

Je lah je kripoet

Buffoon, Petruk, and Semar the clown



'Je lah je kripoet' – Buffoon, Petruk, and Semar the clown: a tangible, musical, educational, theatrical, bilingual 'viewing experience' in a museum setting. A wayang and gamelan cultural heritage production for the young and young at heart. A semi-permanent and travelling exhibition for both visually impaired (blind and partially sighted) and sighted people. A major element of the exhibition is to present, play, and listen to the 'Kyai Parijata' ('Heer levensboom' – 'Lord Tree of Life'), a centuries-old Javanese gamelan, and the Dutch-Indonesian tactile puppetry audio book 'De cium van Katrijn'/'Katrijn's kiss'.



Je lah je kripoet – Buffoon, Petruk, and Semar the clown De cium van Katrijn Project

Je lah je kripoet* – Buffoon, Petruk, and Semar the clown

An educational wayang and gamelan cultural heritage production – exhibition and presentation – for both visually impaired (blind and partially sighted) and sighted people. The visitors/participants will be introduced to an exciting range of performances, puppets, instruments, objects, images, voices, and texts, which enables them to familiarise themselves with poetry, typically Dutch-Indonesian loanwords, expressions, music, films, and songs.

* The Indomalayan/Indo-Dutch street-talk expression 'Je lah je kripoet' means that someone is getting wrinkles from laughing.

Artefacts, wayang and gamelan

The artefacts that will be presented, include several flat shadow figures (wayang kulit), three-dimensional puppets (wayang golek and wayang klitik), masks (wayang topeng), and traditional props made of wood, leather, water buffalo horn, bamboo, straw, paper, metal, a variety of fabric textures, and other material structures. Gamelan music makes up a significant part of the presentation, whereby the 'Kyai Parijata' ('Heer levensboom' – 'Lord Tree of Life') is used – a centuries-old Javanese double gamelan that the Dutch Puppetry Museum/Poppenspe(e)lmuseum acquired from the former Nusantara museum in Delft, which closed its doors in 2013.

Extra: a shadow play screen (kelir), an educational play object with mini wayang figures, the tactile wayang and puppet theatre book 'De cium van Katrijn'/'Katrijn's kiss', and a unique, touchable puppetry sweater and a puppeteer suit (known as a beskap: the dalang's suit).

Public information and documentation: looking, listening, reading, and touching

The museum provides publications with tactile images of kulit figures on swell-touch paper as well as educational documentation in plain text and combined script (braille and synchronously running plain text/printed letters, in a 11/12/20 pt. Verdana sans-serif typeface – a letterform that does not have extending features called 'serifs' at the end of strokes).

The films with parts of wayang performances, gamelan and Indonesian traditional music and krontjong songs can also be viewed and listened to on the Puppetry Museum's website. Other items include a Dutch-language ABC of wayang and gamelan with explanations of more than eighty names and words, and four Dutch-language multiple-choice question games.

Never before has the appealing Dutch-Indonesian wayang and gamelan tradition been brought to life so attractively in a cultural heritage presentation, paving the road to reflection, imagination, beauty, and a hint of oriental culture.



Picture: Semar, while munching away on kwee lapis, with Otto van der Mieden's (Puppetry Museum director and curator) face. Semar wears a batik sarong (wraparound skirt) depicting the coat of arms of the van der Mieden family.

De cium van Katrijn

'De cium van Katrijn' / 'Katrijn's kiss': a Dutch-Indonesian colourful, loose-leaf, look-smell-feel-read-listen-and-play puppet theatre book for visually impaired and sighted people of all ages.

'Tableau de la troupe': Katrijn (Judy) and Jan Klaassen (Mr Punch), and the punakawan Semar, Nala Gareng, Bagong, and Petruk.



Picture: bright red tactile mouth of cardboard with the text 'De cium van Katrijn' in braille and large-font format.

Je lah je kripoet – Buffoon, Petruk, and Semar the clown De cium van Katrijn Tactile puppetry book

De cium van Katrijn: a tactile puppet theatre audio book

'De cium van Katrijn'/'Katrijn's Kiss': a colourful, loose-leaf, look-smell-feel-read-listen-and-play puppet theatre book with Dutch-Indonesian words, for people of all ages. In the tactile audio book, Katrijn first asks Jan Klaassen whether he would like to marry her, and next she asks the punakawan Semar, Nala Gareng, Bagong, and Petruk the same. They all say 'no', and Petruk advises her to marry Jan Klaassen. Eventually Jan gives in and agrees to marry Katrijn, and she gives him a kiss (cium).

