

# Puppets and Masks of ITALY

and

## The Further Adventures of ARLECCHINO

with Dennis Murphy



PUPPETRY / LOTE

### 1. Puppets and Masks of Italy

In presenting this show for ITALIAN STUDIES Dennis Murphy's aim is to introduce *Commedia dell'Arte* characters to the children so that teachers can then use the characters as a teaching tool.

Having seen these characters in action, the children will be enthused to know more about them and this interest will give teachers the opportunity to teach vocabulary etc., through a further study of characters. The children will meet Arlecchino, Italy's most famous clown, first as a Mask character and later in the show in the puppet comedy, "The Frog Prince". The old miser Pantalone and Arlecchino's beloved Colombina also feature in the puppet segment, presented in a traditional puppet booth or 'baracca'.

The show is highly entertaining and can be adapted to the age-spread of the audience. The presentation is in English with only an occasional use of Italian making it suitable for all levels.

### 2. The Further Adventures of Arlecchino

In this much requested sequel to PUPPETS AND MASK OF ITALY, Italian Studies students are reacquainted with the zany *Commedia dell'Arte* characters both in Mask and as Puppets. The masks are reviewed and the characters' names are drilled, concentrating on the old miser Pantalone. A new puppet comedy "ARLECCHINO'S SISTER ACT" involves the Pantalone character and uses two of the classic *Commedia* devices: disguise and trickery. This show featured at Italy's "TEATRI DEL MONDO" Festival, the largest children's theatre festival in Europe. The show is highly entertaining and can be adapted to the age-spread of the audience.

### 3. Arlecchino to the Rescue

In this, third show for students who have seen "THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF ARLECCHINO" Italian Studies students are reacquainted with the zany *Commedia dell'Arte* characters both in Mask and as Puppets.

The masks are reviewed and the characters' names are drilled. Then it's "Off to the puppet show!!!"

The puppetry segment features Arlecchino in a perilous but hilarious adventure that reveals the Brigand element that made its way into the Italian Puppet shows. The Principessa has been kidnapped and only Arlecchino is brave enough (or silly enough) to attempt the rescue. With the aid of his "Feral Godmother", Arlecchino sets off for the deep, dark woods.

Dennis describes the life of the "piazza" and all the activities that went on there. The show then features a "Guest Appearance" by the ferocious, though cowardly Capitano seen both in mask and again in the puppet segment.

### 4. A Dog's Life

The focus is on the character of Dottore who stars in the comedy puppet show "A Dog's Life". Arlecchino is looking after Isabella's precious Puppy when it suddenly runs off. Now Arlecchino has to pretend to be the Puppy – and it's doggy shampoo time!!! (What a dog's life!)

### 5. Arlecchino and his Magic Lamp

In this send-up of the classic Aladdin story, Arlecchino is in terrible trouble (again!). The Devil is after him. The Magic Lamp is Arlecchino's only hope. But will he waste his three wishes? Yes, probably.

**Please specify at the time of booking which of these five programmes you require.**

### THE PERFORMER

Dennis' puppetry has won him widespread acclaim in Australia and the Ural Citation for Excellence in Russia. In Italy he presents his shows in Italian and has performed in a wide variety of venues from atop the medieval walls of Treviso to an outdoor fair in the shadow of Juliet's castle. Dennis represented Australia at Italy's Teatri del Mondo Festival, the largest children's theatre festival in Europe. He commutes regularly to Italy to perform at puppet festivals and carry out research. The Theatre Critic of Rome's L'UNITA newspaper called him "one of the world's greatest puppeteers". Over the last decade Dennis has shared his passion for the "Commedia dell'Arte" tradition with tens of thousands of Australian school children.

<b>DURATION:</b> 55 minutes	<b>SUITABILITY:</b> Years K-6
<b>PERFORMANCE COST</b> \$4.50 per student \$0.45 gst \$4.95 Total	<b>PERFORMANCE MINIMUM 100 STUDENTS **</b> \$450.00 per show \$ 45.00 gst \$495.00 Total

\* Teachers Notes available on website below.

\*\*PLEASE NOTE EVERY STUDENT OVER 100 PAYS \$4.50 + GST