

PI 51 Abstracts and Keywords

Kathy Foley: Revisioning the Past toward Puppetry Futures: *World Encyclopedia of Puppetry Arts*

World Encyclopedia of Puppetry Arts (2012) in early efforts focused on European puppet history but were followed by expansion envisioned for a 2017 online version by new editor, Karen Smith, that gave additional focus to Asia and Africa. In response to Black Lives Matter Movement, UNIMA-USA began generating entries that better reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of US puppeteers and USA puppet history.

Keywords: *World Encyclopedia of Puppetry Arts*, Black Lives Matter, Puppeteers of Color

Kellie Comer: Ralph Chessé

Abstract: Ralph Chessé was an African American painter, actor and puppeteer. This article discusses his contributions to the world of puppetry, particularly his work with marionettes, and his long running children's TV program *Brother Buzz*.

Key Words: Marionette, Brother Buzz, Federal Theater Project, Painter

Hazel Rickard: Gary Jones

Abstract: This article celebrates the accomplishments of Gary Jones, who became the first Black member of the Kungsholm Miniature Grand Opera in Chicago in 1967. In 1975, Jones went on to found his own company in Los Angeles, The Blackstreet USA Puppet Theatre which presents "Gary Jones & The YUPPETS" (Young Urban Professional Puppets). Over the years, Jones has created hundreds of puppets, performed and trained puppeteers in his unique style of dance/puppeteering, won a number of prestigious awards, and volunteered his time generously with youth and the elderly.

Key words: Gary Jones, Kungsholm, Blackstreet USA, marionettes

Deniz Khateri, with Kathy Foley: Pura Teresa Belpré

Abstract: Puerto Rican-US puppeteer, storyteller, folklorist, essayist, and author Pura Teresa Belpré (1899-1982, married name: Pura White) was a Black Puerto Rican. Pura Belpré was the first Puerto Rican librarian in the New York Public Library (NYPL)--perhaps in the whole U.S. She authored eight children's books as well as important essays on the role libraries can serve in child development.

Key words: Pura Teresa Belpré, *Perez and Martina*, latinx

Chris Burgess, with Kathy Foley: Bruce Cannon

Abstract: Bruce Cannon (1955-), born in Harlem, NY, is an African American marionette master and, since 1997, Artistic Director of the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre in New York's Central Park (Fig. 1). His special expertise is string puppetry that melds music, dance, and storytelling with multicultural elements to serve family audiences

Key words: Bruce Cannon, Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre, PuppetMobile,

Salma Mohseni Ardehali -- Back to the Myths and Nature: Reproduction of a Rainmaking Ritual with Children

Abstract: This article is about outdoor children theatre class and performance based on the ancient Iranian myths and rainmaking rituals during last summer (2021). The sessions held in open space of a garden. Children got familiar with the story of Apush (drought demon) and Tishter (glorious rain angel), and also they got acquainted with Chuli qazak rain ritual, made their own puppets and stuffs; and then performed the “Rain Angels” outdoor show in front of children and family.

Key words: Rainmaking Rituals, Myths, Children theatre, Chuli qazak rain puppet, outdoor performance

E. Cameron Wilson: Ship of Secrets in Land-locked Czechia

Abstract: An issue on puppetry in “unconventional spaces” would not be complete without a tribute to the Forman Brothers Theatre of Prague. Matěj and Petr Forman are famous for their site-specific works and unusual scenography, where the lines between theater and reality, and between puppets, animals and humans are blurred. But of all the theaters the Forman Brothers have created for their work, the most solid, lasting, and undeniably real is the 72-meter, 300-ton barge *Tajemství* (“The Secret”).

Key Words: Forman Brothers, Barge Theater, *Tajemství*. puppetry

Jane Taylor: The Walk: A Talk Between Puppet-Maker Adrian Kohler and Jane Taylor

Abstract: Taylor ruminates on the 5000 mile journey of Little Amal, a 3-meter-tall puppet representing a refugee child. The artistic team that animated “her” and managed the journey traveled from Syria to the United Kingdom in the summer of 2021, turning public spaces into performance venues along the way. Taylor ruminates here on the “performance of sincerity,” and discusses the backstory of this adventure with one of the creative forces behind it: Adrian Kohler, of South Africa’s Handspring Puppet Company.

Key Words: Little Amal, refugee, Handspring, Adrian Kohler, puppet

Claudia Orenstein: Puppet Blessings in the Tokushima Mountains

Abstract: Nakauchi Masako has, for over twenty years now, taken up the age-old task of the *hakomawashi* performers of Tokushima, going house-to-house blessing homes and their residents during Japan’s New Year season. She is the only person currently doing these annual *hakomawashi* blessings, and travels for two months every year, with her colleague Minami Kimiyo, to around 1000 homes, offering purifying puppetry rites.

Key words: *hakomawashi*, ritual puppetry, Sambaso, Japanese puppetry

Dassia N. Posner: Extraordinary Bodies in Ordinary Spaces: Royal de Luxe in Montreal

Abstract: From 1993–2018, the Giants of Royal de Luxe performed in cities all over the world. Wherever they went, their size, slowness, and astonishing mechanics made them feel like gods from another realm, another time, another scale, another tempo that has temporarily collided with ours. We marvel at the life of the Giants, and at the breathing of new life into our automated perception. Seeing the world differently, on a scale so vast and glorious, opens us to infinite possibilities for how that world might be imaginatively transformed.

Key words: Royal de Luxe, Mega-puppet, Little Girl Giant, puppetry