

DOEPAK

DuPAK DoePAK POPPENSPE(E)LMUSEUMKRUIJELKRANTKRABBEL DoePAK DuPAK
Newsletter and Scribblings No. 160d



Brilliant sparks: super stars in puppet theatre

The basic characters of traditional puppet theatre use a wide range of props, most of which are disproportionately large for the puppets on the tiny puppetry stage. But this adds to the slapstick nature of the performance. The Italian *Pulcinella* originates from the area around Naples and is the ancestor of many European clown puppets. He is one of the characters of the 'commedia dell'arte', a form of theatre that originated during the sixteenth century. Pulcinella wears a white suit, a tall hat and a black half-mask. One of the props that he uses is a flat *broom*, which symbolises the ousting of evil. The small marionette *Gašparko* (Silly Billy) plays the role of a servant in Slovakian folk puppet theatre. He has a single-pointed or two-pointed cap on his head with a little bell on each tip and a collar around his neck. He wears long, white knee socks under his wide baggy knee breeches. He has dark hair, a pointed beard, a moustache and dark eyes. The traditional Dutch *Jan Klaassen* (Mr Punch in England) has a large, hooked, red nose and wears a colourful suit. His little legs are attached to the bottom of his jacket and he wears clogs. He has a pointed cap on his head with a little bell on its tip that leans forwards. The comical character from Hungarian puppet theatre is called *Vitéz László*. The *frying pan* is his favourite hitting tool, which constantly increases in size. He wildly attacks his opponents with it, energetically smashing and hitting all around him. The hard blow of the metal pan on his victims' wooden heads rings out like a gong.

Would you like to learn more about folk and mainstream puppet theatre and related arts? Then visit the Puppetry Museum or consult one of our *websites*. Make an international journey through the wondrous world of puppet theatre on our Dutch-language website www.poppenspelmuseum.nl/onderwijs. On our multilingual websites www.poppenspelmuseum.nl and www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2 you will find information about the museum, exhibitions, library, and collection. The Dutch-language *poppentheater-abc* (ABC of Puppetry) gives explanations for a wide range of puppetry and theatre techniques, concepts, terms and characteristic figures. In the museum shop (*museumwinkel*) you will find a wide range of post cards, books, documentation, teacher's lesson packs, puppetry games, and puppets. Illustration from: *Poppenspe(e)ltechnieken en -figuren* (Puppetry techniques and figures), the Dutch-language educational series of prints and texts that invites you to the *Try it yourself?* activity. This publication is available in PDF format through www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl. Illustration: Elsje Zwart ©. Author/imprint: Otto van der Mieden © (2011).

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.