

Abstracts

“Intangible Cultural Heritage and American Puppetry” by Kathy Foley

Kathy Foley, professor of theater arts, former editor of the *Asian Theater Journal* and *dalang* in several forms of Indonesian *wayang*, introduces the UNESCO programs that support cultural preservation, from World Heritage Sites to Intangible Cultural Heritage (to foster support for traditional performance genres. She wonders how this program might be adapted to American puppetry traditions.

Keywords: UNESCO, World Heritage Site, Intangible Cultural Heritage, Phillip Huber, Tanglewood Marionettes, David Syrotiak, parade puppets, Bread & Puppet, Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade, Muppet-style, cantastoria, Yup’ik figures, Shalako dance figures, Hopi kachina.

“UNIMA Heritage Commission” by Nancy Lohman Staub

Nancy Lohman Staub, founder of the Puppetry Collection at the Center for Puppetry Arts, describes the work of the Heritage Commission of UNIMA, the international puppetry organization chartered, originally, through UNESCO. The commission both supports applications for the ICH designation and pursues other projects such as the awarding of UNIMA Diplomas of Recognition to encourage support and preservation.

Keywords: Intangible Cultural Heritage, UNIMA, Yaya Coulibaly, Danaye Kalanfei, Were-Were Liking, Frank Proschan

“Puppetry’s Tangible Intangibility: The Complexity of Safeguarding an Intangible Performance Form with Tangible Performing Objects” by Annie Katsura Rollins

Annie Katsura Rollins, PhD Concordia (Montreal), studying with the Huaxian Shadow Puppet troupe in the countryside east of Xi’an city in Shaanxi province, China. Getting the ICH designation has been problematic, as the government has pushed the manufacture of shadow puppets (a tangible asset) for the tourist trade at the expense of the performance companies (the INTangible asset), and wonders if the tradition will not disappear as a result.

Keywords: Intangible Cultural Heritage, UNESCO, Huaxian Shadow Puppet troupe, Yutian Culture, vernacular performance practice.

“Korean Traditional Puppetry and Intangible Cultural Heritage” by Kyounghee Kwon

Kyounghye Kwon, associate professor at the University of North Georgia, introduces *kkokdugaksi noreum* (the representative Korean traditional puppetry), its designation as ICH and the effort to videotape performances as part of the process of preserving the genre.

Keywords: Intangible Cultural Heritage, UNESCO, *kkokdugaksi noreum*, namsadang nori, Anseong Namsadang, *Eumma Gaengkkaeng*,

“Meet Joe Parsonage” by Greg Pellone

Greg Pellone (together with his wife, Christine Barrett), one of Americas premier puppet collectors, dives into the under-appreciated world of Punch and Judy carvers. His subject is Joe Parsonage, a magician and ventriloquist who also carved sets of puppets (costumed by his wife, Edith) for The Supreme Magic Company beginning in the 1950s and continuing until his death in 1974.

Keywords: Joe Parsonage, Punch and Judy, Supreme Magic Company, Wal Kent

“Doing Good Work: Visiting the O’Neill Puppetry Conference” by Jessica Max Stein

Jessica Max Stein, teaches English and Media Studies at the City University of New York, and has been working on a biography of Muppets performer Richard Hunt for the past 10 years. At the annual National Puppetry Conference she finds herself in the midst of puppetry artists who share her obsession with the art form.

Keywords: Richard Hunt, O’Neill Theater Center, National Puppetry Conference, Pam Arciero, Jim Rose, Phillip Huber, Ronnie Burkett

“The Meschke Legacy” by Andrew Periale

Andrew Periale, editor of *Puppetry International* magazine, examines the renowned Swedish director’s importance through his work in documenting and preserving puppetry’s Intangible Cultural Heritage, particularly in South- and Southeast Asia, and for aiding puppet theaters through the Michael Meschke Prize for Preservation and Renewal for Puppetry Arts. Periale has also edited Meschke’s reports made during three extended trips to Asia and posted them on the UNIMA-USA website.

Keywords: Michael Meschke, Nang Yai, Sbek Thom, Sovanna Phum, Intangible Cultural Heritage, UNIMA

“Recovering the Intangible Art of Baroque Puppetry: an interview with Jesús Caballero”

by Esther Fernández

Esther Fernández, Assistant Professor at Rice University, introduces *máquina real*, an extinct Spanish puppetry genre brought back to life by puppeteer/director Jesús Caballero. The process of resurrecting this tradition from small details preserved in archival texts has been arduous and inspiring. Caballero's company tours a number of productions in this form, introducing Spaniards to a slice of their own intangible cultural heritage.

