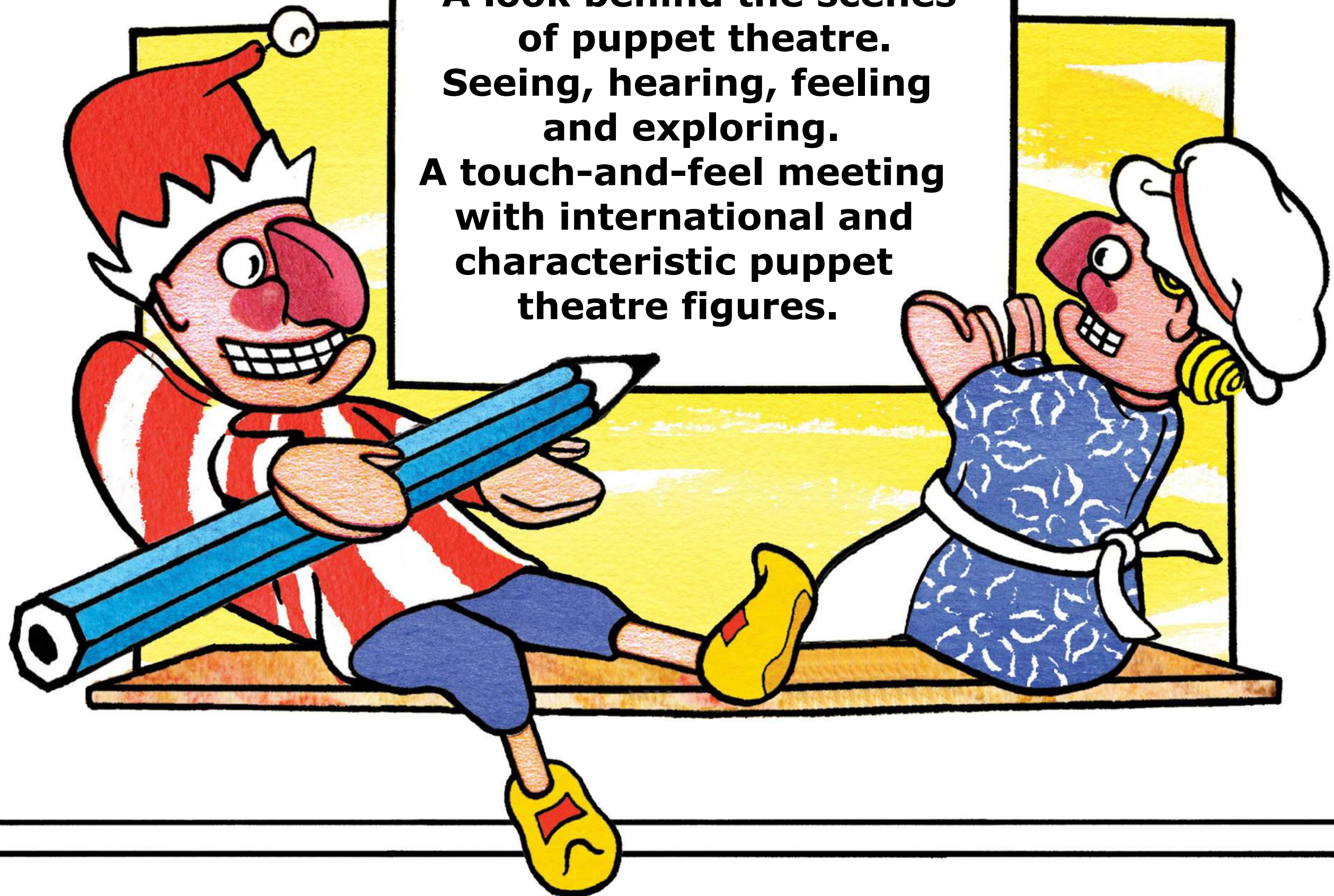






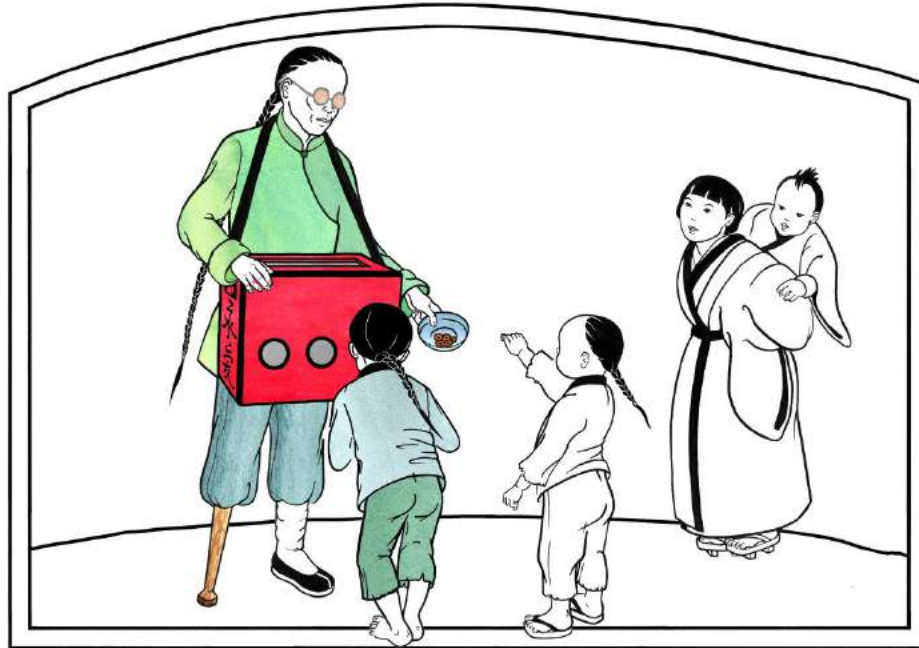


**A look behind the scenes  
of puppet theatre.  
Seeing, hearing, feeling  
and exploring.  
A touch-and-feel meeting  
with international and  
characteristic puppet  
theatre figures.**



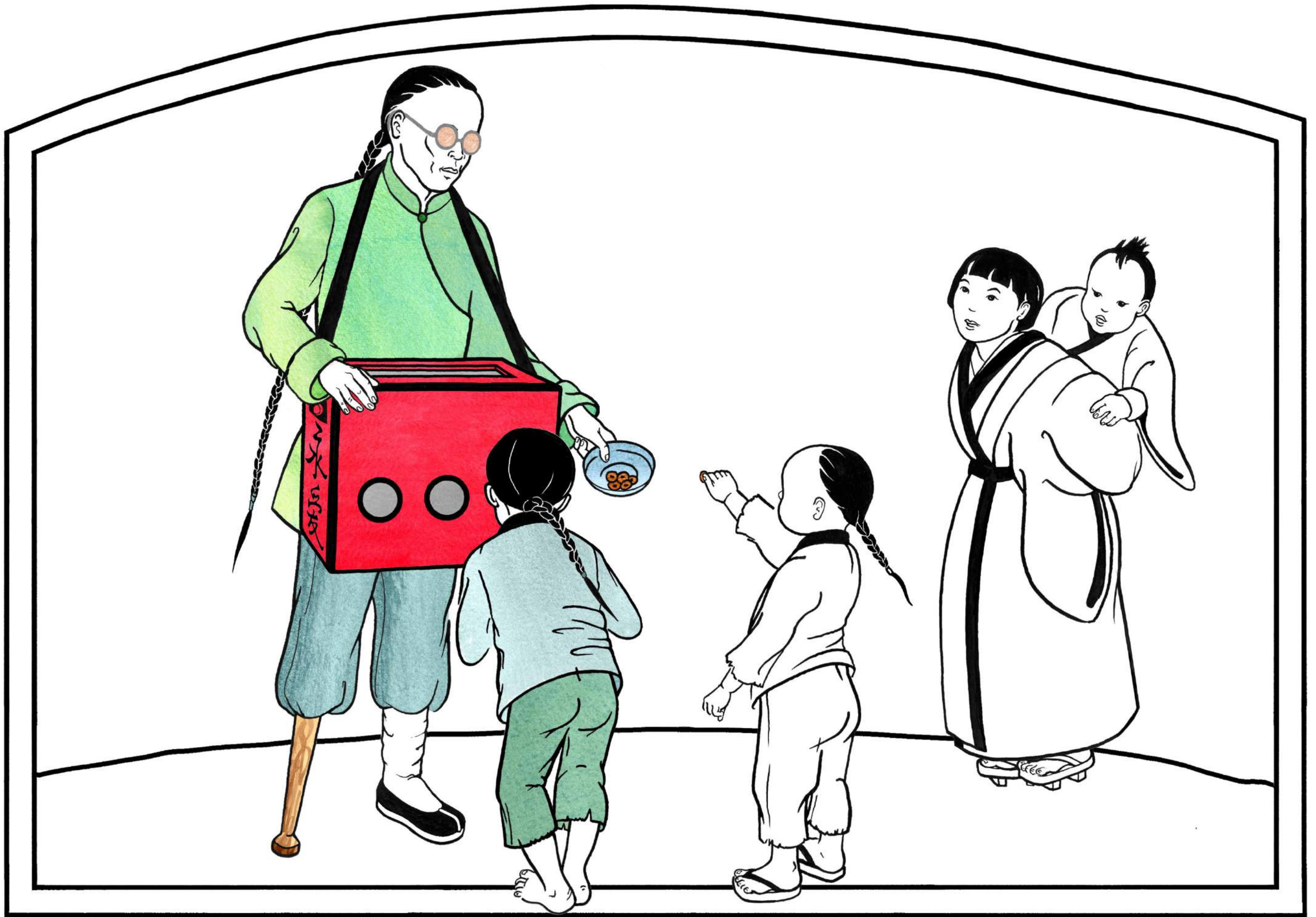


## Themes



- I Tableau de la troupe – Extra information
- II Mini pop-up exhibition – Props and objects
- III Traditional Dutch puppetry scene – Jan Klaassen
- IV Jan Klaassen and the crocodile – The hand puppet
- V Pulcinella – Black half mask
- VI Czech folk puppet theatre – Variety programme
- VII Wayang kulit – Semar
- VIII Turkish shadow puppet theatre – Figures of leather
- IX Jumping Jack – Mr & Mrs Polichinelle
- X Rod marionette – The paladins

Picture: street entertainment provided by a blind wandering showman with his peep-show box. The wooden-legged Chinese man has a long, straight strand of braided hair dangling down to the bottom of his back. The small bowl in his left hand serves as a money-collecting box. Hanging from a strap around his neck, the peep-show box is resting on his belly. A small theatre scene can be viewed through one of the three round openings at the front of the box, which is also known as a raree or rarity box. For just a few coins, people can 'peep' through one of the peepholes. A barefooted child with a strand of braided hair hanging on his back is peeping through the rightmost peephole.





