

DOEPAK

DuPAK DoePAK POPPENSPE(E)MUSEUMKRUIJELKRANTKRABBEL DoePAK DuPAK
Newsletter and Scribblings No. 116d



Pulcinella's ghost: light in the dark

Try it yourself? Another exciting activity from the *Puppetry Museum*. Innumerable stories have been written about the origins of the Italian *Pulcinella*. The more obscure his origins, the more speculation there will be. One thing is certain, he comes from the Naples area. He is one of the main characters of the *commedia dell'arte*, a form of theatre that was created during the sixteenth century. Many characters from this folk comedy went on to become stalwarts of *puppet theatre*. He quickly had a huge body of international descendants. He is the *ancestor* of many European *clown puppets*. Pulcinella represents humans in all their joy, sadness, courage and fear. He holds a mask up to our face and helps us discover the person behind it. His story is about heaven and hell and the fight between good and evil. Pulcinella fights, struggles, hides, kills and dies, and rises from the dead again. His cheerfulness brightens up the world of puppetry as well as the grown-up world.

Is the name Pulcinella pronounced: a. pol-kee-nella, b. paul-keen-ellaa or c. pool-cheen-el-la? Give us the right answer (a, b or c) and win a small gift. Would you like to learn even more about international *folk and mainstream puppetry figures*? Then refer to the Dutch-language *ABC of Puppetry* on our websites: www.poppenspel.info, www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2 or www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl. Picture: extract from 'Le Anime del Purgatorio' ('The Souls of Purgatory'). Performance: Gianluca Di Matteo © (2007), Turin. Photographs: Giorgio Cossu © (Naples). Text and realisation: Otto van der Mieden ©, *Poppenspe(e)museum NL* (2010). Have fun. Applause!

Doepak presents some unusual theatre forms, far beyond the confines of our own fantasy! Doepak is a cheerful, educational and colourful Dutch-language newsletter packed with background information about folk and mainstream puppet theatre. In this newsletter and scribblings you can also read about all kinds of activities in the Puppetry Museum such as which exhibitions are on show, whether new books were issued, and how the website is developing. The Dutch verbs of 'doen' (do) and 'pakken' (take) are hidden in the name of the Doepak newsletter. This name was composed for good reason, because you are supposed to 'do' and 'take' things yourself. The name 'Doepak' is also the phonetic transcription in Dutch of the Czech word dupák. A dupák is a rod marionette and trick puppet. Where the dupák swings his arms wide as he twirls around, Doepak embraces the international world of puppetry and related arts with its hints and tips, questions and answers, illustrations and DIY activities. In Slovakian and Hungarian puppet theatre the dupák is called Paprika Jancsi.