



## A travelling puppet theatre project

### **A look behind the scenes of puppet theatre**

Hearing, feeling, doing, and exploring. A multilingual touch-and-feel introduction to characteristic figures from international puppet theatre, both in the Dutch Puppetry Museum and on several other locations. A travelling puppet theatre project - comprising an exhibition, a small table puppet theatre show, tactile books, and a bilingual website – created for the visually impaired (blind and partially sighted) and others who are interested in the world of puppetry. Age groups: children and adults.

## Mini puppet show and books

### **Three colourful books with speech bubbles and a performance**

In addition to the exhibition, we are presenting the mini puppet show entitled 'De kus van Katrijn' / 'De tút fan Katryntsje' / 'Katrijn's kiss' / 'Der Schmatz von Gretl'. This puppet show comes with audio books of the same titles: colourful, loose-leaf look-smell-feel-read-listen-and-play puppet theatre books. The twelve easily removable pages, which are made of felt fabric, depict seven traditional puppet theatre scenes and tangible speech bubbles. The fabrics and other materials used, make the characteristic puppet theatre figures, objects and props highly tactile and touchable, and also contain scents. The flat figures of the table puppet theatre show are made of fabric-covered cardboard, and can be moved back and forth to re-enact the story. They are identical to the puppet theatre figures in the book.

## Tangible figures in black

### **Multilingual book version with combined script**

In addition to the colourful, tangible audio books, a multilingual version – in Dutch, Frisian, English and German – is available in black fabric textures and materials. This allows sighted people to experience and discover – or rather, 'see' and 'feel' – the world darkness in which blind people live. The participants may or may not want to cover their eyes with the accompanying eye patches. The exchangeable, clearly framed, multilingual speech bubbles in combined script (double print: braille with synchronously running block capitals/plain text), can be removed from the book, and have been secured with Velcro tape.

## □ Technical details audio books

### **Music, text and applause**

The tactile audio books have a start and stop button, recorded texts, music, applause, and, obviously, are also fitted with a volume button. The music clips originate from 'La musica notturna delle strade di Madrid' – Night Music of the Streets of Madrid ('Minuetto dei Ciechi' – The Minuet of the Blind Beggars) by the composer Luigi Boccherini (ca. 1780). The text of the black-paged book can be listened to by selecting the required language with the rotating button.

## Tableau de la troupe

### **International puppet theatre figures**

In twelve short, question and answer rhymes the old-Dutch Katrijn (Judy in English folk puppet theatre) invites four international puppet theatre figures to tell her who she should marry. All of them advise her to marry Jan Klaassen (Mr Punch in English folk puppet theatre). The interacting figures in the rhyme are:

- Katrijn is holding a carpet beater, and she has a mob cap on her head that smells of lavender.
- Guignol (from Lyon) is wearing a black bonnet – a brimless cap – and his hair is plaited into a long braid. He has a bow tie under his chin. He wears a buttoned waistcoat and shoes with laces.
- Gnafron (from Lyon) is Guignol's friend. He wears a top hat on his head and has a bow tie under his chin. His pinafore – a type of apron – is made of leather. He is holding a bottle of wine with a loose cork.
- Vitéz László (from Hungary) is wearing a pointed hat. He is clasping a frying pan between his tiny hands, with in it a sausage that smells of cloves.
- Pulcinella (from Naples) is the ancestor of many European clown puppets. A half mask covers the upper half of his face and his hat is leaning forward. He is holding a broom in his tiny hands.
- Jan Klaassen (from the Netherlands) is wearing a pointed hat with a little bell. He has a hump and a big pot belly, and he wears wooden clogs. He is holding a big club between his tiny hands.

The little mouths of the figures have been made of zippers.

## Props

### **Fabric textures and different materials**

The fabric textures and materials used include: satin, velour, lace, cotton, tulle, jersey, felt, wool (knitted and crocheted), rubber, leather, plastic, fluffy materials, metal, and wood.

Puppet theatre - wood; little curtain - velour; little bell - metal; kiss - crocheted (of velour or synthetic material); bat - wood; carpet beater - plaited straw; frying pan - wooden handle with metal and plastic; sausages - latex; broom - wooden handle with fibres; bottle - plastic with cork and thermoplastic; half mask - leather.

## Floor mat and audience

### **Dozens of tiny mouths**

When the book and small puppet theatre are presented, the audience can be seated on soft, velvet mouth-shaped cushions. Or they can sit down on a latex floor mat covered with dozens of tiny mouths in relief. Number of participants/spectators: a maximum of 5 to 25 people.