Design: display – wooden audio box – with a power connection, a battery, a start and a stop button fitted with the distinct wooden wayang-golek heads of Arjuna and Shiva, a volume button, an applause button (a bonang player), eight removable grey, double-sided felt-fabric pages on which traditional puppet theatre scenes with two old-Dutch puppetry characters (Jan Klaassen and Katrijn) as well as four punakawan figures (clown characters from Javanese wayang theatre) are depicted.

Extras: a felt storage bag for the tactile puppet theatre audio book, the corresponding documents, and a tactile, bright red, cardboard mouth in relief with the text 'De cium van Katrijn' printed on it in large-font format and braille.

The seven puppetry scenes take place in a rectangular, highly tactile felt frame decorated with a traditional Indonesian batik pattern. The 'theatre window' gives the impression of a stage/play screen (kelir) similar to the one used in traditional wayang kulit theatre. The sixteen sceneries are made up of different materials such as colourful textile in a variety of fabric textures, to which water buffalo horn, leather, bamboo, hair, and other materials have been added. The characters that make an appearance are scented and smell of lavender, trassi (an extremely strong smelling and fermented shrimp paste), mace, star anise, and cloves.

Presentation: gamelan, kroncong and barrel organ music, applause, and recorded text. The twelve rhyming question-and-answer verses printed in combined script are contained in clearly framed, tangible speech bubbles.

Tableau de la troupe: in the tactile book, the traditional Dutch Katrijn character first asks Jan Klaassen to marry her, and then invites the punakawan Semar, Nala Gareng, Bagong and Petruk to advise her who would be the best candidate for marriage. They all advise her to choose Jan Klaassen.

Props: kiss (a 3D, plastic red mouth and a tactile red cardboard mouth with braille and text in large-font format), a bat (wood), a little bell (metal), a carpet beater (wicker), a dandang – rice cooker (paper mache), and a sapu lidi (a fibre hand broom). Extra: touch-and-feel Jan Klaassen and Katrijn puppets in a variety of fabric textures.

For the purpose of auditory support: 'de Voorlezer' (Smart reading pen), a talking pen (text in Dutch), which provides additional information about the tactile project in the form of text and music.

Audio: barrel organ, gamelan and krontjong music with text in Dutch, see:
<http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/Doepak293a.pdf>.



Je lah je kripoet – Buffoon, Petruk, and Semar the clown De cium van Katrijn

Audio book with a start and stop button, and a volume and applause button



Pictures: tactile wooden puppetry audio box 'De cium van Katrijn', with the wooden wayang-golek heads of Arjuna and Shiva.
 [1.] Arjuna – start button, [2.] Shiva – stop button
 [3.] Volume button
 [4.] Applause button – a bonang player
 [5.] Smart reading pen

Je lah je kripoet – Buffoon, Petruk, and Semar the clown De cium van Katrijn Tactile audio book



Pictures: screen shot film 'De cium van Katrijn', with Otto van der Mieden - puppeteer and director-conservator of the Dutch Puppetry Museum/Poppenspe(e)lmuseum.



Je lah je kripoet – Buffoon, Petruk, and Semar the clown De cium van Katrijn Punakawan: wayang kulit figures



Pictures: Nala Gareng (left) and Petruk (right).

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De cium van Katrijn
Punakawan: wayang kulit figures



Pictures: Semar (left) and Bagong (right).

Je lah je kripoet – Buffoon, Petruk, and Semar the clown De cium van Katrijn Wayang kulit performance



Picture: Puppetry Pastiche Theatre with wayang kulit puppets (shadow puppets). Performance with Arjuna and the punakawan Semar, Petruk and Nala Gareng. Wayang kulit is a form of theatre from Indonesia for which colourful, jointed flat figures are used that are made from buffalo hide (kulit). The performance involves rod puppet and shadow puppet theatre simultaneously. The puppeteer (dalang) moves the puppets against a tightly stretched, elongated play screen (kelir). A burning lamp (blenchong) is mounted between the puppeteer and the screen. Card board theatre: designed by Hetty Paërl (2011).



