

PUPPETRY

INTERNATIONAL

THE PUPPET IN CONTEMPORARY THEATRE, FILM AND MEDIA

Abstracts and Keywords

Puppetry International: Puppetry and Celebration
fall/winter Issue 54, 2023

Issue Abstract

Puppetry has long been featured in numerous types of celebrations; for this magazine we are embracing an expansive definition that includes holidays, recurring religious and secular events, private and public rituals, personal and communal happenings, experiencing a puppet as a joyful thing that comes to life, people and theaters that make puppetry happen. The issue includes eight feature articles, a performance review, a festival review and four book reviews. In addition, we are launching a new recurring section "Who's Who" about members of our global community and have links via a QR code to two features now available in Spanish.

Keywords: object theater, puppetry, celebration, community

Article Abstracts

You're Jewish, Right?, by Chad Williams, summaries the experiences of an outsider to the Jewish community performing culturally Jewish shows for that specific audience in New York City. It goes into detail about several Jewish terms and how that culture utilizes puppetry.

Keywords: Jewish, puppetry, shul

Spaghetti Ramadan, by Jenny Romaine, is about a seven-year collaboration between Great Small Works and FiHI Ma FiHI who have come together to host collaborative Iftar feasts (a daily meal during Ramadan) and spiritual kinship celebrations known as Spaghetti Ramadan.

Keywords: Ramadan, Community, intercultural, Muslim

Wayang Esther, by Matthew Isaac Cohen (ORCID: 0000-0002-4926-5136) is a piece of music theatre written by the late Barbara Benary for her ensemble Gamelan Son of Lion which premiered in 2001. In 2022, the UConn Puppet Arts program and Son of Lion collaborated on a new production of this piece for the Jewish community of West Hartford, Connecticut. This was both a continuation of the Jewish tradition of purimspiel, Purim-time enactments of the Book of Esther, and an enrichment of the possibilities of wayang as a platform for intercultural collaboration. The production reworked the libretto by the incorporation of Biblical Hebrew, created a new set of puppets based on an eighteenth-century Italian manuscript, and incorporated live video projection so that audiences could see both the puppetry in action and shadow imagery.

PUPPETRY

INTERNATIONAL

THE PUPPET IN CONTEMPORARY THEATRE, FILM AND MEDIA

Keywords: Wayang, Purim, shadow puppet, intercultural, gamelan

Sara Peattie: Puppetry that Celebrates Community and Diversity, by Andrew Periale, is about Sara Peattie, founder of Boston's Puppet Lending Library, has been creating community-based puppetry events since her early days with Bread and Puppet Theatre. Most recently, she organized the puppetry for the AmeriMasala festival in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Keywords: Sara Peattie, parade, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, puppets

Puppetry As Celebration of Human Connection, by Ana Lorite, reflects on a 30-month global journey exploring puppetry's power to connect humanity beyond language barriers. The narrative underscores how puppetry, a celebration of human connection, transcends boundaries and unites us through a universal language.

Keywords: puppetry, human connection, communication, global exploration, education

Ralph Lee, by Matt Sorensen, is about organizing the exhibition "Myths, Legends, & Spectacle: Puppets and Masks of Ralph Lee" and how it has been a highlight in Sorensen's career. Honoring Ralph's work and his substantial contributions to puppetry, theater, dance, and spectacle, as well as the robust life of the prolific artist himself, has been an extremely rewarding experience that I will treasure for the rest of my life.

Keywords: Exhibition, Puppets, Masks, Tribute

The Guignol Guérin Theatre Celebrates 170 Years, by Yanna Kor (ORCID: 0000-0002-1200-2092), is about The Guignol Guérin, the oldest traditional puppet theatre in France that is celebrating its 170th anniversary this year. To mark the occasion, our article traces the history of the Guérins, who have been performing puppet shows in and around Bordeaux for six generations, alternating between a settled life and a life on the road.

Keywords: Guignol, Polichinelle, Bordeaux, ambulant theatre, glove puppets

Submarine Celebration, by Paulette Richards (ORCID: 0000-0002-2778-4154), looks at the making of Disney's live action film *The Little Mermaid*. While puppets played an integral role in the production, they are not in evidence on screen. Similarly, while Black women playing lead roles as Princess Ariel and the island's queen bring more visual signs of Black Atlantic culture into the foreground, the colonial history of the West Indies remains submerged. Still when Halle Bailey sings "Part of Your World," her digitally rendered mermaid mask gives voice to the ancestors' longing for recognition as full human beings.

Keywords: Disney, Puppets, African American dance

PUPPETRY

INTERNATIONAL

THE PUPPET IN CONTEMPORARY THEATRE, FILM AND MEDIA

Who's Who: Ellen Stewart, by Alex Morgan and translated to Spanish by Ana Diaz Barriga, profiles Ellen Stewart, American director, impresario, playwright, and founder of La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club. Stewart contributed immensely to the world of puppetry. Spanish version available online via a QR code.

