

7th German Puppet Theatre Conference “From a different perspective”

August 18th – 27th, 2023, in the “Theater der Nacht” in Northeim



Dear friends of puppet theatre, dear colleagues!

We are living in times of upheaval. Besides major social issue such as the climate, peace, democracy, integration, and diversity, we are questioning the perspectives on which our arguments and our lives are based: To what extent are we ready to listen to others, and to understand? How well are we able to convey, or accept, our own and other people’s visions of life and work? What are the premises we require? What can puppet theatre contribute to trigger a change of perspective? In the symposium, we are going to examine the possibilities offered by our genre of theatre from various and shifting perspectives, and our workshops will be dedicated to practical research and experiments. We are looking forward to experiencing an intense and vibrant conference!

Yours truly, the Boards of UNIMA Germany and VDP

Conference participation

You have the option of participating in the entire conference, just the symposium, or only the workshop week, where you will also be given a chance to research, play, or discuss your own topics with colleagues in participant-led projects in the evenings from Tuesday through Thursday. So bring any burning issues to the conference to share! The workshop results will be shown in the public “Night of Puppets”, and duly celebrated. The conference will end on Sunday, August 27th, 2023, following an evaluatory discussion at 12:00 (12 PM). Afterwards, there will be time for networking and BBQ. Participation is mandatory for the entire conference

Conference Schedule 18th-27th August 2023

Friday, August 18th

Symposium

- 20:00 (8 PM) Opening of the 7th German Puppet Theatre Conference
20:30 (8:30 PM) "Firebirds" – street parade from Theater Titanick, in
Norheim's market square, part of the 7th festival "Mit
Hand & Fuß" ("With Hand & Foot")
21:00 (9 PM) Procession towards "Theater der Nacht", "Cock Tales",
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Saturday, August 19th

Symposium

- 10:00 (10 AM) Theoretical symposium "Change of perspective"
Moderators: Ulrike Seybold (Dortmund) and Stephan
Schlafke (Lübeck)
Keynote speakers: Dr. Antonia Napp (Lübeck)
René Reith (Hamburg)
Silke Technau (Lübeck)
Kata Csató (Budapest)
13:00 (1 PM) Lunch break
14:00 (2 PM) Theoretical symposium
18:00 (6 PM) Break
20:00 (8 PM) "Time Travelers", Die Stelzer – Theatre on stilts, in
Norheim's market square, part of the 7th "Mit Hand &
Fuß" ("With Hand & Foot") festival
22:00 (10 PM) Late-night chat in the theatre
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Sunday, August 20th

Symposium - opening of the workshop part

- 10:00 (10 AM) Theoretical symposium: Conclusion
13:00 (1 PM) Lunch break
14:00 (2 PM) "Picnic in the Park", theatre titbits and culinary morsels
18:00 (6 PM) Break
19:00 (7 PM) Start of the conference's workshop part
20:00 (8 PM) "Hotel of Two Worlds": FT Marmelock in the theatre, part of
the 7th "Mit Hand & Fuß" ("With Hand & Foot") festival
21:00 (9 PM) Late-night chat in the theatre
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Monday, August 21st – Friday, August 25th Workshops and individual projects

- 09:00 – 18:00 (9 AM – 6 PM) Warm-up, workshops of choice, lunch, Meet the
Master
20:00 (8 PM) Participants' projects
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Saturday, August 26th

"Night of Puppets"

- 09:00 (8 PM) Warm-up, workshops, rehearsals, and assemblage
20:00 (8 PM) "Night of Puppets" in the market square
Presentation of all workshop results
21:30 (9:30 PM) Procession towards "Theater der Nacht"
22:00 (10 PM) Dancing in the theatre with "Schräge Vögel"
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Sunday, August 27th

Final plenary session

- 09:00 (9 AM) Clean-up
10:00 (10 AM) Final round in the theatre hall
12:00 (12 PM) BBQ and networking in, around, and in front of the theatre
14:30 (2:30 PM) Conclusion



