

Dupák and Doepak



During the nineteen eighties and nineties, the Dutch Puppetry Museum maintained frequent contact with the Slovakian puppeteer *Anton Anderle* (1944 – 2008).

In 1992 we instructed Anton to create a *dupák* (a typically Czech and Slovakian *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 leading figure from the old-Dutch puppet theatre can easily be recognised by his funny face and jolly costume. Jan Klaassen is a hunch-back and chicken-breasted, has a hooked red nose and pointed chin and a grinning mouth.

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. 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. Besides jumping, the *dupák* can also turn on its axis.

Educational Puppetry Museum newsletter

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. 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 newsletter 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 embraces the international puppet theatre with its small text blocs, hints and tips, interesting facts, questions and answers, illustrations and DIY activities.