

Pulcinella



The Italian Pulcinella has a hunchback and a pot belly. He originates from the Naples area and is the grandfather of the old Dutch Jan Klaassen and the English Mr Punch. Unlike his very colourful descendants, Pulcinella is dressed in white from top to bottom. His wide shirt with pleats around his neck is white and covers the hump on his back, as well as his wide trousers, which he wears during performances on human stage and with marionettes. His hat with

its round top, which usually drops forward, is also white and sometimes has a little bell attached to it.

Black half mask

The half mask that covers the upper half of Pulcinella's face is black and has a large hooked nose that resembles a bird's beak. Pulcinella is actually also a bit bird-like: his name is the diminutive of the Italian word *pulcino*, which means little chick. Using a *pivetta* (a throat whistle), the puppeteer gives Pulcinella a squeaky voice in puppet theatre. On human stage, he walks like a rooster.