

Abstracts and Keywords

spring/summer Issue 53

Puppetry in Time of War

Abstract: This issue offers nine thought provoking articles and artist reflections that interrogate: what puppeteers are doing in response to current and historical aggression; how puppetry has functioned as a means for political subversion, an act of resistance, and a tool of propaganda; and diverse visual and dramaturgical ways that war and conflict are represented on stage. Regions included are: Argentina, Belgium, France, India, Indonesian, Jordan, Taiwan and Ukraine. Also in this issue are reviews of the 2023 Chicago International Puppetry Festival, a performance at the same festival and two books *Forgotten Heritage* and *Sam and Friends*.

Keywords: object theater, puppetry, war, conflict

Articles

Puppetry and the War in Ukraine by Blair A. Ruble, edited by Dassia N. Posner

Report on the current activities of four Ukrainian puppet theater companies since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine on February 24, 2022. Companies are: the Lviv Puppet Theater, the Kharkiv Puppet Theater, the Kyiv Academic Puppet Theater and Odesa Regional Puppet Theater. The article includes links to each company.

Keywords: Ukraine, *vertep*, repression, hope, children

War Brought Home to the Kitchen Table by Eleanor Margolies

Excerpt from a forthcoming English translation of *Tu l'as trouvé où, ce spectacle?*, a personal and theater memoir by Agnès Limbos and Veronika Mabardi, that discusses two Gare Central shows for young audiences about war—*Petit Pois* and *Le sourire du fou*.

Keywords: object theater, theater practice, Franco-Prussian war, young audience,

I Have a Name by Robin Ruizendaal

Artist reflection by the artist director of the Taiyuan Puppet Theatre Company about the creation of *I Have a Name*, a puppet production inspired by the 2012 book *In Memoriam*. The performance grapples with the gruesome history and personal feelings about the costs of war and the Holocaust.

Keywords: Holocaust, World War II, concentration camps, Netherlands

Between the Jubilation of Triumph and the Pain of Defeat by Yanna Kor

This article investigates how two puppet plays—*L'Bataille ed Querriu* by Édouard David and *Les Prussiens en France* by André Guérin—contribute to the historiography of France. It looks at the

dramatic structures and characterizations in the plays in relation to historical events and they both oscillate between triumph and criticism of war.

Keywords: Franco-Prussian war, puppet play, Polichinelle

War and the Difficulty of its Representation on Stage by Ana Alvarado

Artist reflection about the creation of El Periférico de Objectos production of *MMB Monteverdi método bélico (Monteverdi Warfare Method)* that drew on Baroque staging techniques and machinery as a reference for the mise en scene.

Keywords: Baroque, El Periférico de Objectos, Monteverdi, Warfare Method

Mahabharata: Oral Puppet Traditions by Anurupa Roy

Artist reflection about generational puppet theater transmission and diverse oral puppet traditions found in India of the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana* and how the artist's exploration of these traditions led to their own explorations of these epics.

Keywords: Mahabharata, Ramayana, Katakatha Puppet Trust, S Chidambara Rao

Christmas is a Holiday of Eternal Hope by Dr. Daria Ivanova-Hololobova

Artist reflection about the resurgence of *vertep* as a performance practice and means of cultural celebration in the shadows of war.

Keywords: *vertep*, Christmas, Ukrainian,

Puppetry Plays: Sons Sacrificed to War by Kathy Foley

Interrogates performances of battlefield deaths, family interconnectivity and epic wars from the perspective of the death of the young warrior in traditional puppet plays from Belgium, China, India, Indonesia, Japan and Southeast Asia.

Keywords: yakshgana gombeyta, wayang kulit, pardeh kani, joruri, budaixi, hun krabok

The Resisting Object by Husam Abed

Abstract: Artist reflection by the creator of *War Maker* that shares excerpts and reflections on the creative process and documenting the life of a refugee on stage.

Keywords: object theater, refugee, puppet film

Chicago International Puppet Festival Roundup by Paulette Richards

Abstract: Round up of performances, exhibitions and symposia offered as part of the 2023 Chicago International Puppet Festival.

Keywords: Plexus Polaire, La Fille du Laitier, Livsmedlet Theater, Khecar, Dan Hurlin, Basil Twist

Invisible Lands review by Claudia Orenstein

Review of Livsmedlet Theater's show *Invisible Lands* at the 2023 Chicago International Puppet Festival. The performance uses small figurines and everyday objects that move across landscapes made from the bodies of the live actors and evocative soundscape to bring spectators into an empathetic relationship with the performance and real migrants the show reflects.

Keywords: refugees, migrant crisis, object theater

Forgotten Heritage review by Bradford Clark

A review of *Forgotten Heritage: Uncovering Singapore's Traditional Chinese Puppets* by Caroline Chia and Jesvin Yeo that looks at the transnational circulation of cultural practice through migration of peoples, languages, traditions and performance forms.

Keywords: Chinese diaspora, Singapore, Henghua, Hokkien, Hainanese

Sam and Friends review by John Bell

A review of Craig Shermin's 2022 book *Sam and Friends: The Story of Jim Henson's First Television Show* that locates the work of Jane and Jim Henson within the larger history of popular culture in the United States in the late 1950s as well as within what would become the artists' future global impact.

Keywords: Jane Henson, Jim Henson, television, Muppets