## Tableau de la troupe

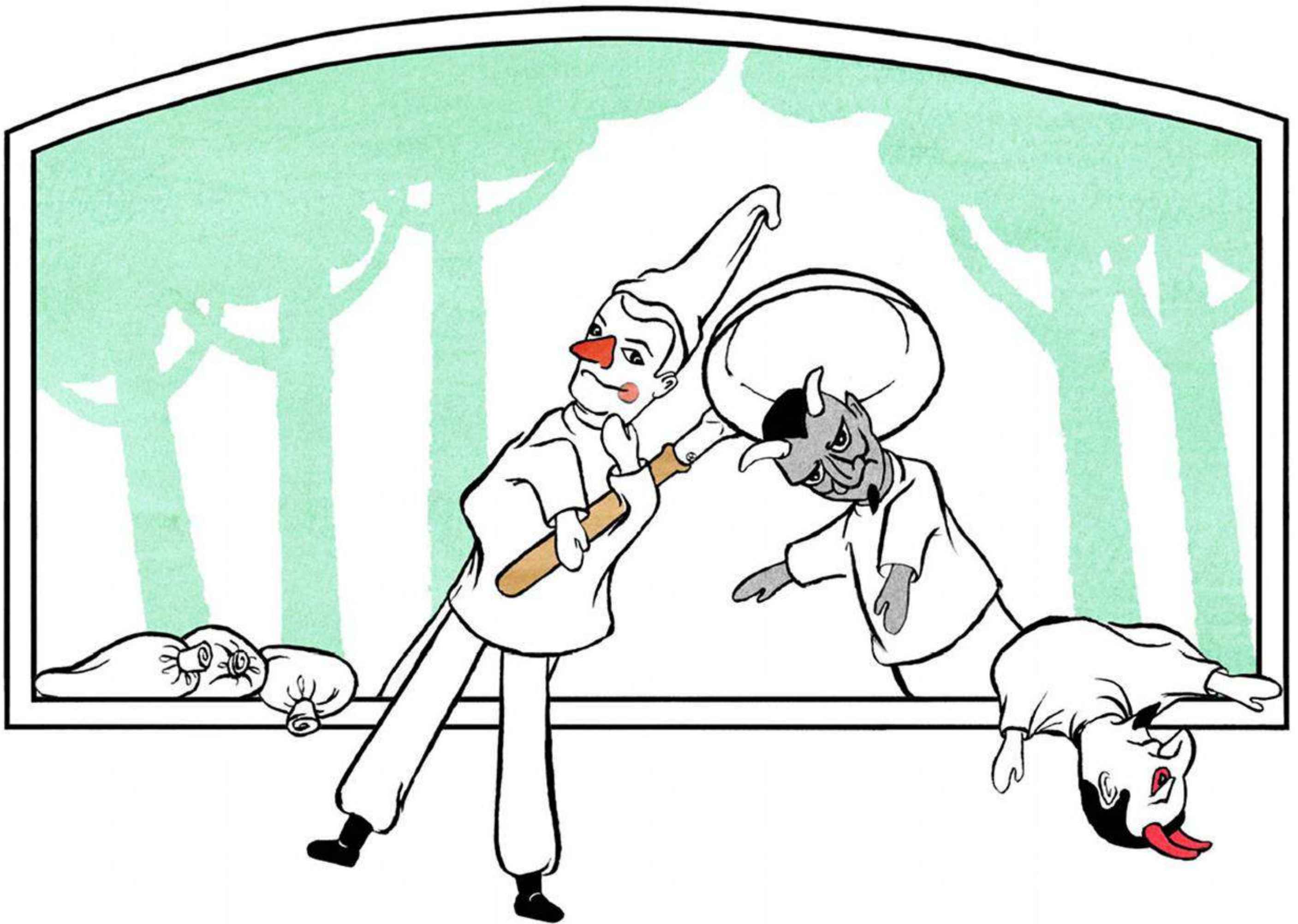


- Hand puppets: Guignol (Lyon), Pulcinella (Naples), Kasperl (Germany), crocodile, and the Dutch Jan Klaassen and his wife Katrijn.
- Rod puppets, rod marionettes and a Jumping Jack: 'Military Guards' (replica of Sophie Taeuber), Tchantchès (Liège), knight (Sicily) and Pinocchio.
- Marionettes and masks: horse, monkey and Pulcinella.
- Wayang golek: Petruk (Indonesian clown).
- Wayang kulit: Jan Klaassen, Petruk, Kancil (little mouse deer), crocodile and Garuda (wayang lamp).
- Turkish shadow figures: Karagöz and Hacivat.
- Props: puppet booth, Mr Bouncing ball, Mr Punch (cigar lighter), puppet theatre bell, carpet beater, organ grinder's collecting box, bat, walking stick, touch bag, a puppet theatre look-feel-smell-read-and-listen book and two jester's costumes.

