

REPORT

India International Puppetry Festival

Presented 1-15 Sept. 1990 by Sangeet Natak Akademi in association with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, the India International Puppetry Festival—Bharat Vishwa Putul Samaroh—was the first Indian exposition of its kind and scale. The festival involved 28 countries including 12 Indian groups and featured 69 shows over 15 days at six different venues in the Capital. Select shows from abroad also travelled to 35 towns and cities all over the country, including 14 State Capitals and Union Territories besides a number of smaller towns. Associated events in Delhi included Putul, an exhibition of puppets (3-24 Sept.) at Crafts Museum, Pragati Maidan, and a three-day symposium on International Trends in Puppetry (3-5 Sept.) at the same venue.

The major puppetry zones and traditions worldwide received a fair measure of representation in this international event. The Indian subcontinent and its associated traditions were represented by 12 Indian groups practising traditional and modern puppetry as well as groups from Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The Far East was represented by Vietnam, China, Korea, Japan, and the Philippines, West Asia by Egypt. An Uzbek troupe represented the USSR. The East European component included the German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and Romania, while the rest of Europe was represented by Britain, France, Netherlands, Austria, and Switzerland. The American continent was represented by Canada, Brazil, Chile, and Peru. Mali and Madagascar represented Africa. The programme follows:

1 Sept.
Inauguration of Festival
(short performances by all participating groups)
6.30 p.m., Siri Fort Auditorium

2 Sept.
Tolu Bommalata, Andhra Pradesh
11.00 a.m., Shri Ram Centre

Darpana Puppet Theatre, Ahmedabad
3.00 p.m., Shri Ram Centre

Seonangdang, Republic of Korea
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Shri Ram Centre

Water Puppet Theatre of Hanoi, Vietnam
7.00 & 9.00 p.m., Hotel Samrat Swimming Pool

3 Sept.
Inauguration of Putul, an exhibition of puppets from India and other participating countries
11.00 a.m., Crafts Museum

Symposium on International Trends in Puppetry
Crafts Museum (till 5 Sept.)

Puppettheatre Guido van Deth, Netherlands
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Shri Ram Centre

Kathputli, Rajasthan
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Triveni Chamber Theatre

Water Puppet Theatre of Hanoi, Vietnam
7.00 & 9.00 p.m., Hotel Samrat Swimming Pool

4 Sept.
Ishara Puppet Theatre of Dadi Padumjee, New Delhi
5.00 & 6.30 p.m., Shri Ram Centre

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6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Triveni Chamber Theatre

Water Puppet Theatre of Hanoi, Vietnam
7.00 & 9.00 p.m., Hotel Samrat Swimming Pool

5 Sept.
Theatre des Marionettes, Madagascar
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Shri Ram Centre

Hachioji Kuruma Ningyo, Japan
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Triveni Chamber Theatre

Calcutta Puppet Theatre, Calcutta
5.00 & 7.30 p.m., Kamani Auditorium



Uzbek Puppet theatre: USSR.

6 Sept.

David Smith Marionettes, Canada
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Triveni Chamber Theatre

7 Sept.

Punch and Judy Show by Percy Press, UK
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Triveni Chamber Theatre

Sofia Central Puppet Theatre, Bulgaria

6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Kamani Auditorium

8 Sept.

Togalu Gombeatta, Karnataka
11.00 a.m., Kamani Auditorium

Yakshagana Gombeatta, Karnataka
5.00 p.m., Triveni Chamber Theatre

Puppet Theatre Erfurt, German Democratic Republic
5.00 & 7.30 p.m., Kamani Auditorium

9 Sept.

Uzbek National Puppet Theatre of Tashkent, USSR
5.00 & 7.30 p.m., Shri Ram Centre

10 Sept.

Theatre de L'arc En Terre, France
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Shri Ram Centre

Sri Anura Puppetry Troupe, Sri Lanka
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., FICCI Auditorium

