 'Punch's annex'. And *Punch*, in a stage whisper, calls it 'Judy's hovel'. But nonetheless they are as proud as punch (forgive the pun) of the 'leisure palace' close to the banks of the river *IJssel* between *Deventer* and *Zwolle*. *Wijhe* is on the opposite side of the river if you need to look it up on a map. We can rightfully speak of a miraculous *fata morgana* museum, surrounded with mist, cornfields, windmills and molehills.

In colourful, characteristic rooms and display cabinets we have a display of unusual (photographic) work by contemporary artists. There are surprising, cheerful rooms and a fascinating cellar full of mini-displays about various aspects of puppet theatre. Embark on a voyage of discovery, a return to childhood innocence; come and enjoy yourself.

Exhibitions

Fascinating exhibitions for young and old

* *A look behind the scenes of puppet theatre.* A beautifully designed, interactive and educational presentation with international puppet theatre figures, accompanied by Dutch and English documents, and a website for the blind and partially sighted.

* *Pulcinella and panakwan.* An educational puppet theatre heritage project in a museum setting for the visually impaired and sighted people. An inspiring European and Indonesian kaleidoscope full of sensory experiences. An exciting bilingual touch-and-feel meeting with characteristic international puppet theatre figures, wayang puppets, Javanese gamelan, music and multimedia.

* *A lot of theatre at very little cost.*

Shadow theatre as it was being played around the turn of last century, with 'ombres chinoises animées' and hand-shadows.

* *A hall full of fiery characters and a gallery with a reprobate.*

The vandals of the rod puppet theatre.

* *Playful photography.*

Three-dimensional and set-piece photos which have had colours added, about *Marjo van den Boomen*, *Teun Hocks* and *Henk Tas*.

* *In focus: two Royal portraits.*

Photographs taken by *Erwin Olaf*.

* *Save your pennies, or you won't have a penny to your name.*

A mini exhibition of savings pots and money boxes, and going round with the hat.

* *Pantin and Buffoon, Jumping Jacks on every step.*

Stairs and a landing full of Jumping Jacks from all over the world.

* *Smutty and sleazy, in the puppet theatre and behind it.*

Visit a loo totally lacking in decorum but full of prints of impropriety (some erotically flavoured).

* *Heavens above, good Lord, I'm dead!*

An exhibition about folk puppet theatre and Death. With an artists book, a paper theatre, penny prints, puppets, literature, music and a moving-picture book.

* *Holodesk.*

A modern mini peep-show of an imaginary - virtual - world.

The book collection

The *book collection* contains more than nine thousand editions, in many different languages and covering a wide variety of subjects connected with puppets, puppetry, shadow and object theatre.

Museum shop

The *museum shop* stocks a selection of postcards, mini puppet theatres, books and many other things connected with puppetry and puppet theatre.



Aunty Judy

Take a break and enjoy a cup of coffee and a snack from *Aunty Judy (Trijntje Peterselie's kitchen)*.

Try it out for yourself

Under the motto *Try it out for yourself* we offer our visitors the chance to become acquainted with the various puppetry techniques and the history of (folk) puppet theatre, with the aid of games and playthings.

Opening days and times

The museum is open on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 5 p.m. **Advance booking is required.** Opening days and times can be extended on request.

Websites

Would you like to learn more about puppetry and expressive theatre?

The bilingual <https://dutchpuppetrymuseumcollection.com/> website provide information about the museum, puppetry and the museum library. The Dutch-language and abundantly-illustrated *ABC of Puppetry* <https://dutchpuppetrymuseumcollection.com/Poppenabc> gives explanations for expressions, words, puppetry techniques, characteristic theatre and puppet theatre figures, and persons.

The website <https://dutchpuppetrymuseumcollection.com/ArtefactList> provides a wealth of information about the varied puppet theatre collection. On www.poppenspelmuseum.nl/ *onderwijs* a playful journey can be made through the wondrous world of puppet theatre.

Illustration: Mr Punch, Judy, the baby and Toby the dog. England (190-?). POPMUS OvdM 2021.