## Documents

### **Supplementary information: texts and images**

Supplementary information – in text and images – relating to folk puppet theatre and associated arts is available in swell touch paper and transparencies. These contain tactile – touchable – line drawings and texts in combined script/double print (braille and printed letter).

## Website

### **Two webpages: Dutch and English + Frisian and German**

All the project information - written and recorded texts, images, music, sounds, films, interviews etc. - can be consulted on two web pages:

<http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/blinden.aspx> (in Dutch) and [http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/blinden\\_EN.aspx](http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/blinden_EN.aspx) (in English). See also:

<http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/pamflet165a.pdf> (information in Dutch),

<http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/Pdf/Pamphlet165c.pdf> (information in German) and

<http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/Pamphlet165d.pdf> (information in English).

## Realisation and information

### **Exhibition, books, puppet show, illustrations, texts, translations, idea, concept and usage fee**

For the tactile audio books and the small puppet theatre we made use of illustrations that were created by Elsje Zwart.

Realisation of the tactile audio books and the puppetry figures: Birgit Tomesen and Otto van der Mieden.

Concept, idea, realisation of the exhibition, play and texts: Otto van der Mieden.

English translation: Fletcher Text and Translation Services.

German translation: Translimit.

Frisian translation: Janneke Spoelstra, Cornelis van der Wal, and Haye Bijlstra.

The travelling exhibition can be made available to you for a usage fee.



## Appendix

### **I, II, III and IV**

- I. Some verses: Dutch, Frisian, English and German.
- II. Audio book with colourful, tangible pages and figures: Jan Klaassen and his wife Katrijn.
- III. Black book and pages: Katrijn with carpet beater and speech bubble with text in combined script.
- IV. Performance: tactile puppet show with international puppetry figures and soft, velvet mouth-shaped cushions.

See also: <http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/kusen.html> (performance) and [http://www.poppenspel-museumbibliotheek.nl/boek\\_en.html](http://www.poppenspel-museumbibliotheek.nl/boek_en.html) (book presentation).

- Picture: hand puppet. Polichinelle, the main character from traditional French puppet theatre, swinging his bat. He is wearing a dented hat and dark glasses, and has the bearded face of museum director-curator Otto van der Mieden. Illustration: Elsje Zwart.



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

- Appendix I: some verses  
Dutch, Frisian, English and German

**De kus van Katrijn**

Katrijntje, lieve Katrijntje,  
trouw je met mij,  
met je schortje en mutsje  
en je mattenklopper  
opzij?

**De tút fan Katryntsje**

Katryntsje, leave Katryntsje,  
wurdsto myn frou,  
mei dyn skelkje en mûts,  
dyn matteklopper. Bliuwsto  
my trou?

**Katrijn's kiss**

Katrijntje, sweetie pie,  
please marry me,  
with your apron  
and bonnet,  
my bride you  
will be.

**Der Schmatz von Gretl**

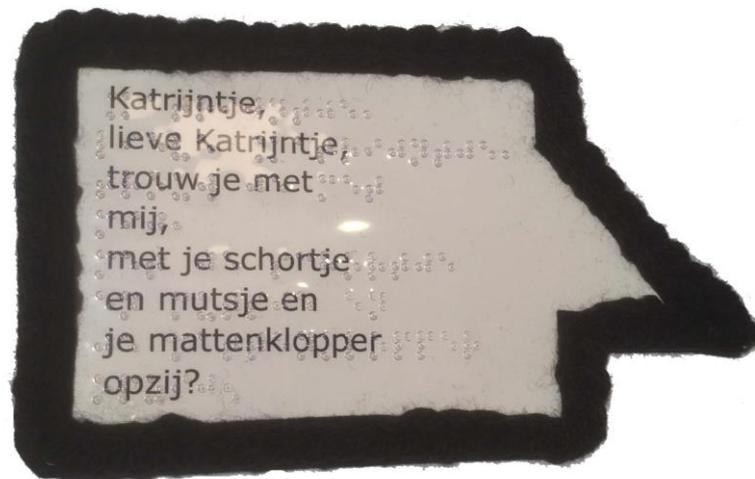
Gretl, liebe Gretl,  
nimm mich doch zum Mann!  
Mit Schürzlein und Häubchen  
gefällst du mir sehr,  
und dein Teppichklopper  
erschreckt mich nicht mehr.



Appendix II: audio book and figures  
Jan Klaassen and his wife Katrijn



- Appendix III: black book and pages  
Katrijn with carpet beater and exchangeable  
speech bubble with text in combined script.



Appendix IV: performance  
Tactile puppet show with international puppetry  
figures and soft, velvet mouth-shaped cushions