Wayang Golek Theatre, Indonesia
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Kamani Auditorium

11 Sept.

Guinol Puppet Theatre, Chile
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Shri Ram Centre

Hayali Torun Celebi Turk Golge Tiyatrosu, Turkey
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., FICCI Auditorium

Mali National Puppet Troupe, Mali
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Kamani Auditorium

12 Sept.

People's Puppet Theatre, Calcutta
5.00 & 7.30 p.m., Shri Ram Centre

Naive Theatre Liberec, Czechoslovakia
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., FICCI Auditorium

String Attached Puppet Theatre, New Zealand
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Kamani Auditorium

13 Sept.

Pupilla Puppet Theatre, Austria
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Triveni Chamber Theatre

Theatre Kusi Kusi, Peru

6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Shri Ram Centre

Nanchong Puppet Troupe of Sichuan, China
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Kamani Auditorium

14 Sept.

Cairo Puppet Theatre, Egypt
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Shri Ram Centre

Beto Beto & Cia, Brazil

6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Kamani Auditorium

Teatrong Mulat ng Pilipinas, Philippines
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., FICCI Auditorium

15 Sept.

Tolpava Koothu, Kerala
11.00 a.m., Triveni Chamber Theatre

Teatrul Tandarica, Romania
6.00 & 7.30 p.m., Kamani Auditorium

Putul, the exhibition of puppets from India and abroad, was entirely planned and mounted by the Akademi. While it focussed on traditional and contemporary Indian puppetry, the exhibition—comprising over 300 objects—had a substantial section of puppets from abroad.



Hayali Torun Celebi: Turkey.

Indian shadow puppetry was represented in the exhibition by Ravana-chhaya puppets of Orissa, Togalu Gombatta of Karnataka, Tolpava Koothu of Kerala, and Tolu Bommalata of Andhra Pradesh. Marionettes included the Kathputli of Rajasthan, Sakhi Kundhei of Orissa, Yakshagana Gombatta of Karnataka, and Bommalata of Tamil Nadu. The rod and glove sections included Danger Putul of West Bengal, Kathi Kundhei of Orissa (rod puppets), Beni Putul of West Bengal, Pavakathakali of Kerala, and Gopileela Kandhei of Orissa (glove puppets). While these traditional puppets mainly came from the Akademi's collection, the contemporary puppets in the exhibition were mostly loaned by the Calcutta Puppet Theatre, whose collection incorporates the private collections of the late Madhulal Master and Chittaprasad of Bombay, pioneering puppeteers of our times. Other contributions to the Indian section were made by the Crafts Museum and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi. The foreign exhibits came from Indonesia, Vietnam, Japan, USSR, Romania, Mali, Madagascar, Chile, Brazil, England,

France, Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Canada, Turkey, and New Zealand.

Apart from puppets, the exhibition included musical instruments used in Indian puppetry, posters of puppetry expositions, and books on puppetry. Films on puppetry from the Akademi's archive—*Chhayanatak* (dir. Jiwan Pani) and *Nomad Puppeteer* (dir. Mani Kaul)—as well as some 200 slides were continuously projected in the display area. Traditional craftsmen could be seen making the Rajasthan Kathputli, Pavakathakali glove puppets of Kerala, Togalu Gombatta shadow puppets of Karnataka, and Beni marionettes of West Bengal. There were also shows of Kathputli, Tolu Bommalata and Beni Putul on the premises. Jointly presented by the Akademi, ICCR, and Crafts Museum, Putul was designed and mounted by Suresh Dutta, recipient of the Akademi Award for puppetry.

