

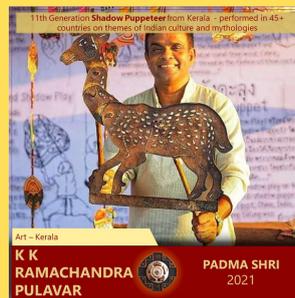
The Newsletter

UNIMA PUPPETEERS TRUST



OUR PADMA SHRI AWARDEES 2021

Congratulations
Shri K.K.Ramachandra
Pulavar
&
Shri Parshuram Vishram
Gangane
We are proud of you!



Newsletter Highlights

Padma shri awardees 2021

World Puppetry Day Celebrations 2021

Member's Space

Future programs

Bible of Karnataka

International news

Obituary : Shampa Ghosh

World Puppetry Day Celebration 2021



WPD, March 21st was celebrated by all Puppeteers and their groups in the best way that was possible for them (under the circumstances.) They made small video excerpts using their very own special puppets and styles to wish everybody as a way of celebrating . These were all combined and edited by Maneesh Pachiaru. The result was a lively video which was sent to **UNIMA International** and also shared on all social media .It was appreciated by one and all!!

It was indeed exciting to see all the various types of puppets coming to life in this video and celebrating. The video is available on our Facebook page link given below.

<https://www.facebook.com/pachiaru/videos/3980903078634338/>

MEMBER'S SPACE



ISHARA PUPPET THEATRE TRUST, NEW DELHI

The Ishara Puppet Theatre Trust was invited to a mini puppet festival by Department of Cultural Affairs, Chandigarh Administration & Tagore Theatre Society, 25th to 28th February 2021 , instead of the normal four international shows that participate in Chandigarh from The Ishara International puppet festival, which for obvious reasons could not be held in February this year. This was a welcome treat and experience for all the artists to be able to perform an on site performance after almost a year of lock down, however soon after new lock down rules were enforced in the city.

On 3rd August they were invited for an inhouse closed audience performance of their show “When land becomes water” at the Lal Bhadur Shashtri National academy of administration in Mussoorie .

It was a journey by road with covid precautions, tests and protocols to enter the state and campus, nevertheless once again a welcome change and relief for all the puppeteers and artists involved.

Nori Art and Puppetry Centre

Ratnamala Nori with Nori Art and Puppetry Centre celebrated WPD by giving a Live performance on You -tube A popular story by Dr Zeuss-Yertle the Turte

<https://youtu.be/2J6dSzytPT>

This is a thought-provoking story both for children and adults alike. The story is an entertaining story of a turtle king who continues to reach for more and more power at the expense of his turtle subjects .He keeps reaching until he is dethroned .Sounds familiar?? Yertle the Turtle has been called an *allegory of the rise and fall of Adolf Hitler* Several Online workshops were conducted for children and teachers; To name a few

June 10th For the Azim Premji University Post graduate students

July 1st SCERT Tamil Nadu High School teachers

And was also invited to be the Chief Guest at the Talkathon with Puppets Event at the Pallavi International School .



BIBLE OF KARNATAKA

News of Interest

Prof.S.A.Krishnaiah is one of the resource persons of Karnataka Folk Theater and Puppetry and known as a writer and `scholar in the field of folklore, Restudy of history-museology. Holds Master Degree in folklore and Postgraduate Diploma in Epigraphy from Mysore University. Positioned as a Syndicate Member (Rtd)of Folklore University. He is the founder Director of Oriental Archives Research Center (Prachyasanchaya Samshodhan Kendra-Udupi) (A unit of National Trust for Computation and Archival of Oriental Media). He has written several books, published several papers received prestigious fellowships both national and international and worked with many scholars. His Book on 'Karnataka Puppetry' 1988, received appreciation as Bible of Karnataka Puppetry. Received fellowship: Visited Finland 1985, Received prestigious Rock fellow Foundation fellowship 2002, as a resource person in the field of Theatre; worked with La Mama theatre in collaboration with Experimental Puppets Play on The Rise and Fall of the 'Timur the Lame (Directed by Theodora Skipitares) – NewYork. Worked as a resource person in the Indo-Finnish Project 1989. Rendered fieldwork service in the project of Arnold Bake – a restudy with UCLA scholars Prof Amy Catlin and Dr.Jairazbhoy (UCLA), in the years 1993 and 1994.

