



## □ **A** rod-marionette and Anton Anderle

During the nineteen eighties and nineties, the Dutch Puppetry Museum (*'Poppenspe(e)l-museum'*) maintained frequent contact with the gifted Slovakian puppeteer *Anton Anderle* (1944 – 2008), a descendant of a famous dynasty of folk puppeteers. Anton still performed in line with the old *marionette* and *rod-marionette* tradition. He frequently visited our museum and we attended his performances. Through Anton we acquired several beautiful rod marionettes and interesting documentation for our international puppetry collection.

### **D**upák

In 1992 we instructed Anton to create a *dupák* (a typically Czech and Slovakian rod-marionette and *trick puppet*) that should resemble *Jan Klaassen* (the Dutch *Mr Punch*). Folk puppet theatre expert and visual artist *Hetty Paërl* created two illustrations of it for the museum. The characteristic leading figure from the old-Dutch puppet theatre can easily be recognised by his funny face and jolly costume. Jan Klaassen is a hunchback and chicken-breasted, has a hooked red nose and pointed chin, big eyes and a very broad, grinning mouth. Under his white collar he wears a dark-red suit with golden trims. Wooden hands protrude from the puffed, white and red sleeves and he wears clogs. He has a pointed cap on his wooden head with a little bell that leans forwards.

## □ **A** stretching and shrinking puppet

The rod on which the *dupák* hangs passes through the head and the fabric body and is fixed to the wooden hip. The hole in the puppet's head is slightly larger than the thickness of the rod, so that the head slides up and down easily. A cord is attached to each side of the *dupák's* head. The cords go upwards and are fixed to a wooden control bar. By moving this control bar up and down, the body stretches and shrinks. The puppet appears to squat down and then spring back up. Besides jumping, the *dupák* can also turn on its axis. Stretched out, the puppet measures about 80 centimetres.

## □ **D**oepak

Since 2007, the *dupák* illustration has been used as the logo for **DoEPAK**, the educational Puppetry Museum newsletter and scribblings (*'Poppenspe(e)lmuseumkruimelkrant* and *-krabbel'*) for young and old; a multi-coloured and multi-language leaflet full of interesting facts. The 'scribblings' are also published in pdf format and can be consulted on [www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl](http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl).

The name 'Doepak' - the Dutch spelling corresponds with the phonetic version of the Czech word *dupák* - is a mixture of the Dutch verbs 'to do' and 'to grasp'. These two words stimulate the readers of the 'Poppenspe(e)lmuseumkruimelkrant and -krabbel' to take up the ideas provided in them. A *dupák* puppet moves just like a rod puppet, jumping and stamping across a tiny puppet stage. **DoEPAK** skims and skips through the wondrous world of folk puppet theatre. Just as a *dupák* becomes taller and shorter during his performance, **DoEPAK** playfully highlights greater and smaller puppet theatre subjects. Where the *dupák* flings his arms wide, **DoEPAK** embraces the international puppet, figure and object theatre with its small text blocs, hints and tips, interesting facts, questions and answers, illustrations and DIY activities.

## □ Tribute, Gašparko and Miško

A few **DoEPAK** publications were dedicated and an appropriate tribute to Anton's work: they comprise tips for creating a small *dupák box* or a *dupák bottle neck decoration*.

A publication on *philately* and puppet theatre shows a picture of Post Slovensko's first-day cover, 'Indonesia, Slovak' (2006 – 2007). On the envelope you can see *wayang-golek figures* and a characteristic portrait of Anton Anderle with his beloved *Gašparko* (the clown puppet from the traditional Czech and Slovakian folk puppet theatre). In 2008, *Dupák-DoEPAK* also inspired us to create a small cardboard *Pastiche Theatre*. It is part of an on-site and travelling exhibition on a variety of puppet theatre forms, techniques and figures.



In 1990, Hetty Paërl created a unique *Puppetry Happy Families game* and a poster on folk puppet theatre in cooperation with *Otto van der Mieden*, Director-Curator of the Puppetry Museum. For part of the pictures, Hetty was inspired by authentic puppets, theatres, scenery, posters and performance scenes. One of the cards shows the *Gašparko* marionette, galloping on his little white circus horse, *Miško*: a performance fragment of a puppetry variety show by Anton Anderle.

## Puppetry Museum and websites

Would you like to learn even more about national and international folk and mainstream puppet theatre? Make a journey through the wondrous world of puppet theatre on our Dutch-language website [www.poppenspelmuseum.nl/onderwijs](http://www.poppenspelmuseum.nl/onderwijs).

On the bi-lingual (Dutch/English) [www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2](http://www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2) and [www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl](http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl) sites you will find information about the international collections of books, prints, photographs and puppet theatre, our educational publications, a variety of documentation, and information about artists who were inspired by puppet, figure and expressive theatre. Moreover, you can also watch film fragments.

Explore [www.poppenspelmuseum.nl](http://www.poppenspelmuseum.nl) and discover a site with pictures of puppet theatre characters and information about our museum and theme-based exhibitions. Select a language of your choice on the starting page.

On this website the traditional Dutch *Jan Klaassen* will greet you with 'Welkom' while the German *Kasperl* will say 'Willkommen'. The English *Mr Punch* says 'Welcome' and the French *Guignol* calls 'Bienvenue'. For a change, click on *Katrijn (Judy)*, the *cat* and the *objects* in the puppetry scene. The *book picture* will lead you to the Dutch-language ABC of Puppetry (*poppentheater-abc*) with explanations on puppetry techniques, objects and figures. In this way you may also discover *Pulcinella*, the Italian ancestor of many European clown puppets.

Via our library site you can find some seven thousand publications by using the Dutch language '*trefwoordenlijst*' (subject list). You can also search by '*titel*' (title), '*auteur*' (author) or '*vrij zoeken*' (free search). Our *Puppetry information centre* is open by appointment. Video recordings of national and international puppetry performances and films can be shown by request. Jolly postcards and colourful posters of puppetry characters can be bought at the *museum shop*.

- Illustration 'A jumping Dupák': Hetty Paërl ©, Amsterdam (1992), based on a dupák by Anton Anderle, Banská Bystrica/Slovakia (1991). Collection: Poppenspe(e)lmuseum/Puppetry Museum ©.  
Concept and text: OvdM ©, Vorchten, The Netherlands (11 February 2009).  
Appendix: images 1 – 5 with Anton Anderle, Juraj Hamar, Gašparko, Miško and Dupák-Doepak.

*Poppenspe(e)lmuseum*®

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