Keywords: *máquina real*, Intangible Cultural Heritage, *comedias de santos*, Francisco J. Cornejo, seventeenth century Spanish puppetry, Hagiographic plays

“Kheimh Shab Bazi” by Neda Izadi

Neda Izadi, graduate student in U. Conn's puppetry program, makes a case for the ancient Persian tradition of *kheimh shab bazi*, or “night tent theater,” as a UNESCO pick for Intangible Cultural Heritage. During the Ottoman Empire, performers may have seen Commedia dell'Arte performances and brought back the concept of stock characters to the Middle East. From this evolved such characters as Mobarak, a happy character still making social commentary (though with a voice distorted by a *safir*, or swizzle) today.

Keywords: Persia, hand puppet, marionette, kheimh shab bazi, *safir*, swizzle, Mobarak, Intangible Cultural Heritage, Iran

“Two Personal Accounts of American Puppetry” book reviews by John Bell

University of Connecticut's John Bell reviews *Subplot*, Gary Jones's account of his time at Kungsholm – a unique puppet opera in Chicago – and Paul Vincent Davis's *Exploring the Art of Puppet Theater*, which is not merely an introduction to the art form, but a practical guide to becoming a true performing artist.

Keywords: Gary Jones, Paul Vincent Davis, puppetry, Kungsholm, Puppet Showplace Theater

Marionette Plays from Northern China, book review by Kathy Foley

UCSC's Foley reviews Fan Pen Li Chen's account of historic scripts for marionettes (Heyang-Shaanxi). It has an introduction that touches on religion, ritual, politics, and gender issues but notes this repertoire is now in decline.

Keywords, China, marionette, play script,

Donald Devet 4/17/19 11:00 AM

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Underground Railway Theater: Engine of Delight and Change, book review by Nancy Lohman Staub

Staub reviews this company history by Wes Sanders and Debra Wise, and is moved by the artists' dedication to devised theater and social change, but also amused by Sanders' self-deprecating style. The book covers the first 20 of its 40-year history.

Keywords: Social change, Underground Railway, Boston Symphony, Jerzy Grotowsky, devised theater, puppetry

A New Documentary Series: *Titeres: en el Caribe Hispano: Cuba (1), Dominican Republic (2), and Puerto Rico (3)* documentary review by Kathy Foley.

Foley reviews the new three-part documentary that examines both the past and present of these very different theaters.

Keywords: Puppet, titeres, Cuban puppetry, Dominican puppetry, Puerto Rican puppetry, El Miniteatro Infantil Rural, Teatro SEA, Rubén Darío Salazar

"International Puppet Fringe Festival" review by Karen Smith

Smith shares her impressions of the first iteration of what she hopes will be an annual tradition. Performers included the Canadian *Le Tortue noir*, the French *Les Anges au Plafond* and Costa Rica's *Companiia La Bicicleta*. There were also two puppet cabarets and two film series.

Keywords: Puppet, fringe festival, *titeres*, Chinese Theatre Works, Drama of Works, Paper Heart Puppets, Red Herring Puppets, Heather Henson, Manuel Moran

"Chicago International Puppet Festival" review by Meghanne Barker

University of Chicago's Barker visits the bi-annual festival, which featured over 100 events and collaborations with more than 20 institutions around the city. She draws parallels between puppetry and dance while reviewing work by Yael Rasooly, *Plexus Polaire*, Agnes Limbos, Silencio Blanco, Mariano Pensotti, Jeghetto and others.

Keywords: Puppetry, festival, Chicago, Blair Thomas, Yael Rasooly, Jeghtto, Agnes Limbos, *Plexus Polaire*, Silencio Blanco, Yngvild Aspeli, Jen-luc Beaudault, Pierre Seel

"The 2018 Puppet International Festival" review by Colette Searls

UMBC's Searls takes us with her to the small Dutch city of Meppel for a wonderful

festival that featured world-class productions by Jordi Bertran, Yngvild Aspeli, Neville Tranter, Harriet Stroet, Fred Delfgaauw and others. There were also small shows, including “10 Shows by 10 Makers,” in which each of the artists was given a shipping container in which to perform.

Keywords: Meppel, festival, Jordi Bertran, Yngvild Aspeli, Neville Tranter, Harriet Stroet, Fred Delfgaauw, Henk Boewinkel, Figurenteater Triangel