Tagore, Arnold Bake Restudy Regional Archive (NTC-AOM)
Conceptual Map of Karnataka Puppeteers World Puppeteers Day-UNIMA
 Prof. Amy Catlin-Jairazbhoy (UCLA) and S.A.Krishnaiah -Udupi

PUPPETRY IN KARNATAKA
 ಸೂತ್ರದಗೊಂಬೆಯಾಟ, ಕೀಲುಗೊಂಬೆಯಾಟ & ತೂಗಲುಗೊಂಬೆಯಾಟ

String / Rod Puppet Troupes (Red Triangles): Bidar, Raichur, Bagalkot, Bellary, Haveri, Chikmagalur, Mandya, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar.

Leather Puppet Troupes (Green Dots): Kalaburagi, Vijapura, Raichur, Koppal, Gadag, Bellary, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, Chikkaballapura, Kolar, Ramanagara, Mandya, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar.

Joint Puppets (Black Stars): Bidar, Raichur, Chikmagalur, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, Chikkaballapura, Kolar, Ramanagara, Mandya, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ, ಉಡುಪಿ
 E-Mail: prachyasanchaya@gmail.com
 Prof. S.A.Krishnaiah (Director of Studies)
 Prachya Sanchaya Samshodhan Kendra-Udupi 576102

FUTURE PROGRAMMES

By Tram Arts Trust

2021 is Tram's 10 year anniversary. They have the following programmes lined up as 10th anniversary milestones.

1. 25th, 26th September : ARTISTS' SUPPORT PROJECT

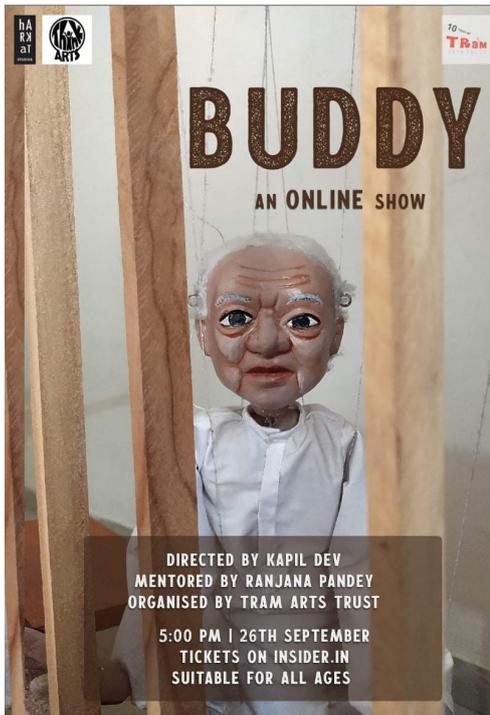
Earlier this year, Tram Arts Trust together with Harkat Studios, Mumbai & ThinkArts, Kolkata extended 3 micro-grants to 3 puppeteers as creative support during pandemic. 2 out of the 3 productions emerging from this grant will premier digitally on 25th & 26th Sep'21.

The pandemic has been harsh for the artists' community who have largely been forgotten for organisational support and by larger public consciousness. Those who could adapt to the digital, did. Majority have been out of work and earnings since March 2020. But artists have stood by artists. The support has come from within. These productions are the result of the efforts of 3 individual object theatre artists who created digital shows and donated part income to this project, over 100 viewers and donors, and 3 arts organisations who came together to enable new performances by 3 deserving artists. These plays have been created by Burdwan based puppeteer Tandra Kundu & Mumbai-New Delhi based puppeteer Kapil Dev. The 3rd grant was extended to *Ravanchhaya* artist Mahendra Sahoo. This show will premiere later this year. Each of the plays have been mentored by Ranjana Pandey, Anurupa Roy & Dadi Pudumjee. By buying a ticket to these shows, you will support an artist and art. All proceeds will go to the artists.

Ticket links below :

<https://insider.in/buddy---online-puppet-theatre/event>

<https://insider.in/ moons-magic---online-puppet-theatre/event>



2. Khidkiyaan (Windows) : New OBJECT THEATRE PERFORMANCE

To premiere digitally in the first week of October

Concept & Direction : Choiti Ghosh

Artistic Consultant & Dramaturgy: Sameera Iyengar

Script : Ruma Ghosh, Choiti Ghosh

Performed by: Choiti Ghosh, Abhisar Bose

Videography & Editing: Abhisar Bose

3. THING-A-MAGIC INTERNATIONAL OBJECT THEATRE FESTIVAL OF INDIA,

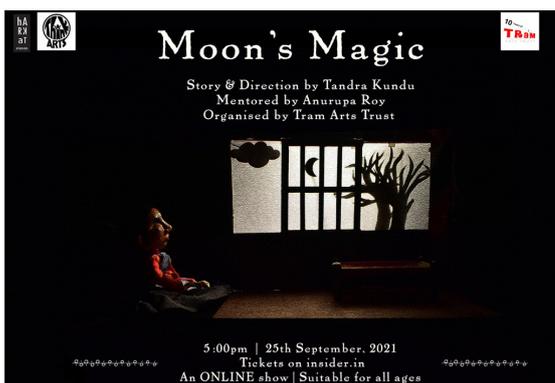
Digital Edition 1.0 | 25th - 28th Nov'21