WORKSHOP 1: “From Mask to Fictional Character”

Mask creation and improvisation with Sylvia Wanke, Germany

From cheerful and serene, tragic and humorous metamorphoses to magical theatrical transformations through sculpting – concealing – testing – improvising. The first part of the workshop involves building a mask, covering the basics of materials, techniques and aesthetics, aspects such as the stage presence of a theatre mask, and forms of three-dimensional design. Depending on the characteristics of your individual mask you will then use it to improvise, stage your own transformation, or develop a brief scene. From character masks to expressive abstract designs, from small sample situations to interpretations featuring music or short passages of text – the mask represents a subjective, altered view from a different perspective. The second part of the workshop is dedicated to studies using a neutral mask: a fictional character is created, tested, presented through short routines or miniature choreographies, metamorphoses and transitions, and amplified through the use of posture, movement and distortion of the body, in addition to the mask. (up to 10 participants, workshop in German language, english is also possible)



Sylvia Wanke studied sculpture, figural design, and art education at the “Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste” in Stuttgart, Germany. With a one-year scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) she attended the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, Czech Republic, and was introduced to the scenography of puppet theatre, which could not be studied in Western Europe at the time. Since 1994, Sylvia Wanke has held a teaching position for Creative Design at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst (State University of Music and Performing Arts) in Stuttgart, Germany, within the Puppet Theatre degree course. In 2005, she accepted a position as a guest lecturer for figure design at the Burg Giebichenstein art academy in Halle, Germany. Since 1998, the artist has been increasingly focussing on the conception and implementation of scenography, set design and figure design for the theatre stage. As a free-lancer, she develops moveable objects, toys, and sculptures.

www.kunstspielzeug.de

WORKSHOP 2: “A Play is Born”

Putting together short scenes and exploring dramatic concepts with Kata Csató from Hungary. How do I develop a scene, or a whole play? What concepts can be helpful? Starting with a poem, we are going to immerse ourselves in the visual worlds of puppet theatre, and work to create some practice lessons. We are looking at the perspectives of the protagonists, the players, and the audience. At the end of the workshop, each participant will have their own little scene to take home. (up to 10 participants, workshop in English and German)



Kata Csató is a professional puppeteer who has been working as a freelance actor and director since 2004. She develops her own plays and teaches acting and directing for puppet theatre.

Her productions were performed in various cities and countries, including Hungary, Lithuania, Serbia, Romania, Russia, and Poland, and have won many awards, including at the International Festival of Children's Theatres in Subotica, Serbia, and the International Puppet Festival in Kurgan, Siberia. She holds a PhD and received her training in Pécs, Hungary, and Białystok in Poland. She is a founding member of the FreeSZFE Society, and has been its president since the autumn of 2021.

www.gorki.de

WORKSHOP 3: “Establishing a scene with hand puppets”

a workshop with David Faraco, Sofie Krog Teater, Denmark. We are going to play with hand puppets, explore their specific movement patterns, their comical potential, and their characteristics. We will invent scenarios, figure out what changes along with various perspectives, and work out the rhythm and musical score of the scenes. At the end of the workshop, our results will be presented in the “Night of Puppets”.

(up to 10 participants, workshop in English language)



David Faraco from Spain began to study theatre as an actor from 1992–1995, and then specialised in puppet theatre from 1994 onward. Between 1994 and 2016, he was part of the Libélula Puppet Theatre Company, participating in major puppet theatre festivals around the world. One tour, for example, organised by the Ministry of Education and Culture, took him to Mexico, Peru, and Cuba (2000–2002). Also, he worked in the Nao Damores company, headed by Ana Zamora, as an actor and puppeteer, manipulator, stage designer, and puppet maker. Since 2010, he has been associated with the renowned Danish Sofie Krog Teater, co-creating the following shows: *The House* (2010), *Circus Funestus* (2017), and *Quacksalver* (2020). These shows won multiple awards, touring the most prestigious puppet theatre festivals all over the world and participating in events in 33 countries all in all.
www.sofiekrog.com

WORKSHOP 4: “Paper! Paper? Paper.”