## Extra information

Tactile pictures, texts in large-font format, braille and audio in English and Dutch, films, pictures, a website and documentation.

Picture: Hungarian Vitéz László with frying pan, bags of flour and two devils. Hand puppets.





## Mini pop-up exhibition

With this exhibition 'A look behind the scenes of puppet theatre. Seeing, hearing, feeling and exploring.' the Dutch Puppetry Museum introduces visually impaired people to the magical world of puppetry, by letting them touch and feel characteristic puppet theatre figures. Folk puppet theatre is based on centuries-old traditions, whereby puppetry figures, props, puppet play techniques, and repertoires have been passed on from one generation to the next. An international repertoire has resulted from national puppet theatres mutually influencing each other.



### Props

A variety of standard props such as a little box, a club, a frying pan, sausages, a carpet beater, the gallows, a broom, and a 'mansbakje' (organ grinder's collecting box ) are used widely in folk puppet theatre, most of which are usually disproportionately large for the puppets on the tiny puppetry stage. But this adds to the slapstick nature of the performance.

Picture: Guignol with long braided hair wearing dark glasses. On top of his waistcoat (a sleeveless vest), he wears a brown tailcoat with gold-coloured spherical buttons. He has a bow tie under his chin, and a bonnet – brimless hat – on his head. Instead of wielding his usual club, Guignol is now holding a white cane. Hand puppet, Lyon, France.





## Traditional Dutch puppetry scene



From left to right: a devil with red horns, a protruding hooked nose, and a goatee. He is holding a white cane in his hands. Jan Klaassen's wife Katrijn (the Dutch Mr Punch and Judy) stands next to him. She wears a mob cap and an apron. The Grim Reaper (*Dood van Pierlala*) is a long rod puppet. His creepy head even reaches above the window of the stage.

A moustached, knighted general stands in the centre of the framed stage. The visor on his hat is sagging and almost covers his eyes.

## A visually impaired Jan Klaassen

Jan Klaassen – the main character of traditional Dutch puppet theatre – is situated to the right of the entrance. He has a pointed cap on his head with a little bell. Jan Klaassen is also wearing dark glasses because he is visually impaired. Just like Katrijn, he wears clogs, and his little legs are dangling over the edge of the puppet theatre stage. Their chubby little baby is popping out of a tiny cloud. A flagpole with a flag is welcoming everybody to the exhibition in the Puppetry Museum – Poppenspe(e)lmuseum – in the Dutch village of Vorchten.