In collaboration with CSMVS, Mumbai, Tram is curating & co-organising an international object theatre festival with :

- Performances from Italy, Russia, Germany, Israel, Czechia, Jordan, India.
- Workshops for adults with object theatre masters from Brazil
- Workshops for children with experts from Iran
- A lecture / talk on object theatre by master practitioner from Belgium.

Choiti Ghosh

Artistic director, Tram Arts Trust



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

In April this year the UNIMA International congress took place online the congress which was to be in Bali last year in April ,was postponed and the very first online congress took place.

Our councillors for UNIMA India will give you a more detailed report on the same.

The President Dadi Pudumjee completed his mandate of the 3, four year terms as President

Here is the tribute paid to Dadi D.Pudumjee in the UNIMA USA August 2021 Newsletter

Tributes to President Dadi D. Pudumjee & General Secretary Idoya Otegui Martínez With the 23 rd UNIMA Virtual Congress behind us—and congratulations to all the members of the organizing team—it is important we take a moment to honour the commitment and accomplishments of our former President, Dadi D. Pudumjee, and outgoing General Secretary, Idoya Otegui Martínez. Dadi Pudumjee has served as our President for the past thirteen years. He has represented UNIMA at many international festivals and events and, of course, he presided over our Perth, Chengdu and Tolosa congresses, the Dordrecht, Varadero and Bochum councils, as well as this year's Virtual Congress. As you all may know, Dadi is a leading Indian puppeteer and director. In 1980 he founded Delhi's Sutradhar Puppet Theatre/Shri Ram Centre Puppet Repertory. Then, in 1992, he became the founder-director of the multimedia Ishara Puppet Theatre Trust. Through Ishara, Dadi has trained many young Indian puppeteers, passing on his legacy of highly original work for both young and adult audiences. This is perhaps best exemplified in his work as theatre arts mentor with Salaam Baalak Trust, an NGO that provides support for street and working children in the Greater Delhi region. Some of these former students became core members of Ishara, while others, upon graduation, founded their own performance companies or became employed within the film industry. While many of Dadi's Sutradhar and Ishara productions are designed for young audiences, his adult shows often address compelling social themes, including HIV/AIDS awareness, substance abuse, and the realities faced by homeless youth. Over the last two decades, Dadi has organized the annual Ishara International Puppet Festival in Delhi, with shows also touring other Indian cities. Dadi has been honoured in India with many awards, including the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his exceptional contributions to Indian puppetry from India's preeminent National Academy of the Performing Arts. His most recent award is the prestigious Padma Shri, the fourth-highest civilian award in the Republic of India

The new EC voted for Executive Committee (2021-2025)

SMITH, Karen – President Australian/American

JAGENEAU, Dimitri – General Secretary Belgian

BODSON, Lucile – Treasurer, UNIMA Funding Committee and Fundraising Strategy French

DABS, Annette – Vice president, Statutes Commission German

LOREFICE, Tito – Vice president, Professional Training Commission Argentinian

ASTLES, Cariad – Research Commission British

CSATÓ, Kata – Cultural and human rights Commission Hungarian

HAVERTY, Kristin – Communication and public relations Commission American

KLANČNIK KOCUTAR, Katarina – Publication and contemporary writing Commission Slovenian

KROFLIN, Livija – Education, development, and therapy Commission Croatian

LAPOINTE, Louise – International Festivals Commission Canadian

DOLENSKA, Katerina – Research Commission (vice president) Czech

MASHTAKOVA, Anastasiia – Youth Commission Russe

MOHSENI ARDEHALI, Salma – Cooperation Commission Iranian

OTEGUI, Idoya – Heritage, Museums and Documentation Commission Spanish

PERETJATKO, Clément – Europe Commission French

SALAZAR TAQUECHEL, Ruben Dario – Americas Commission Cuban

TANG, Dayu – Asia-Pacific Commission Chinese

Invited to the Executive Committee as President of the Africa Commission

BADRISSA, Soro – Africa Commission Ivory Coast

Dadi Pudumjee is the President of honour

a post after the late Margareta Nicescu passed away.

