



## □ **Puppet theatre alphabet colouring letters**

### **An educational present for birthday boys and birthday girls; idea and explanation**

Every visitor who is celebrating his or her birthday will be given a small present\* by the *Puppetry Museum*: the first letter of his or her name in the shape of a visualised puppet theatre letter taken from an illustrated puppet theatre alphabet. Each puppet theatre letter includes a brief Dutch picture description as well as a link to background information in the Dutch-language *Poppentheater-abc* (ABC of Puppetry) and to other documents on [www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl](http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl). Also refer to English *Puppetry Museum Pamphlets* nos. 117d *Small ABC of Puppetry*, 117d *Appendix I* (illustration), 117d *Appendix II* (illustration), 117d *Appendix III* (illustration), 117d *Appendix IV* (illustration), 117d *Appendix V* (illustration) and 117d *Appendix VI* (acknowledgment).

\* An A4-format sheet of paper with three or four puppet theatre letters. One of them is the first letter of the individual's first name or surname.

## **Serif-style letter**

### **Capitals and symbols**

Illustrator and former puppeteer *Elsje Zwart* has designed the capitals and four symbols (!, ?, € and @) entirely in black. The stylised small figures are depicted in black and white and invite you to colour them. Adobe Garamond Pro Bold – a serif-style letter – is the font type used for the alphabet (serif: a small line at the extremities of a main stroke in a type character). It was a real challenge to combine each letter with a characteristic, remarkable or jolly puppet theatre figure or an object from the world of puppetry. The boundaries and design of the letters also formed the basis of the subject chosen. Old and new prints, books, puppets, objects, and photographs from the Puppetry Museum's collection were a source of inspiration.

## □ **Theatre scenes**

### **Folk puppet theatre**

The various forms and archetypes of puppet theatre are brought to life in a refreshing and humorous way. Each adorned letter is a theatre scene in itself. The illustrations in, on, under, behind, in front of, and around the letters invite you to acquaint yourself with international and traditional folk puppet theatre in a playful manner. Some characters even 'step out of line'. The puppet theatre alphabet colouring letters, descriptions and explanations highlight folk and mainstream puppet theatre in the broadest sense of the word.

## □ **Tableau de la troupe**

### **A random pick from the collection**

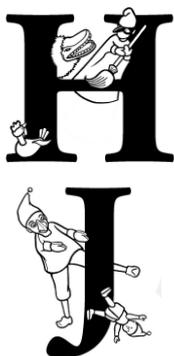
Explore the alphabet and discover the Constable ('Agent' in Dutch), the Hangman Jack Ketch carrying his Gallows ('Beul met de galg'), the Grim Reaper ('Dood van Pierlala'), the Witch Eucalypta (character from 'Paulus de Boskabouter', an old Dutch children's marionette television series), Guignol from Lyon, the Hand Puppet (Pulcinella from Naples), Jan Klaassen met de baby (Dutch Mr Punch with the Baby), the Crocodile ('Krokodil'), Lafleur from Amiens, Marionette (the Little White Horse Miško, character by puppeteer *Anton Anderle* from Slovakia), the Nose ('de Neus', one of the 'Voddebalen' – ragbags – from the 'poesjenellenkelder' cellar theatre from Antwerp), the Object Puppet, Pinocchio, Rinaldo (Italian knight character and rod marionette), Ubu Roi (marionette play by Alfred Jarry), the Foot Puppet ('Voetpop'), Water Marionettes from Vietnam, the Cap 'n' Bells (Jester's Hat, 'Zotskap'), and many others.

While watching, reading and colouring, you will be introduced to international puppetry techniques, characters and objects. Applause!

## □ Online

### Links and museum shop

The entire series of puppet theatre alphabet letters is also available online. A folder with Dutch-language *Pamphlet no. 27a: Poppentheateralfabetkleurletters* and annexes I to IX, twenty-six letters and four symbols (three or four pictures per page) + three Dutch words: 'JARIG', 'CLOWN' and 'KUS' (Birthday, Clown and Kiss), and a *poster with alphabet colouring letters* (thirty pictures) can be obtained from the Museum Shop. For an explanation of the terms, names and techniques, and other illustrations by Elsje Zwart, please refer to: *Prints and texts on folk puppet theatre* (Puppetry museum education: a series of prints and Dutch texts on folk puppet theatre and techniques ([www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/pamflet118d.pdf](http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/pamflet118d.pdf))).



Price of the printed version (A4 format): € 14.50, excluding postage. Extra: poster (A3 format): € 3.50, excluding postage.

- **Picture:** letter 'H' – 'Handpop' (Hand or Glove Puppet), Pulcinella with a broom, chicken and monster – and 'J' – 'Jan Klaassen met de baby' (Dutch Mr Punch with the Baby). Illustrations: *Elsje Zwart* © (2012). Concept and texts: *Otto van der Mieden* © (2012). Hyperlinks: click on the *green text* in the document. Also refer to: *Doepak no. 169d* (Audiovisual presentation: *Vimeo and YouTube*), *Pamphlet no. 25d, no. 118d* and (in Dutch) *Doepak no. 187* (Three puppet theatre alphabet letters: *MEP*).

*Poppenspe(e)lmuseum* ©

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