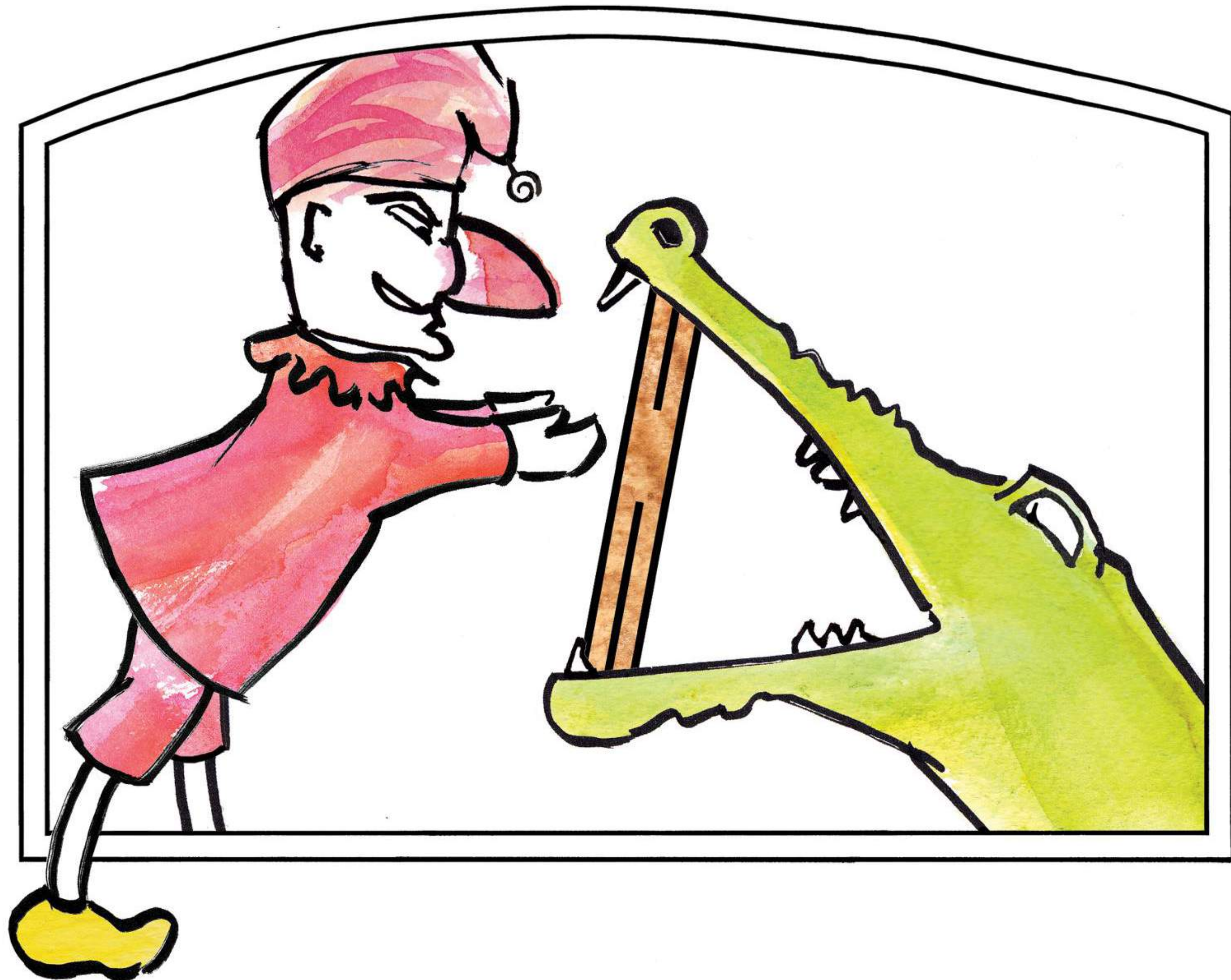
## Jan Klaassen and the crocodile



Scenes from puppet theatre with characters such as the Dutch Jan Klaassen and an animal are applied internationally. Jan Klaassen originated during the seventeenth century. He resembles the Hungarian Vitéz László, the French Polichinelle, the English Mr Punch, the Italian Pulcinella and the German Kasperl. In addition to a fixed set of puppets, the folk puppeteer generally also has a puppet that represents an animal. It is usually a monster with a large mouth that snaps.

## The hand puppet

The puppeteer moves the puppet with his fingers. There is a hole on the inside of the puppet's head and neck, where the puppeteer puts his index finger. His thumb is placed in one sleeve and his little finger – sometimes together with his ring and middle finger – in the other. The hand puppet has no body under his clothes. After all, the puppeteer's fist fills up the body area. In the past, puppet heads with hats were carved from a single piece of wood. The puppets' hands, lower legs, and feet were also made of wood.





## Pulcinella



The Italian Pulcinella has a hunchback and a pot belly. He originates from the Naples area and is the grandfather of the old Dutch Jan Klaassen and the English Mr Punch. Unlike his very colourful descendants, Pulcinella is dressed in white from top to bottom. His wide shirt with pleats around his neck is white and covers the hump on his back, as well as his wide trousers, which he wears during performances on human stage and with marionettes. His hat with

its round top, which usually drops forward, is also white and sometimes has a little bell attached to it.

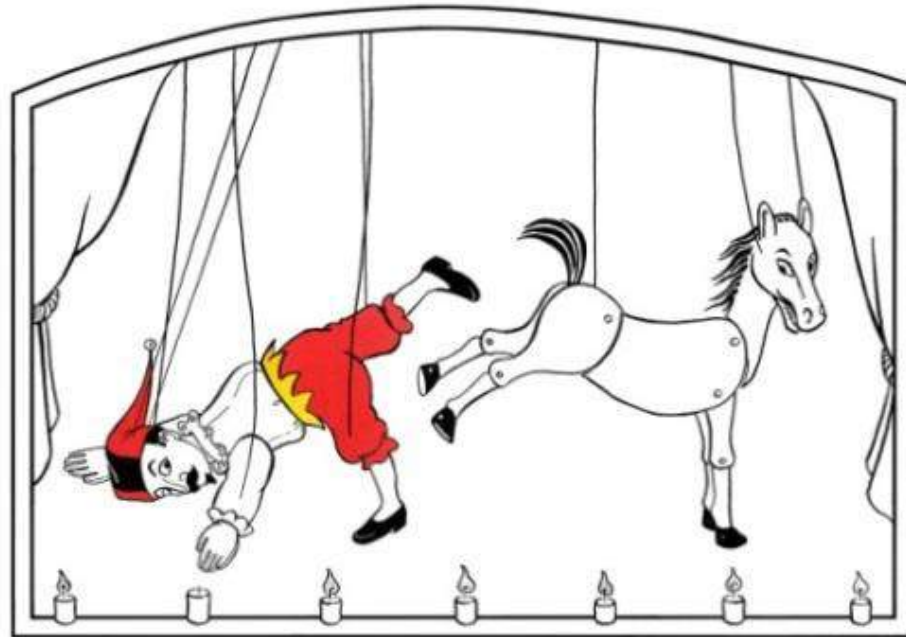
## Black half mask

The half mask that covers the upper half of Pulcinella's face is black and has a large hooked nose that resembles a bird's beak. Pulcinella is actually also a bit bird-like: his name is the diminutive of the Italian word *pulcino*, which means little chick. Using a *pivetta* (a throat whistle), the puppeteer gives Pulcinella a squeaky voice in puppet theatre. On human stage, he walks like a rooster.