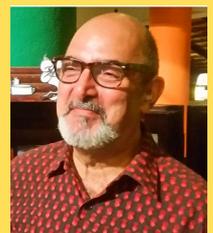
UNIMA India wishes all the members of the new EC the very best in their positions of the various commissions.

<https://www.unima.org/en/>

The following commissions and their presidents were confirmed by vote:

- Africa Commission – Soro Badrissa, Ivory Coast
- Asia-Pacific Commission – Tang Dayu, China
- Communication and Public Relations Commission – Kristin Haverty, USA
- Cooperation Commission – Salma Mosheni Ardehali, Iran
- Education, Development and Therapy Commission – Livija Kroflin, Croatia

Dadi D. Pudumjee is a member of the UNIMA heritage commission of Idoya Otegui on the EC, so collecting information and contact of Puppet museums, collections, private and public to be sent directly to him. info on dadipud@gmail.com



A MESSAGE

FROM THE EDITOR

Ratnamala Nori

Greetings from Unima Puppeteers Trust.
 Namaste and Welcome to this new Newsletter.
 We meet again with this newsletter, which we hope to bring out, with your help, every three months.
 Last year Padma awards have been given to Noku Vidya, This year to Shadow Puppetry Kerala and also to Parshuram Gangavane.



Our first online AGM Feb 2021

The power and importance of puppetry is acknowledged again and again. Even in spreading awareness about Covid- the pandemic and the vaccinations, puppetry has played its role and many of our members have contributed their skill and talent in many ways to this.

There are 51 members but very few of us share their news. I would appreciate if you to send your publicity, photographs, comments, writing, in short information about your work from time to time .

Whatever information received has been put in this newsletter.

We look forward to your suggestions for a name for this Newsletter.

Stay Safe,

FROM THE MANAGING TRUSTEE

Ranjana Pandey

In the last few months , we set up a fundraising effort for Puppeteers in Distress. A poster and publicity for the same was sent on whatsapp and e mail. Our website also carried the appeal . The result is that the Unima Puppeteers Trust to date has received enough donations to help 10 families of Traditional Shadow Puppeteers from Tamil Nadu.

We are very grateful to C.V.Ramani, a film maker based in Chennai for facilitating this.

The idea was also to document the work of these shadow puppeteers. The short videos we have received will be put on our Youtube channel soon.

Our sincere thanks to all the donors.

We are busy planning the next Foundation Course. The first element of this second course will be open to a wider public- a Lecture Series. Look out for the publicity.

Sutradhar 12 is ready and will be out soon.

We would like to hold a General Body Meeting mid October. We request all members to participate.

Obituary

SHAMPA GHOSH (01 NOV 1955 - 01 SEP 2021)

Om Shanti!

It is disheartening to learn that our beloved friend Shampa has passed away !! Her devoted contribution towards Puppetry shall ever remain in our memory. Our deepest condolences to her bereaved family, especially Utpal da .

Her bio-data is impressive and some of her achievements are outlined here .

Sampa Ghosh joined the Calcutta Puppet Theatre (CPT) in 1980 and after taking intensive training in puppetry in 1980-82 under Suresh Dutta Director, she assisted the Master in some of his popular productions Ramayana, Sita as well as other educational ones

As Director in 1987-89 at the Sri Ram Centre (SRC) Puppet Repertory, New Delhi she directed many puppet plays like Ichchhapuran adopted from Tagore, Natkhat Murga, Chaturai-ka-Bal and Maya Tiraya Runs Away which proved immensely popular.

Collaborated with Canadian theatre/TV artist Nancy to produce and direct a solo puppet play Birth of Puppets in Montreal in 1995. Conducted weekend workshops with Canadian children, leading to a puppet play Legend of Ganesha entirely by the children in Montreal in 1995.



Shampa Ghosh receiving bouquet from our puppets when she brought the CCRT students to our Nori Puppet Centre at Hyderabad as part of a training programme. She was the only Resource person who allowed the group to attend a show and workshop out of the CCRT Premises