Keywords: Ellen Stewart, Theater, La MaMa, downtown theater, New York City

Quién es quién: Ellen Stewart por Alex Morgan, traducido al español por Ana Díaz Barriga. Perfil de Ellen Stewart, directora estadounidense, empresaria, dramaturga y fundadora del Club Experimental de Teatro La MaMa. Stewart hizo grandes contribuciones al mundo de los títeres. La versión en español está disponible a través de un código QR.

Palabras clave: Ellen Stewart, teatro, La MaMa, teatro de Nueva York, Nueva York

Interview with Silencio Blanco's Dominga Gutiérrez, by Ana Diaz Barriga (ORCID: 0000-0003-2950-2189), is online only Spanish content via a QR code found in the print and digital issue. This article features an interview between the author and Dominga Gutiérrez, co-founder, producer, and puppeteer of Chilean puppet company Silencio Blanco. The conversation in the interview focuses on Silencio Blanco's renowned performance *Pescador* and the importance of giving second life to objects. An English translation of this interview was published in spring/summer #52 of *Puppetry International*.

Keywords: Silencio Blanco, *Pescador*, environment

Entrevista con Dominga Gutiérrez de Silencio Blanco por Ana Díaz Barriga (ORCID: 0000-0003-2950-2189). El contenido en español está disponible a través de un código QR que se encuentra en el volumen impreso y digital. Este artículo presenta una entrevista entre la autora y Dominga Gutiérrez, cofundadora, productora y titiritera de la compañía chilena Silencio Blanco. La conversación se enfoca en la renombrada obra de Silencio Blanco *Pescador* y en la importancia de darle una segunda vida a los objetos. Una traducción al inglés de esta entrevista se publicó en *Puppetry International* #52, primavera/verano.

Palabras clave: Silencio Blanco, *Pescador*, medio ambiente

A Tribute to Crossing Borders, Festival Review by Frans Hakkemars (ORCID: 0009-0009-0428-9861), of the 17th version of FIAMS, the International Festival of Puppetry in Saguenay, Quebec, Canada from 25 - 30 July 2023

Keywords: FIAMS, Puppetry Festival, UNIMA, AVIAMA

Saji Erina's TERAYAMA Shokugyō wa Terayama Shūji desu (Being TERAYAMA is my Job), Performance Review by Mari Boyd, of Saji Erina's new puppet and physical theater performance,

PUPPETRY

INTERNATIONAL

THE PUPPET IN CONTEMPORARY THEATRE, FILM AND MEDIA

Being TERAYAMA is my Job, that was part of a large-scale celebration, “Commemorating 40 Years of Terayama Shūji,” held during 2023 in Japan.

Keywords: Japanese puppetry, Terayama, Utervision

Making the Intangible Tangible, Book Review by Felice Amato (ORCID: 0009-0000-4319-830X), of Jo Ann Cavallo in-depth case-study of the Manteo family's New York City puppet theater, this highlights her meticulously researched and comprehensively crafted description of family's unique artistry within the Sicilian Pupi tradition. It emphasizes the role of her scholarship in making intangible aspects of the family's practice legible to the broader public. Also discussed is Cavallo's documentation of the unique complexities of individual puppeteer's interactions with traditional forms and how this has broader applications to the field.

Keywords: Sicilian-American, Opera dei Pupi, Manteo, Puppets

A Treasure Trove of Italian Puppetry, Book Review by Andrew Periale, about the work of Federico Pacchioni, an academic who grew up around puppets. Here, he examines the influence of the puppet on the creative works of such iconic directors as Bertolucci, Rossellini, Pasolini and Wertmüller, as well as Italian writers and playwrights. The book is very readable, insightful and full of fascinating stories.

Keywords: Italian cinema, Lina Wertmüller, Bernardo Bertolucci, Pier Paolo Pasolini, Italian puppetry

The Importance of Star Wars As Material Performance, Book Review by John Bell, of Colette Searls' "A Galaxy of Things: The Power of Puppets and Masks in Star Wars and Beyond," noting the importance of the book as a holistic analysis of puppets, masks, and performing objects in the "Star Wars" universe.

Keywords: Star Wars, Colette Searls, Puppets and film, mask

An Epic Tale of Punch and Joan, Book Review by Alissa Mello, of a four-part epic tale of the imagined life of Eddy Adams, the protagonist, winds its way through 39 years of a particularly fraught period of English and French history beginning in 1789 by long-time Punch and Judy “Professor” Dan Bishop.

Keywords: Punch and Judy, Dan Bishop, historical fiction