## Czech folk puppet theatre

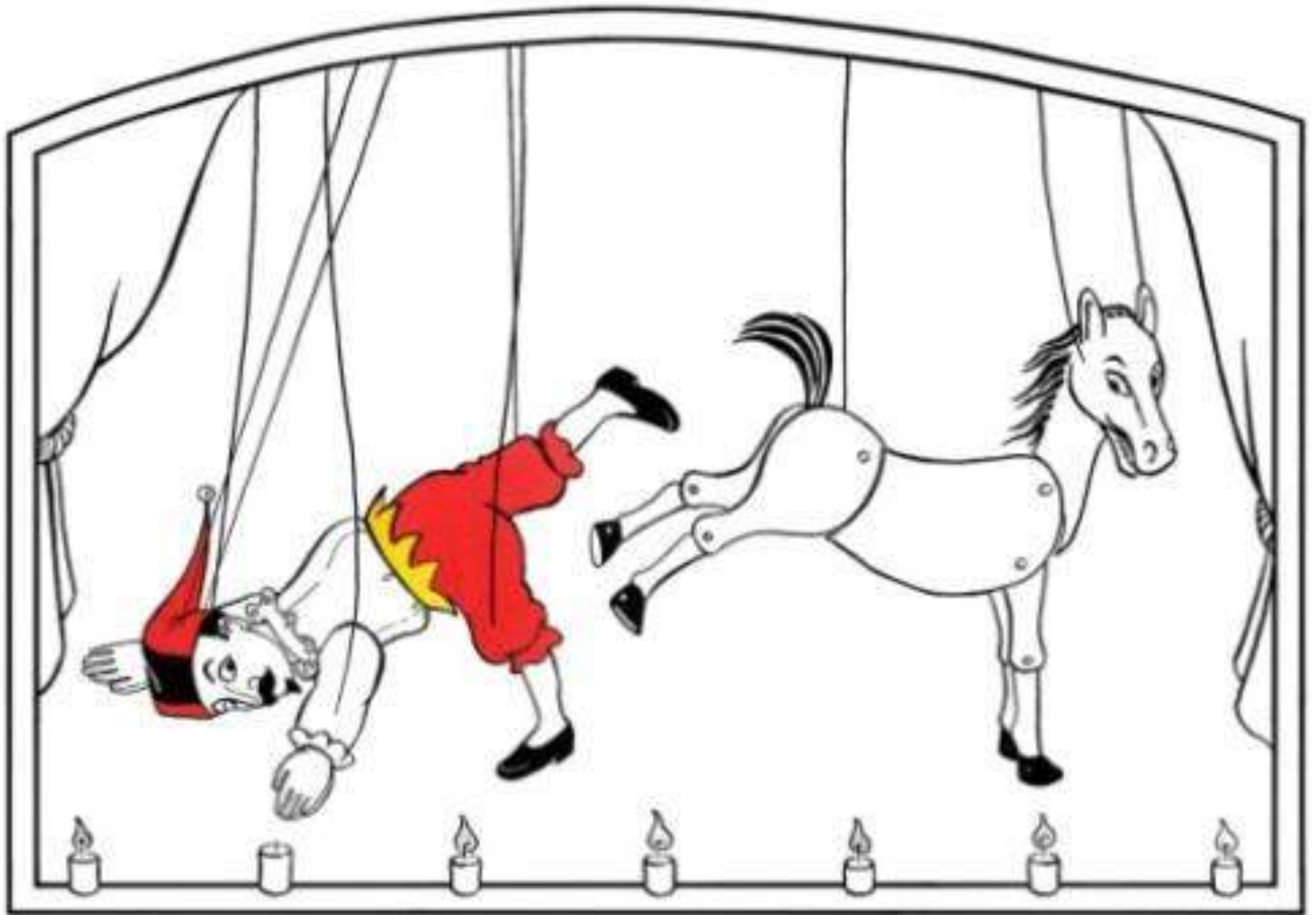


In Czech and Slovakian folk puppet theatre, the small, comical Gašparko plays the role of servant. He has a single-pointed or two-pointed cap on his head with little bells on each tip, and he has a collar around his neck. He wears long, white knee socks under his red knickerbockers.

Gašparko has dark hair, a pointed beard, a moustache and dark eyes. This very flexible, lively marionette contrasts sharply with the straightforward movements of the rod marionettes in traditional puppet theatre.

## Variety programme

There is usually a short variety programme at the end of a puppet show. For example, Gašparko may appear on his little white horse Miško, making him do tricks. When the horse starts jumping about, Gašparko falls onto the ground.





## Wayang kulit

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 is mounted between the puppeteer and the screen.



## Semar

One of the comical characters is the Javanese wise fool and divine jester Semar. He is the servant and adviser of gods and aristocrats. He has a fat bottom and belly, a large face and only one tooth in his mouth.