The symposium—International Trends in Puppetry—provided an opportunity to visiting puppeteers and experts to interact on the various techniques and cultural backgrounds of puppetry worldwide. Some 40 Indian and foreign participants attended the symposium which included brief presentations, lecture-demonstrations, illustrative talks and round-table discussions. The participants are listed below with any papers presented:

Indian Participants

K.S. Upadhyaya: 'Puppet Theatre Tradition of Karnataka'; Komal Kothari: 'Marionettes of Rajasthan'; M. Nagabhushana Sarma: 'Tolu Bommalata of Andhra Pradesh'; Suresh Dutta: 'Puppetry in Bengal (Traditional and Contemporary)'; Meher Contractor: 'Contemporary Puppetry in India'; Dadi Pudumjee: 'Contemporary Puppetry in India'; Venkat Swaminathan: 'Puppetry in Tamil Nadu'; B.V.K. Sastry: 'Painting in Puppetry'; Ranjana Pande: 'Contemporary Puppetry in India'; G. Venu: 'Puppetry in Kerala'.

Foreign Participants

Austria: G. Dubelowski Gellhorn, puppeteer, Vienna; *Australia:* Axel Axelrad, Secretary General, UNIMA, Canberra; *Brazil:* Magda Mudesta, Association Brazil de Teatro Brazil, Brasilia; *Bulgaria:* Krisimira Pencheva, Director, Sofia Central Puppet Theatre, Sofia; *Canada:* David Smith, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education,



Punch and judy show: UK.

Sofia Central Puppet Theatre: Bulgaria.





e Tropfe-n-ufe Heisse Schtel: Switzerland.

Turkey: Hayali Turan Celebi, shadow puppet expert, Ankara; UK: Percy Press II, international Punch showman, London, and John M. Blundall, Director, Cannon Hall Puppet Theatre, Birmingham; USSR: Irina Lukianova, Head, Department of Literature and Museum Puppetry, Tashkent Theatrical and Art Institute, Tashkent; Vietnam: Nguyen Hoy Hong, President, UNIMA, Hanoi, and Vgo Quynh Eiso, Member, Executive Committee UNIMA, Hanoi.

Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario; China: Cao Wanzian, Deputy Chairman of the Puppet and Shadow Play Society, Sichuan; Chile: Anna Maria Allendes Ossa, actress and puppet maker, Santiago; Czechoslovakia: Pavel Kalfus, Director, Naive Theatre, Liberec; France: Massima Shuster, Theatre de l'Arc-en-Terre, Paris, and Stelger, Member, UNIMA, Paris; GDR: Roland Mer-nits, Director, Puppet Theatre, Erfurt; Iran: Marzieh Baroumand Yazdi, writer, designer, theatre director, Puppet Sara Theatre, Tehran; Indonesia: Seto Milyadi, artist, Jakarta; Japan: Sennosuke Takeda, President, Nihon-UNIMA, T. Onagi and R. Nishikawa, Puppet Theatre PUK, Tokyo; Madagascar: Baktoarisoa Georges, Chief of Dramatic Arts Service, Ministry of Culture, Antananarivo; Mali: Yaya Coulibaly, Artistic Director, Mali National Theatre; and Bruno Maiga, Director, National Theatre, Bambo; Netherlands: Felicia van Deth, Director, Puppettheatre and Museum, The Hague; New Zealand: Nobert Hausberg, Director, String Attached Puppet Theatre, and President, UNIMA, Christchurch; Philippines: Amelia Bonifacio, University of Philippines, Manila, and Amihan Bonifacio; Romania: Micheala Tourtiza, Director, Teatrul Tandarica, Bucharest; South Korea: Sim Woo-Sung, Director, Research Institute of Korean Folk Drama, Theatrical Group of Seonangdang, Seoul; Sri Lanka: J. Tilaksiri, Professor Emeritus, University of Colombo; Sweden: Bertil Hertzberg, Script Adviser, and Gunilla Pantzar, puppet maker and stage designer, Byteatern, Kalmar; Switzerland: Michael Huber, puppeteer, e Tropfe-n-ufe Heisse Schtel, Liestal; Thailand: Prof. Onchuma, Department of Drama, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok;