

PUPPET TRICKSTERS

with **Dennis Murphy**



“Dennis is one of the world’s greatest puppeteers.” L’Unita Newspaper, Rome

THE PERFORMANCE

Tricksters who outmanoeuvre bullies and survive on their wits are much loved characters that have appeared in most cultures around the world. Here we meet some of these scoundrels in a programme full of trickery, deception and delight. Puppeteer Dennis Murphy presents the world of the much-loved “Trickster Puppet”.

Dennis introduces Pulcinella, the Southern Italian puppet who began Europe’s tradition of glove puppetry. Students meet his descendants: The English Punch, Russian Petrushka, Greek Karagiosis, and Turkish Karagoz.

Alecchino, Northern Italy’s trickster, then stars in a madcap skit that uses traditional puppet comedy techniques that continue to make people laugh today. In Asia, amazingly similar characters are found among the panakawan, the clowns who fulfil the trickster role in the shows of Indonesia. Dennis shows the audience the character Semar with his mischievous son, Petruk then demonstrates King Rama from the Hindu tradition and the clown Bladu from the Islamic plays.

The programme also looks at the “Trick Marionette” tradition; string puppets that perform impossible feats like the classic skeleton that falls to pieces and then re-assembles itself. Using a broken doll, a pen and his bare hand, Dennis demonstrates a simple but startling way to bring them all alive as a ventriloquial puppet. He then divulges some of the outrageous tricks that ventriloquists got up to in the past. Lastly, there is the very latest in computerised puppets, or is it a puppetised computer, or is it another trick?

THE PERFORMER

Master Puppeteer Dennis Murphy has explored all aspects of the art of puppetry and its history. He has studied Puppetry in Indonesia and trained with the Honan Puppet Company of China. He was presented more than 10,000 performances over four continents. In Russia, he was awarded the “Ural Citation for Excellence”. Dennis is probably best known for his Italian-style Commedia dell’Arte glove puppetry which he introduced into Australia. The drama critic of the Italian national newspaper, L’Unita, called Dennis “one of the world’s finest glove-puppeteers.”

Cross Curriculum	Multi Modal Texts	Content Descriptions / Outcomes
(2) Asian Culture (3) Sustainability – Social	(V) Visual (G) Gestural (S) Spatial	DRAMA identify features & purposes of drama PDHPE evaluates personal decisions ENGLISH experiences & world of texts - examine how authors represent ideas HSIE identifies customs & traditions of others HISTORY explores a range of sources about the past VISUAL ARTS connect visual arts to other subjects

DURATION: 50 minutes	SUITABILITY: Years F-6
PERFORMANCE COST \$4.50 per student \$0.45 gst \$4.95 Total	PERFORMANCE MINIMUM - 100 STUDENTS** \$450.00 per show \$ 45.00 gst \$495.00 Total

*Teachers’ Notes available on website.

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