Sampa Ghosh with students

THE ORBITUARY



Shampa Ghosh

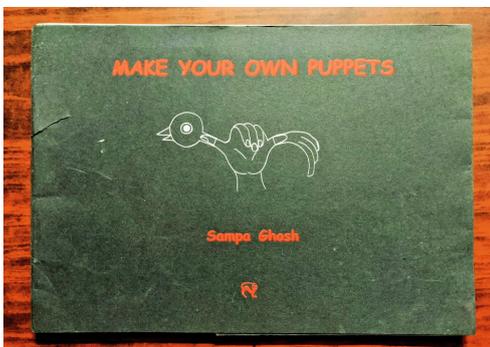
She received a Scholarship from Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India to learn puppetry from 1982-85 and performed in 1986 with CPT in Indian Trade Fair at Dhaka, Bangladesh. Visited in 1987, Indian Manifestation Festival in Sweden as a Group-Leader and Director of SRC performed as many as 42 shows in 12 different Swedish cities. Gave a lecture-demonstration on Indian Puppets to international group of puppeteers under the aegis of Quebec Puppeteers Association of Canada at Montreal in 1995. Conducted workshops on puppetry at Montreal, Canada in 1995. Visited Moscow, Russia as a member of technical group, in 'Days of Delhi in Moscow' from 26-30 October 1999 under Ratan Thiyam. Visited Montreal, Canada to conduct a workshop with dance students of Kala Bharati with puppets for the 'Days of Culture' on 28 Sept 2002. Visited China, as a member of technical group, in 'Festival of India' from 5-18 April 2010 under Ratan Thiyam.

She was also involved with National School of Drama (NSD) and after attending in 1982 a Theatre Workshop at Kolkata organised by them she acted in many shows in Kolkata. and taught puppetry in 1992 for 2 semesters to 2nd year Direction students of NSD. Designed costume in 1993 for the play Nati Binodini produced by NSD Theatre Repertory

In addition, She participated in many Advertisement Shows on Radio & TV Interviews She worked from 1989 till her retirement as Sr. Puppeteer at Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) under Min. of Tourism & Culture, Govt. of India, to teach puppetry in-service teachers from all over India She Structured a detailed curriculum and method of teaching, -- aimed at children, beginners and teachers.

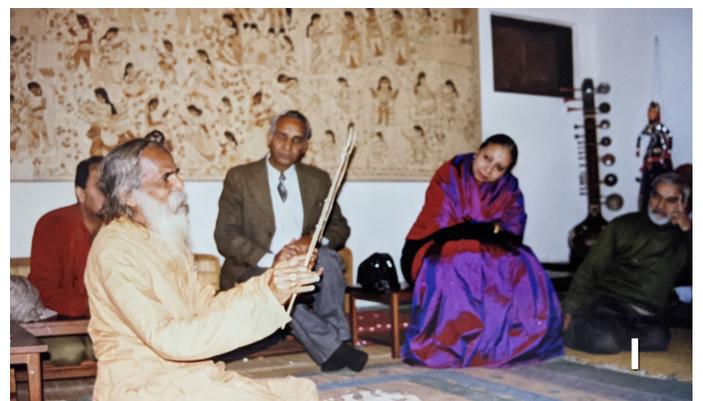
She consolidated an illustrated Work Book, called Make Your Own Puppets (IMH, Delhi, 2005), which was immensely successful in the market. She created the first ever Website on Indian Puppetry: www.puppetindia.com as a Sr. Fellow of Govt. of India in 2001-03. Collaborative book—with Dr. Utpal K. Banerjee—is called Indian Puppets (Abhinav Publications, Delhi, 2006), a definitive 500-page work on the subject, with 400 illustrations. Written an authoritative and fully documented book -- with Dr. Utpal K. Banerjee-- called Indian Puppetry and Puppet Stories (Shubhi Publications, Gurgaon, 2007). Both books taken to Frankfurt International Book Fairs in 2006 & 2007. Currently wrote Puppets of India and the World (National Book Trust, in press) with Dr. Utpal K. Banerjee.

(Adding 2 pics of her visit to our Puppet Centre (NAPC, Hyderabad) as CCRT coordinator who was the only one to bring the whole batch of students (more than 100) to our place to witness our educational performances. In the pic she is receiving flowers from our puppets)



**The Book "Make your own puppets"
by Sampa Ghosh**

GALLERY



Leather shadow puppets (A) Ucchaishrava, (B) Aeravatha, (C) Kaamdhenu, (D) Vaasuki made by Father of Master puppeteer Sri Gunduraju ji from Togalu Gombeyatta tradition, these puppets donated to the Goethe Institute's library of images an international VR Project ; (E) Shadow puppeteers from kerala Anybody recognize our old members? (F) Glimpse from National puppet Festival 1991 : MR Ranganatha Rao of Rangaputhli and Seethamahalakshi Chennai leather shadow puppeteer with Ratnamala Nori ; (G) from SNA workshop mid 90's ; (H) Dadi and Puran; (I) Raavan Chaya demo at SNA : can you recognise this puppeteer who is with us no more !