

# PUPPETRY

## INTERNATIONAL

THE PUPPET IN CONTEMPORARY THEATRE, FILM AND MEDIA

### Abstracts and Keywords

**Puppetry International: Animating History spring/summer Issue 55, 2024**

#### Issue Abstract

In this issue, we consider some of the ways puppetry animates history and its history is animated around the world.

**Keywords:** puppetry history, Tony Sarg, Mali, Magic Lantern,

#### Articles

##### ***Tony Sarg: Genius at Play***

***Stephanie Haboush Plunkett & Lenore D. Miller***

Tony Sarg: Genius at Play focuses on the development of the first comprehensive exhibition exploring the life, art, and adventures of Tony Sarg (1880-1942), the charismatic illustrator, animator, puppeteer, entrepreneur, and showman whose prolific career sheds light on the creative imagination and one individual's ability to inspire a collective sense of wonder and joy. The exhibition was on view at the Norman Rockwell Museum in the summer of 2023, and will travel to the Nantucket Historical Association for the 2024 summer season.

**Keywords:** Sarg, Illustrator, Marionettes, Macy's Balloons, World's Fair

##### ***Mali's Sogo bò masquerade***

***Mary Jo Arnoldi***

The history of Mali's Sogo bò puppet masquerade within the Segou region in central Mali is based on legends, local histories and published accounts that date from the precolonial era to the present day. It is performed annually by the young men's associations among the Bozo and Somono fishermen and Bamana and Maraka farmers. The professional network of Bamana blacksmiths and the social networks of young men, who dance the masquerades, and women, who are singers for the performances, provide productive frameworks for reconstructing Sogo bò's regional and local histories.

**Keywords:** Mali, puppet masquerade, history, change

##### ***Étienne-Gaspard Robertson***

***Jennifer Linn Wilcox***

*This essay explores Étienne-Gaspard Robertson's life and contributions in 18th-century Paris, focusing on his macabre-themed magic lantern shows and his innovations with the Fantoscope. Robertson's use of black backgrounds, gauze screens, and dynamic image manipulation, reveals his multidisciplinary approach leaving a lasting impression in visual and immersive entertainment.*

**Keywords:** Étienne-Gaspard Robertson, Phantasmagoria, Fantoscope, Magic lantern, Innovation

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***Alaska ARTS COUNCIL RESIDENCIES 1976-1990***

***Bruce K Chessé***

The artist offers a brief synopsis about their educational residencies at elementary schools in remote regions of Alaska.

**Keywords:** puppet education, Alaska, Bruce Chessé

***WHO'S WHO: Lou Harrison (1917-2003)***

***Kathy Foley***

Composer Lou Harrison's interest in puppetry and Roman history combined in his puppet opera "Young Caesar" which combined themes of pacifism and gay liberation. Puppetry and percussion music combinations found in Chinese Shadow Play and Indonesian Wayang served as models for the kind of puppet opera he envisioned and were a part of a West Coast U. S. school of new composition in post WWII California.

**Keywords:** Lou Harrison, puppet opera, new music, "Young Caesar"

### **Reviews**

***Of Humans and Puppets 2023 Charleville festival***

***Felice Amato***

Review of the 2023 World Puppetry Festival in Charleville-Meziere, France with a focus on material and human bodies on stage.

**Keywords:** Alice Laloy, Renaud Herbin, Machinist's Spring, Plexus Polaire, La Femme Invisible, Mue Marionnettes, Duda Paiva Company

***Cultural Threads Okayama fesitval***

***Kay Yasugi***

Kay Yasugi, a puppeteer and educator from Sydney, Australia, recounts her immersive journey into the world of Japanese puppetry at the 34th Kinosuke's Marionette Festa in Okayama, Japan. Yasugi delves into the rich heritage and artistry of traditional Japanese marionettes, experiencing captivating performances, insightful encounters with master puppeteers, and a heartfelt celebration of cultural legacy at the festival.

**Keywords:** Japan, Marionettes, Japanese Puppetry, Okayama, Puppet Festival

***Celebrating Yale's Turnabout Theatre book reviews***

***Bradford Clark***

Review of *Life on a String: The Yale Puppeteers and the Turnabout Theatre* by Christina Rice and *A Turnabout Scrapbook* by Dan Bessie

**Keywords:** Yale Puppeteers, Turnabout Theatre

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### ***A Tribute to Coad Canada Puppets book review***

**John Bell**

Review of Lumen Coad's book that documents the history of Coad Canada Puppets founded with Arlyn Coad in 1966.

**Keywords:** Canada, Coad, puppet designer

### ***Revealing the Persistence of African American Puppetry book review***

**John Bell**

Review of Paulette Richard's book that defines a new field of research about Black puppetry and object performance in the American context.

**Keywords:** Black puppetry, object performance

### **Online Only**

### ***Underground Railway Theater, Engine of Delight and Social Change***

**Carol Sterling**

**[www.unima-usa.org/book-review](http://www.unima-usa.org/book-review)**

Review of Underground Railway company with an emphasis on educational benefits for teachers and youth. Special notations address the links that are included in the electronic version.

**Keywords:** educational benefits, curriculum connections, social justice and African American history

### **Gary Jones**

**Hazel Rickard, translated by Ana Diaz Barriga,  
highlighted in Puppetry International issue # 51 in Spanish**

**[www.unima-usa.org/gary-jones](http://www.unima-usa.org/gary-jones)**

*Este artículo celebra los logros de Gary Jones, que se convirtió en el primer miembro negro de la Kungsholm Miniature Grand Opera en Chicago en 1967. En 1975, Jones fundó su propia compañía en Los Ángeles, The Blackstreet USA Puppet Theatre, que presenta "Gary Jones & The YUPPETS" (Young Urban Professional Puppets). A lo largo de los años, Jones ha creado cientos de títeres, actuado y entrenado a titiriteros en su estilo único de danza/manipulación, ha ganado varios premios de prestigio, y ha otorgado su tiempo generosamente a jóvenes y personas mayores.*

**Palabras clave:** Gary Jones, Kungsholm, Blackstreet USA, marionetas

*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.*

**Keywords:** Gary Jones, Kungsholm, Blackstreet USA, marionettes