Je lah je kripoet – Buffoon, Petruk, and Semar the clown De cium van Katrijn ABC of wayang puppetry

Blenchong

A burning lamp (blenchong) is mounted between the Indonesian dalang (wayang kulit puppeteer) and the screen. In this way, the kulit figures can be seen as shadows on the other side of the screen. Figures that are not being used are pricked into the soft trunk of a banana tree log: the evil characters to the left and the noble ones to the right.

Bonang

A bonang is an instrument from Indonesia, with several metal pots placed on strings over a wooden frame. They are typically hit with padded sticks. This is similar to the other cradled gongs in the gamelan. The bonang may be made of forged bronze, welded and cold-hammered iron, or a combination of metals.

Dalang

The dalang (puppeteer) moves all the figures, speaks their texts, sings, and directs the gamelan orchestra that sits behind him. During the rod puppet and shadow performance, the dalang is seated cross-legged in front of or behind a white screen. With a small wooden mallet – that is held between his toes – he strikes a wooden chest to set the tempo of the music played by the gamelan orchestra.

Gamelan

The gamelan orchestra is an indispensable musical component of wayang performances. The orchestra consists of gongs, xylophones, flutes and several stringed instruments. The sound of the gamelan can be heard far afield and everybody knows what this means: the dalang is about to start his performance. While the spectators flock towards the performance they are welcomed by the delicate garlands of sound produced by the xylophones: the gambang, the gender, the bonang and the saron.

Garuda

The wayang lamp usually resembles the bird Garuda: a symbol of luck and friendship. Garuda is the golden eagle from Indian and Indonesian mythology. Garuda is half human, half animal and has the role of protector of the oppressed. Garuda is king of the birds and considered the messenger between the separated worlds of humans and gods. He is the archenemy of snakes.



Picture: 'Wayang-poerwa-vertooner'. Wayang kulit performance, Soerabaya. Dalang with kelir, wayang lamp – blenchong – and gamelan. Illustration from: 'Java. Beelden van volksleven en bedrijf'. Author: Emilie van Kerckhoff. Imprint: Scheltema & Holkema's boekhandel (Amsterdam, 1912).

Jan Klaassen and his wife Katrijn

The puppet theatre scenes with the old-Dutch Jan Klaassen and his wife Katrijn are centuries old. They belong to an international repertoire. The show is played with glove puppets. Each country has its own variations. Jan Klaassen probably originated in the second half of the seventeenth century. He bears some resemblance to the French Polichinelle, to Mr Punch from Britain and to the German Kasper. The forefather of all these incorrigible buffoons is the Italian Pulcinella.

Jan Klaassen is depicted in 'The cium van Katrijn' with a big potbelly, a hunchback and a club. A large red hooked nose, which almost touches his protruding chin, is characteristic of this blushing puppet-character's head. He wears a colourful costume and a pointed cap with a bell. In this way, he really resembles the French Polichinelle and the English Mr Punch. Katrijn has a mob cap on her head. She usually wears a flowered dress and an apron, and is definitely not good-looking. 'Five kilos of potatoes could easily fit into her mouth', says Jan. Katrijn and her husband are always quarrelling. But she is the boss and is constantly attacking him with a carpet beater.

Kroncong music

Kroncong music, in Dutch 'Krontjong' – pronounced 'kronchong', is the name of a ukulele-like instrument and an Dutch-Indonesian music style that typically makes use of the kroncong. The sound 'chrong-chrong' comes from this instrument, so the music is called 'kroncong'. Kroncong music originates from a Portuguese music tradition, brought by sailors to Indonesia in the 16th century. A kroncong ensemble traditionally consists of a flute, a violin, a pair of kroncongs, a cello, a string bass, and a vocalist.

Kwee lapis

Thousand-layer cake (also known as lapis legit or kue; called 'spekkoek' in Dutch) is an Indonesian delicacy to be enjoyed with tea or coffee. The name of this sweet and rather heavy cake derives from the many thin, alternately coloured layers which look like a slice of streaky bacon (called 'spek' in Dutch).

Punakawan

The punakawan are the clowns of the hero in wayang performances. There are four of them: Semar, Petruk, Bagong and Nala Gareng. Semar is the Javanese wise fool and divine jester. He is the servant and adviser of gods and aristocrats. He has a fat bottom and belly, a large face with a pug nose and only one tooth in his mouth. His three companions are his sons. Petruk is tall and gangling, with a long nose and a sagging belly. His head is sitting on a long neck that bends forward. The Nala Gareng is portrayed as short with a club foot, and Bagong as obese.

