

## Nuts and Bolts: The Joints, Controls and Mechanisms that Make Puppets (and Puppeteers) Work

### Abstracts

“Chiryu Karakuri Ningyo Company and an Action-Packed Marvel” by zach dorn

*Karakuri ningyo* is one of the most popular forms of puppetry in Japan. Each year, there are thousands of performances across Japan often aligning with fall and spring harvest festivals, or *matsuri*. Zach Dorn, a Julie Taymor World Theater Fellow, spent time there learning about this most complex and physically demanding art form.

Keywords: *Karakuri ningyo*, *ningyo jorurui*, puppetry, *toi*, *dashi*

“Dissecting the Mechanisms of the Dick Myers Rod Puppets” by Seth Shaffer

What made Myers’s puppet designs different than most? His shows had a mechanized flow. They seemed to be run by a mechanical process as opposed to a human one, almost as if the puppet stage was one giant cuckoo clock mechanism: an automaton. Shaffer deconstructed and then performed the Dick Myers puppets as his MFA project.

Keywords: Dick Myers, rod puppets, mechanism

“Wings: A Photo Essay” by Staff

Three very different examples of wing mechanisms are featured, including those of Bernd Ogrodnik (based at National Theater of Iceland), Coatimundi’s gorgeous unfolding wings from *Chapeau la mer*, and Bread and Puppet Theatre’s *Basic Bye-Bye*.

Keywords: Bernd Ogrodnik, Theatre Coatimundi, *Chapeau la mer*, Bread and Puppet,

“*Marionnettes de zinc du Chat Noir*” by Greg Pellone

Le Chat Noir (the Black Cat) was a nineteenth century entertainment establishment in the bohemian Montmartre district of Paris and a leading proponents of avant-garde shadow puppetry. The puppets were created primarily from zinc, but until now there has been little information about how the puppets were made.

Keywords: Chat Noir Cabaret, Shadow Puppetry, Rodolphe Salis, Caran d’Ache,

“Ready-made Puppet Shows or a New Vision for Outreach”: an interview by Esther Fernández

Jason Yancey, Associate Professor of Spanish at Grand Valley State University and member of Dragoncillo Puppet Troupe, has devised a show that can be packed in two travel bags. Spanish language students with no previous experience in puppetry can rehearse a full show with no memorization required—*in less than two hours*.

Keywords: shadow puppets, rear-projection, foreign language instruction, puppet construction

“It’s Alive! How traditional Sicilian puppets from *opera dei pupi* move and behave” by Małgorzata Skotnicka-Palka

The Sicilian *Opera dei pupi* performances are very dynamic and each scene ends in a battle. During the fight, under the impact of a sword, the doll will suddenly lose its limbs, its head or its face, all of which requires special techniques of both construction and manipulation.

Keywords: Opera dei pupi, Orlando Furioso, Ludivico Ariosto, Sicilian rod puppet, Mimmo Cuticchio

“A Marionette Stage in my Pocket” by Kurt Hunter

Kurt Hunter, a string puppeteer with a background in engineering, sets out to make a marionette stage – complete with curtains and bridge, that he can carry on stage in the pockets of his coat. It turned out to be a very large coat. A how-to guide for creating a solid little stage that you can tour in one trunk.

Keywords: Marionette, portable puppet stage, efficient design, marionette bridge

“Guidelines for the Integration of Puppets in Other Performing Arts” by Blair Thomas.

Today there are frequent opportunities for puppetry to be integrated within other disciplines such as theater, opera, dance, music or film. These guidelines address the processes of this integration into a larger work of a different genre and should help puppeteers articulate the navigation of this collaboration.

Keywords: Puppets, Scope of Work, Concept and Design, Submitting a bid, Ownership of puppets.

*Puppetry and Identity in Southeast Asia*, book review by Kathy Foley

UCSC's Foley reviews Jennifer Goodlander's book *Puppets and Cities: Articulating Identities in Southeast Asia*.

Goodlander's major contribution is documenting selected current urban companies and collaborations. Readers will enjoy learning whom and what to seek in Jakarta, Siem Reap, Bangkok, Luang Prabang, Hanoi, Pagan, etc. She also argues for social media as a new urban space, museum display as a space of cultural critique, and performance as political encapsulation. The book has breadth.

Keywords: Wayang, sbeik thom, Kum Nai Puppet Theatre, Joe Louis Puppet Theatre