In this workshop, we focus on paper as a material, and on exploring all the possibilities it provides for creating animated characters, realising its full potential as a carrier of life and scenic presentation. – What do we need in order to witness how life is created from matter, and what happens when it dies? – Inspired by August Strindberg’s drama “A Dream Play” (1902), we will immerse ourselves in the concept of “from a different perspective”. In this play, Strindberg has images shift and flow together, while stage attributes and characters change and shift as well. Strindberg presents a growing castle, characters who walk through walls, and a grown-up man who transforms into a schoolboy. (up to 10 participants, workshop in English language)



Helena Nilsson is a puppeteer, theatre director, and artistic manager of Marionetteatern in Stockholm, Sweden. Between 1985 and 1988, she was trained in all aspects of puppetry under the leadership of Michael Meschke. Meschke had founded Marionetteatern in 1958 and, in 1999, transferred management of theatre to Helena Nilsson. Since 1998, she directed most of the theatre's productions, performed as a puppeteer in stage shows and television productions, and fulfilled national and international roles as a puppet theatre supervisor and teacher.

www.kulturhusetstadsteatern.se/om-marionetteatern

WORKSHOP 5: “Creative Writing” with Helmut Landwehr, Germany

Understanding literature: to read and analyse literature; to work out what is hidden in the text. Explore the inconsistencies, contradictions, or overtones that might lead to deeper understanding. Writing workshop: Alfalfa, Maravilla! Crazy and creative punning, daring to spout nonsense, including leaps and breaks, playfully establishing witty associations, or diving head first into a dream world. Changing perspectives while writing. Talking from your own angle, or from a protagonist's point of view. Looking back from a fictional future, or fantasizing about things to come. Writing scenes, or rather dialogues – visionary, surreal, or onomatopoeic: inventing their own means of expression for every character on stage. (up to 10 participants, workshop in German language)



In 2000, **Helmut Landwehr** completed his doctorate with a new interpretation of Heinrich Heine's last major cycle of poems, “Romanzero”. Until 2015, he worked as a department head in the education and advanced training of German language teachers for vocational schools in Stuttgart. An author of art books and plays, he is a member of the free acting group „wanke.ensemble“, working as a production manager and dramatic advisor. His last assignment was a teaching position at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst (State University of Music and Performing Arts) in Stuttgart, Germany, in the “Spoken Arts” course of study – interpretation and analysis of literature, and creative writing.

www.anders-lesen.com

Organisation and fees

The participation fee for the **theoretical symposium** is € 40, including water, coffee/tea and cake. Overnight accommodations and performance admission need to be booked separately! Workshop week participation costs € 380 for VDP or UNIMA members, and € 440 for non-members. Early bookers (up to and including May 31st, 2023) will receive a 10% discount on

the participation fee.

Students may apply for a stipend for the conference with UNIMA.

The workshop fee includes:

Admission for the workshop week's opening night performance - Attendance of one participants' project- Presentation of the workshop results during the "Night of Puppets"- Lunch and supper in the Jugendherberge Northeim (the local youth hostel)

Tickets: www.theater-der-nacht.de/de/karten

accomodation: www.jugendherberge-northeim.de
www.northeim-touristik.de

Organiser and event location: Theater der Nacht, Northeim in cooperation with UNIMA Germany and VDP

For more information, please visit: www.theater-der-nacht.de/de/das-haus-unima

www.unima.de/die-konferenz-uebersicht www.vdp-ev.de

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The 7th puppet conference from 18th to 27th August 2023 in Northeim/Germany-www.unima.de - www.theater-der-nacht.de - www.vdp-ev.de