

AUGUST , 2022

# The Newsletter

UNIMA PUPPETEERS TRUST

VOLUME 04



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(from left to right) Late Sri M. R. Ranganatha Rao, Mr. Saxena, Ratnamala Nori and Late Smt. Meher R Contractor

## FROM THE EDITOR

Namaste ,

It is with profound grief that we bring the news of legendary puppeteer Shri Ranganatha Rao's sad demise in this newsletter. I had the privilege of meeting and interacting with him in two Unima, 'Puthali ' get-togethers in 1990 and 91. I was impressed with his dedication to his art , and his desire to spread the art by teaching one and all who came to him. On behalf of all members we offer our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members who are with equal dedication preserving the art as envisaged by the Master .

We invite all of you and interested friends to attend and know more about the work of this master Shri M.R.Ranganatha Rao as presented by his son Shri M.R.Srinivas Rao,the upkeeper of this traditional art of Karnataka in our next **Live session of ANUBHAV 2 on September 18th Sunday at 11 am.** Block the date and learn more about Gombeatta, traditional art of Karnataka as kept alive by Rangaputhali Puppeteers.

Looking forward as always to receiving more news of your successful achievements and experiments in Puppetry for our next issue.

Ratnamala Nori

## ORBITUARY

### Late Sri M.R. Ranganatha Rao (1932-2022 ) Master Puppeteer , Karnataka

Karnataka, the state known for its rich culture, is also given the major contribution in the field of Puppetry on its own style.

In this context, Sri M. R. Ranganatha Rao – Founder Director of Rangaputhali Puppeteers contributes a major share in showcasing the rare art of Karnataka – known as Rod cum String Puppets of India also known as '*Mudrika Style Puppets*'. The puppet form is also famous as Rangaputhali Style puppets in which is a unique art form of India. Mr Rao got inspired by his grandfather Late Narasingappa who got the prestigious title as '*Sutra brahma*', *Abhinaya Kesari*, *Panchalika Nartana Shiromani* by Nalwadi Krishna Raja Wodeyar of Mysore dynasty.



In 1977, Mr Rao met Smt Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay in Indian Institute of World Culture in a lecture, where in Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay mentioned about Late Narasingappa and his attractive puppets. Mr Rao introduced himself as his grandson and Mr Rao brought those puppets from Agalakote a tiny village of Magadi town of Bangalore Rural district. Earlier those puppets which were used by Narasingappa were in the influence of Karnataka – Andhra Pradesh style. Narasingappa was doing the well-known *Sri Krishna Parijatha* which is also known as *Bhama Kalapam* in Andhra Pradesh which has the influence of Kuchupudi dance form. Even some of the scenes as *Chandra Dushana* and *Manmatha Dushana* which is used the Kuchupudi dance form, the same form is used by Narasingappa in his puppet show of *Sri Krishna Parijatha as Viraha vedane of Sathyabhama*.

Not only that, the ornaments, dressings, attire also resemble the Kuchupudi dance form of Andhra Pradesh. The same style of Jade bille – fore head ornaments, Tholbandi – Shoulder ring is also being used in the puppets. Mr Rao brought these puppets and reformed them with a new touch by not disturbing the traditional blend and retained the same glory of Narasingappa's puppet form as he was earlier having the experience in the theatre performances, aesthetics, western theatre form, theory, dance and music, drama direction etc through *Chaya Kalavidaru*.

Mr Rao directed his first play *Cinderella* and got the first prize by the Honourable Governor of Karnataka Sri Mohanlal Sukhadia in 1975. After having the discussion with Smt Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay and based on her suggestion Mr Rao quit his Government job as a teacher and took initiatives in reforming this rare art form of India . His efforts made a route to give the first performance of *Sri Krishna Parijatha* with a new script by implementing the new songs tracks with Purandara Dasara padagalu style in Kumara Vyasa Mantapa in 1978. During that time, Mr Rao's relative Late Narahari Shastry and some more relatives such as T L S Kumar, Narayana Murthy, Ranganath gave extensive support to take this art form to the general public. As the first performance was a grand success , it took Mr Rao to AIR (Aakashvani, Bengaluru Kendra) Canara Bank Foundation as well.

# ORBITUARY



Ms Lakshmi Ranganatha Rao – wife of Rangantha Rao also plays a major role as she gave ultimate support and contribution by dressing up the puppets, decorating the puppets with different jewellery forms to make these puppets look as very special.

In 1981 Mr Rao got the National Award by Sangeet Natak Akademi in Delhi for his puppetry related activities. Later Mr Rao travelled to Japan to participate in Unima International Puppet Festival, 1987 with a new Puppet show script *Narakasura Vadhe* which is of Yakshagana based form. In Nagora city while performing Rangaputhali Puppeteers was honoured as “Best Traditional team from India”. Mr Rao travelled to Los Angeles, Washington DC to give the puppet s performance. His puppets are displayed in Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Mr Rao was the Director of Putul '91 – A National Puppet Festival held at Bangalore and also served as Director for the Children Puppet Festival in SAARC Festival at Bangalore. Mr Rao travelled to Switzerland to make the ‘Gaarudi Bombe’ – Giant Puppet for the museum which was run by John Bindschedler. These Gaarudi Bombe were made with light wood materials such as by using the bamboo sticks, gunny bags, wood bush and the face was made by using the paper mesche and saw dust form. These puppets were displayed during the cart processions in Fribourg city. Later Mr Rao was served as visiting professor for 10 years in Poland and Austria for the interested disciples. He also trained Reene Bowers of US who came as fellowship candidate from Institute of American Indian Arts to learn Indian Puppetry.