## Turkish shadow puppet theatre

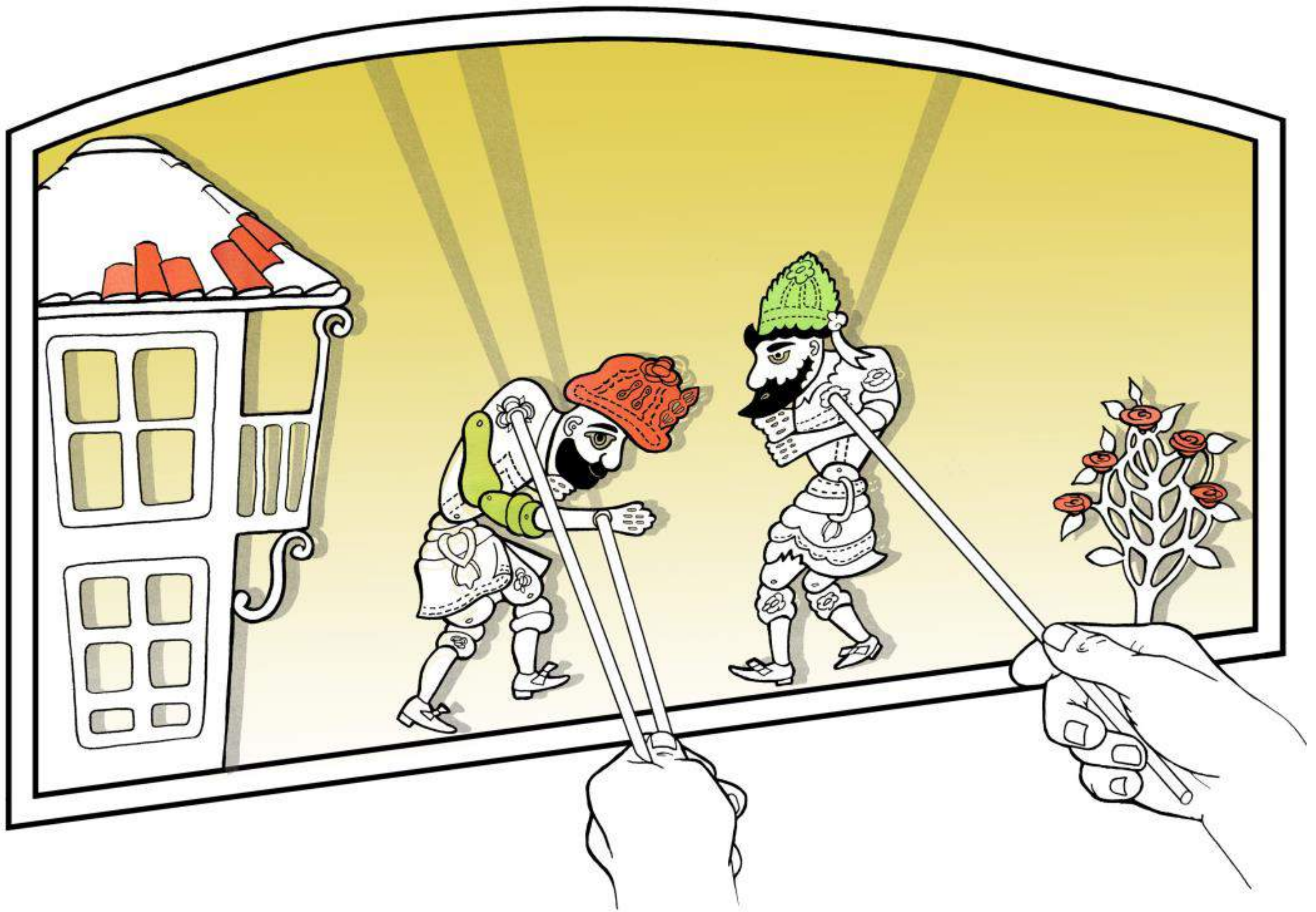


Karagöz is the main character in traditional Turkish shadow puppet theatre, which means 'black eye'. He has a black beard, is bald and wears a turban. Karagöz is a hunchback. He can only move one arm, with which he deals hefty blows.

Karagöz is underdeveloped compared to his friend Hacivat.

### Figures of leather

Turkish shadow figures are made of transparent leather which is decorated with holes and painted colourfully. They are moved directly against the screen with a short stick that is attached to their shoulders.







## Jumping Jack

A Jumping Jack is a flat toy puppet. Its hinged limbs move when you pull the string at the bottom of its body. The arms and legs move simultaneously but only sideways. Jumping Jack puppets can be made of wood, but the nineteenth-century paper puppets are better known. In those days sheets were produced with figure parts that could be cut out and coloured, if so desired.

## Mr & Mrs Polichinelle

In French the Jumping Jack is called pantin. Polichinelle used to be the main character in French puppet theatre. During the nine-teenth century he was ousted by Guignol. The theatre in which the puppets perform is often also called Guignol. Polichinelle's costume is very colourful. He wears a tricorne hat, has a pointed chin, a hooked nose, a hump and a big pot belly. Like the Dutch Jan Klaassen and the English Mr Punch he attacks his opponents by wielding a big club.