Ramayana and Mahabharata

The wayang plays are based on stories from two Sanskrit epics of ancient India: the Ramayana and Mahabharata.



Sapu lidi

A fibre hand broom.

Wayang from Indonesia

Wayang comprises various forms of puppetry and dance. Wayang kulit is shadow and rod puppet theatre. The figures used in wayang kulit play are made of leather and sometimes of paper or braided rice straw. The flat kulit puppets are painted on both sides and often decorated with a delicate pattern of small holes, allowing a backlight to shine through. Some wayang figures are made of wood, such as the three-dimensional wayang golek and the flat wayang klitik. Wayang wong theatre ('wong' means 'human') involves 'real' actors. Wayang topeng is a dance performance in which wooden masks are used.



Picture: Sapu lidi.



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Wayang kulit figures: Jan Klaassen, Katrijn and Semar



Pictures: old-Dutch Jan Klaassen and Katrijn. Wayang kulit puppets: made by Ledjar Subroto (Yogyakarta).
Collection: Dutch Puppetry Museum/Poppenspe(e)lmuseum; farting Semar, while munching away on kwee lapis.

Je lah je kripoet – Buffoon, Petruk, and Semar the clown De cium van Katrijn Acknowledgments

Composers of the gamelan with barrel organ music: Sinta Wullur and Renadi Santoso.

Voice-over and texts: Otto van der Mieden.

Concept and realisation: Birgit Tomesen (book) and Otto van der Mieden (project).

Source of inspiration: illustrations by Elsje Zwart and others.

Costume: Studio Sabine Staartjes.

Touchable puppet - Jan Klaassen: Rosa Mol.

Production: the Dutch Puppetry Museum, creatief atelier 10 x tien, and the Christelijke Bibliotheek voor Blinden en Slechtzienden (CBB) library.

Technology: Herald and Thomas de Graaf.

Hyperlinks: <https://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/cium.pdf>,
<http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/cium.html>,
<https://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/Jelahjekripoet.pdf>
(audio book, film and project information relating to 'Je lah je kripoet' in Dutch), and <http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/ciumenglish.pdf>
(English information about the wayang and gamelan project) and <http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/Doepak287d.pdf>
(tactile sweater).



Picture: screenshot of the 'De cium van Katrijn' webpage (video with pictures, kroncong music, and text in Dutch).

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Wayang kulit Java
Petruk

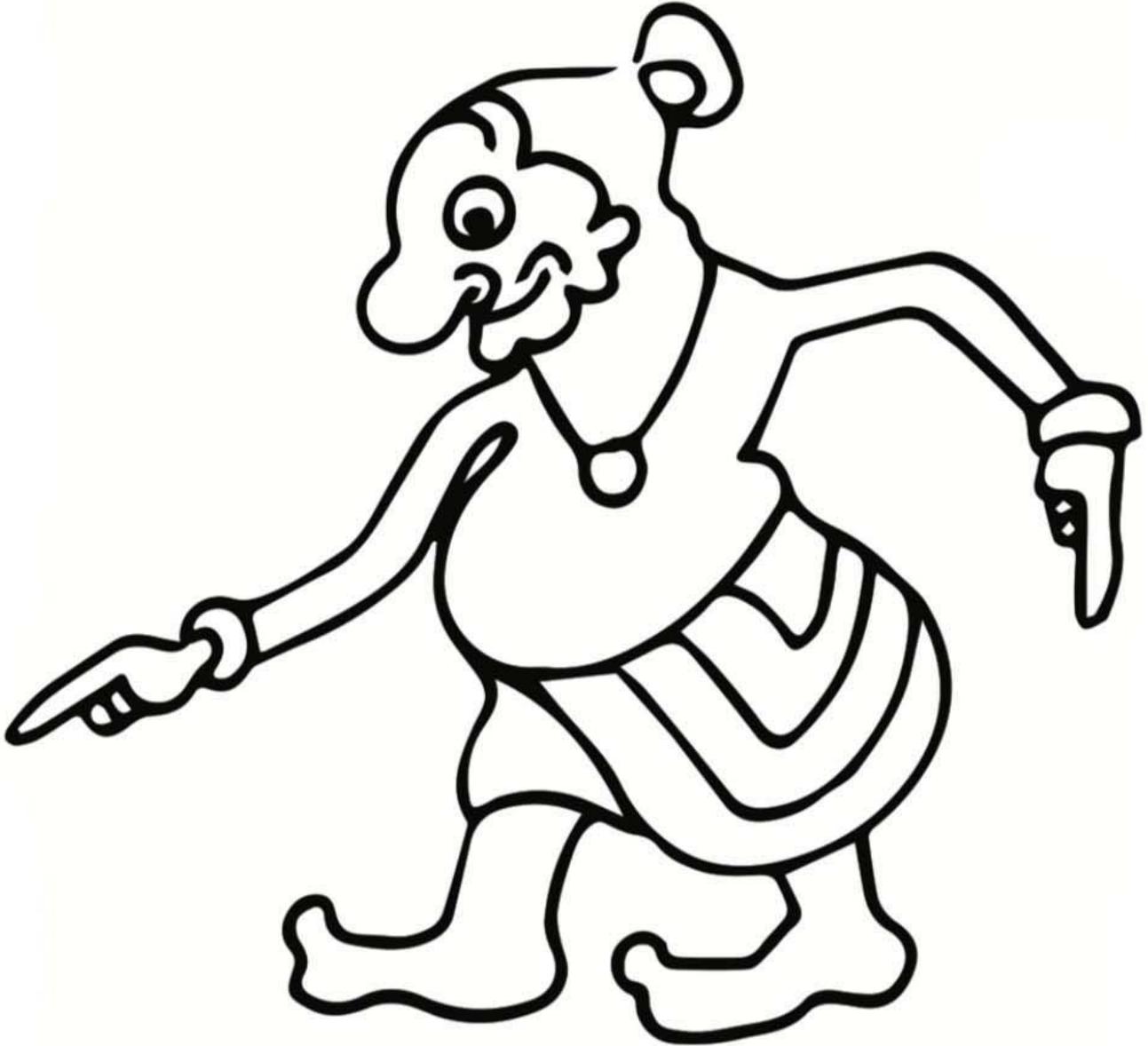
**Wayang kulit Java
Petruk**

Picture: Petruk with text in braille and grey larg-font format for swell-touch paper.
Tactile illustration: Elsje Zwart. Concept: Otto van der Mieden.



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Wayang kulit Java
Nala Gareng

