

A door tag depicting Mr Punch/Jan Klaassen: who's the boss?

Try it yourself? Another exciting activity from the Dutch *Poppenspe(e)lmuseum* (Puppetry Museum). Have you ever heard the expression 'I'm not just a pretty face'? (In the original Dutch text the phrase 'Ik sta hier ook niet voor Jan Klaassen' was used, which is a pun on the expression 'Voor Jan Joker staan', or 'To look like a fool'.) This means: 'I'm here for a good reason and want to be taken seriously'. *Jan Klaassen* - the leading figure in the old-Dutch puppet theatre - is someone who should actually *not* be taken seriously. This buffoon is not afraid of anybody, except his wife *Katrijn*. They threaten and attack each other with a club and a carpet beater. Would you like to play boss for a change? Cut out the shapes, which you can glue together if you like. You can also write a text on Katrijn's/*Judy's* door tag. Hang the tag on your room door handle and, in this way, indicate whether visitors are welcome.

Would you like to learn even more about folk and mainstream puppetry figures? In our museum shop we have family board games, postcards, posters and documentation in Dutch, French, German and English, such as Jan Klaassen and Katrijn and their English cousins *Mr Punch* and Judy. You will find more information about the museum collection on *www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl, www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2* and *www.poppenspelmuseum.nl.* Basic design of the museum logo figures: Ad Swier © (1984). Realisation: OvdM © (2009). Have fun putting things together. 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 twirist arond, 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 sing called Paprika Janesi.

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