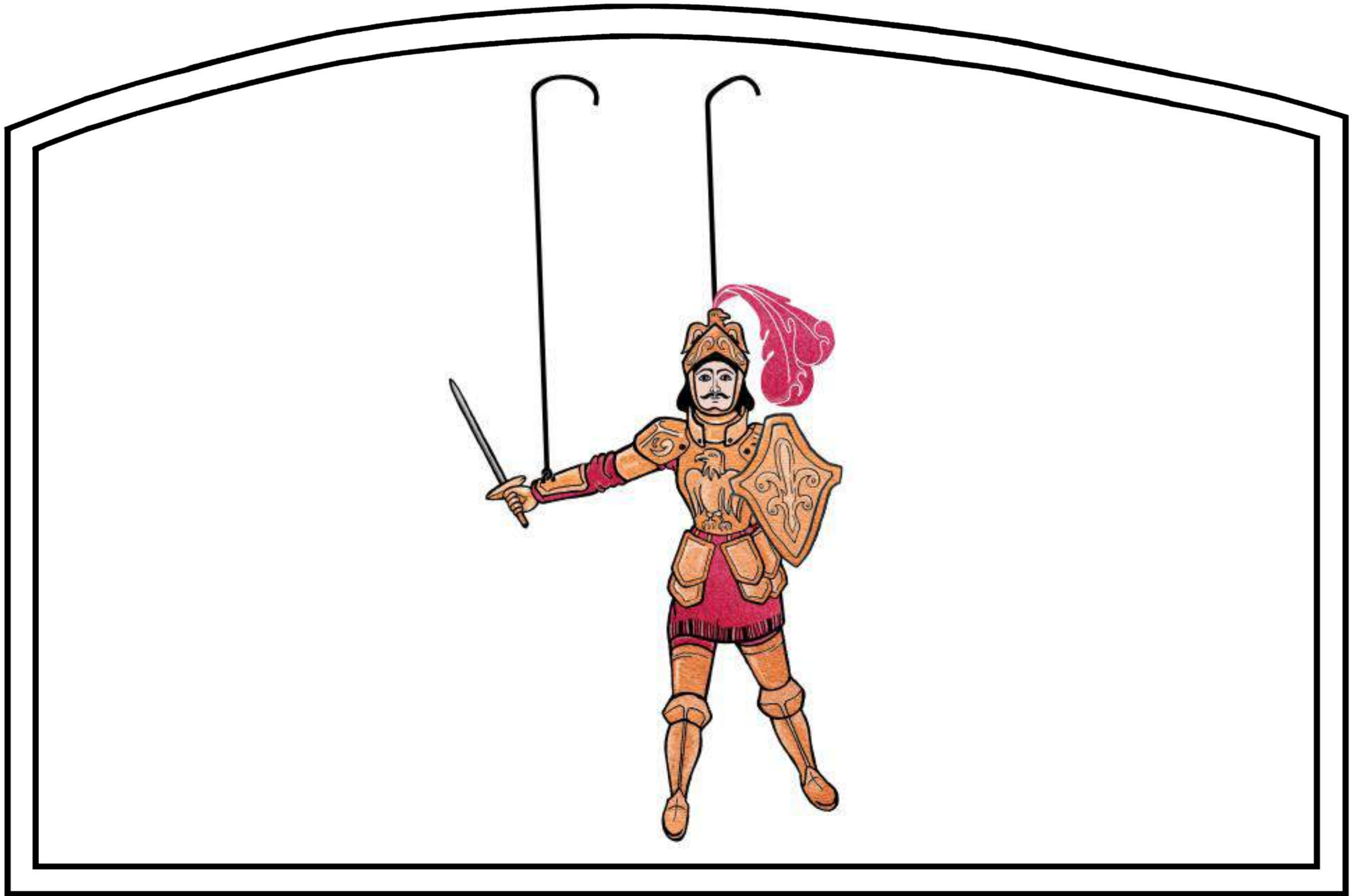
## Rod marionette

Generally, a rod marionette is a very heavy marionette with its head hanging from a rod. A second rod or a string is often used to move an arm. Well-known varieties are the Sicilian, Czech, Antwerp and Liège rod marionettes. The puppets are moved from above. The fight scenes are usually very wild and rowdy, with heads literally rolling.



## The paladins

The repertoire comprises the adventures of the medieval emperor Charlemagne and his knights (the paladins). Their fight against the Saracens (the Mohammedans) was fierce, with heads literally rolling. The fighters wear a suit of armour and a helmet and they carry a shield of hammered copper.







Stichting Het Poppenspe(e)lmuseum (ANBI)  
Musée de Marionnettes et de Guignol Puppentheatermuseum  
Puppetry Museum

Kerkweg 38 8193 KL Vorchten NL

Tel./Tél.: +31(0)578 - 56 02 39 Fax: +31(0)578 - 56 06 21

Info: +31(0)578 - 63 13 29

[www.poppenspelmuseum.nl](http://www.poppenspelmuseum.nl) [www.poppenspel.info](http://www.poppenspel.info)

[www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2](http://www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2)

[www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl](http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl)

[www.poppenspelmuseum.nl/onderwijs](http://www.poppenspelmuseum.nl/onderwijs)

[info@poppenspelmuseum.nl](mailto:info@poppenspelmuseum.nl)

This project on internet, see:

<http://poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/BlindenprojectEng.pdf> and

<http://poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/Pdf/Pamphlet159d.pdf>.

Illustrations: Elsje Zwart (Puppetry techniques and characters – Poppenspe(e)ltechnieken en –figuren – a Dutch-language educational series that highlights folk and mainstream puppet theatre, 2010).  
Images Jumping Jacks/Pantins Mr and Mrs Polichinelle: Nouvelle Imagerie d'Épinal, Frankrijk, ca. 1900.