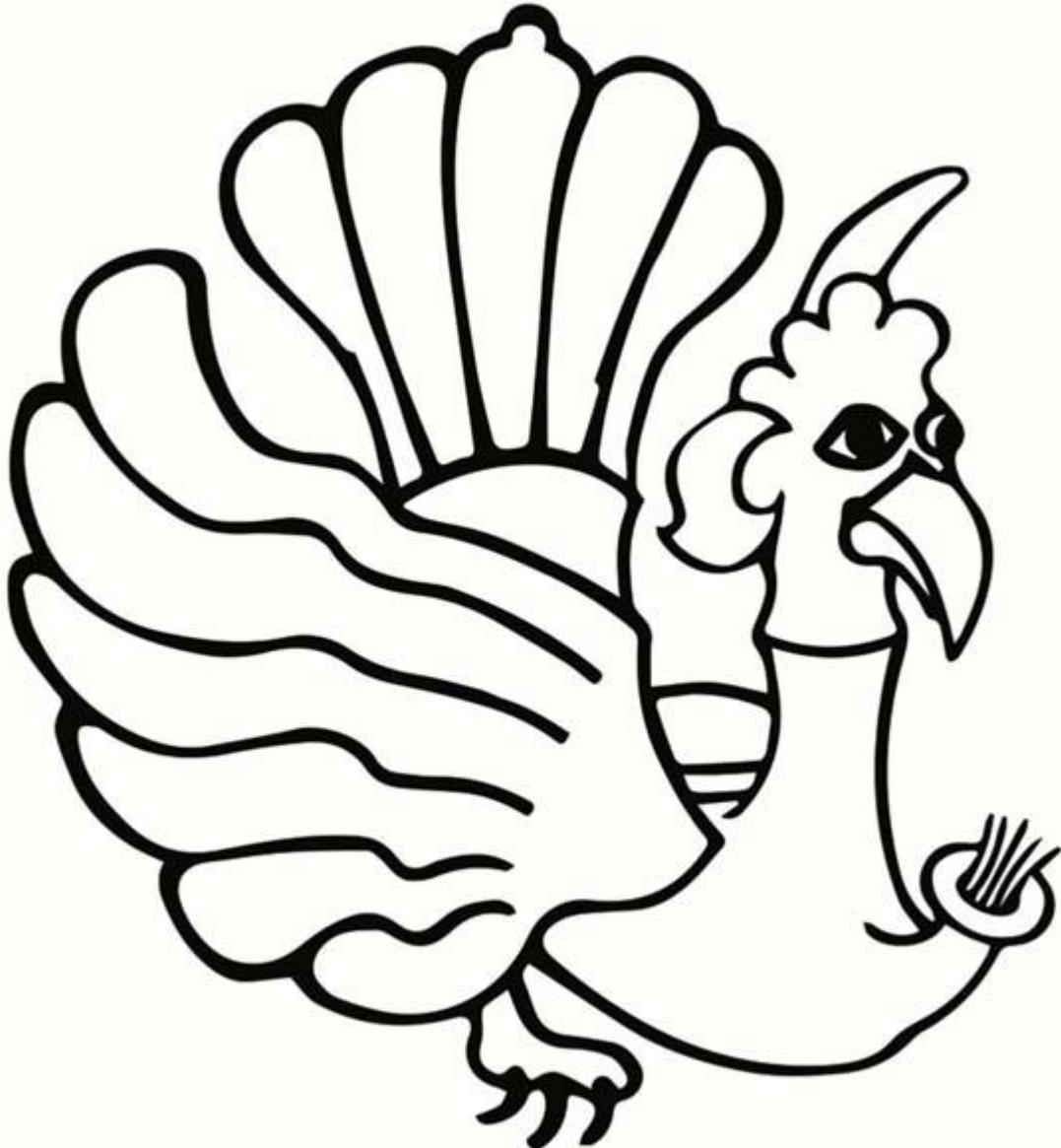
**Wayang kulit Java
Nala Gareng**

Afbeelding: Nala Gareng with text in braille and grey larg-font format for swell-touch paper.
Tactile illustration: Elsje Zwart. Concept: Otto van der Mieden.



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Wayang kulit Java
Garuda

Picture: Blenchong – wayang lamp. Garuda with text in braille and grey larg-font format for swell-touch paper.
Tactile illustration: Elsje Zwart. Concept: Otto van der Mieden.



Je lah je kripoet – Buffoon, Petruk, and Semar the clown De cium van Katrijn Touch-and-feel suit



Picture: Otto van der Mieden with the touch-and-feel suit – jester's patchwork suit design. The suit's jacket and trousers have a tartan pattern that is composed of a variety of fabric textures - including audible ones. Realisation: Sabine Staartjes. Photo: Henri van der Beek.

Je lah je kripoet – Buffoon, Petruk, and Semar the clown De cium van Katrijn

Tactile sweater with Jan Klaassen, crocodile and bat



Picture: multi-coloured, woollen puppet theatre sweater by Otto van der Mieden, puppeteer and director-conservator of the Dutch Puppetry Museum/Poppenspe(e)lmuseum. Machine-knitted grey sweater in jersey and rib stitch with a hand-darned puppetry pattern depicting the traditional Dutch Jan Klaassen character with a snapping crocodile, and a bat. Source of inspiration: picture by Elsje Zwart.



Je lah je kripoet – Buffoon, Petruk, and Semar the clown De cium van Katrijn Joged Sarapada



Picture: wayang kulit. Moving Jan Klaassen – Joged Sarapada – with a shadow. The old-Dutch Jan Klaassen as a jumping-jack figure (Pantin). Creator of the wayang kulit figure: Ledjar Soebroto (Yogyakarta/Indonesia, 2011), dalang and puppeteer. Construction: Snoeij & Snoeij. Music (Meditasi/Pesta Raksasa): Shadow Bang/Evan Ziporyn (American composer) with I Wayan Wija (Balinese singer and shadow puppet master). Airplane Ears Music (2001). Concept: Otto van der Mieden. Collection: Dutch Puppetry Museum/Poppenspe(e)lmuseum. See also: <http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/Doepak240e.pdf> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iJI-PQjBoc>.



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ZABAWAS

Bosch Uyt den Bogaard Stichting
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