## ORBITUARY

Mr Rao's puppetry related work can be found in Janapada Loka – Folklore Museum of Karnataka, Bimba Art Hub, Rishi Valley School and ISKCON Centres as well. He has also trained many students and helped many puppetry troupes to continue this rare art form in Karnataka. Dr Dattatreya Aralikatte of Puthali Kalaranga, Sri Narahari Shatry of Sutra Mela, Vivekananda School are some of them who were trained by Mr Rao and got succeeded. Dr Dattatreya Aralikatte also got the prestigious National Award as Best Teacher and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for this exclusive puppetry related activities. Mr Rao also formed one female oriented team in Mulbagilu to give the puppet show performance and also in Mysore. Mr Rao is an encyclopedia of Puppetry and stands tall as a pillar of strength to all the art lovers around the world. Mr Rao is also known as 'Bheeshma Pitamaha of Traditional Indian Puppetry' which known as – Traditional Temple based Rod cum String Puppets.



Mr Rao received the Kamala Devi Chattopadhyay Award by CCRT in 2017, Yakshagana Partisubba Award in 2014 and Karnataka Rajyotsava Award in 2015 for his extensive work in Puppetry.

Now Mr Rao's sons M R Vijay and M R Srinivas have taken the overall responsibilities to retain this rare art form by implementing new techniques, new scripts without disturbing the traditional blend.

M R Srinivas who is the director of Rangaputhali Puppeteers and Mr Vijay have succeeded to give more than 7000 puppet show performances across globe. Mr Srinivas gives the contribution in an innovative way by implementing new stories, conducting puppet making workshops, giving training to interested students. Mr Vijay who makes the puppet very attractively by customizing according to the puppet's character which creates a lively look to puppets.

(Article as submitted by M.R.Srinivas)

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

### CHANDIGARH PUPPET THEATRE (PNA)

SUBHASIS NEOGI



A 20 day puppet making and performing workshop was organized by the prestigious Tagore Theatre Society of Chandigarh, in collaboration with the PNA Theatre for the children of 7 to 14 year age group. This was conducted by Mr Shubhasis Guha Niyogi and his team. The training session was divided into two parts, first was to make the puppets, it was done by using all reusable and waste materials and the second part was the performance of the children using those puppets. Around 26 children participated in the program where-in they made 15 types of puppets using materials like paper plates, empty match boxes, toothpaste cartons, pet bottles, paper bags and pine-cones. Many different types of puppets were made such as string puppet, rod puppet, finger puppet, vegetable table top puppet, wrist puppet, hand puppet, Muppets, shadow puppet, bird and butterfly puppets with movable wings and masks of different sizes. The making part was completed during the first 10 days and the following 10 days were dedicated for the Stage performance by the children which was held on 8th and 9th of July 2022 in the Tagore mini theater.



The final stage performance included 5 different programs using multiple types of puppets. The starting of the program was with a vegetable song where the small children of 7 to 9 yrs performed with different vegetable puppets giving the importance of eating vegetables for our good health. 2nd performance was a skit -Kagaz ki Guria ,a life sized Banraku puppet was operated by the children giving a message of feeling of contentment with whatever we have ,the rhyme was also sung by the participating children. After that a story telling performance Elmer with rod puppets were used and gave a message about the powers hidden inside us with which we can change the world. The 4th performance was a Tribal Dance which showed a Harmonious relationship between the human and animals in Tribal Africa, in this performance large sized masks were worn by children while dancing and pet bottle rod puppets were used as accompaniment. The smaller children had paper plate puppets, butterfly puppets and string pine cone puppets.

The last performance was called Terror, with Giants and Rod puppets giving the slogan **SAY NO TO SINGLE USE PLASTICS**. This performance included the parents of the participating children who very enthusiastically joined in along with children.

## CHANDIGARH PUPPET THEATRE (PNA)

SUBHASIS NEOGI

Ananda Shiksha (an after school project for Community Children of ASHI-Association for Social Health, Pkl) & Putul Nacher Ashor PNA The Puppet Theatre Chd. are all gearing up for 10th National Cultural Festival 2022 ,Organized by RANGTAL THEATRE.

The Festival will be held at **SRIJANI SHILPAGRAM** Santiniketan - Sriniketan Rd, Bolpur, West Bengal 731204

The performance will include both puppetry and clowning by the performers.

### Name of Puppet Plays

**1) Kagaz ki Gudia** (Giant Bunraku) the large life sized Puppet will be moved and the performance will be to give a lesson of being satisfied by what one has not to expect more.

**2) Harmony between Human and animals in nature (Tribal Dance)** Human & Giant, Hand puppets this performance will show that nature has taught us to stay in harmony with the natural resources

### 3) Tik-Tik song

(Demerits of Single use plastic) this will constitute of Giant rod puppets

### Clowning Performance

1) No War

A message "For Peace for Humanity"

2) Toyseller

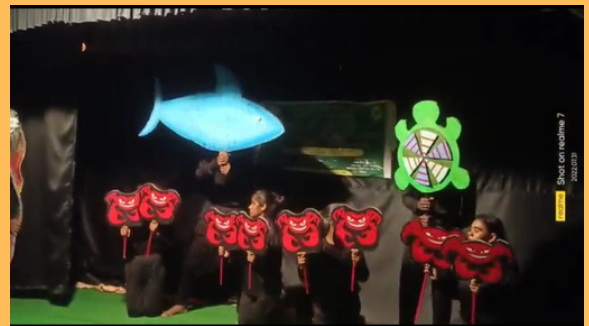
Fight for ur. Rights

3) Mujhko kaise Tum Rokoge (women empowerment)

**Direction & Puppet Designed by Subhasis Neogi**

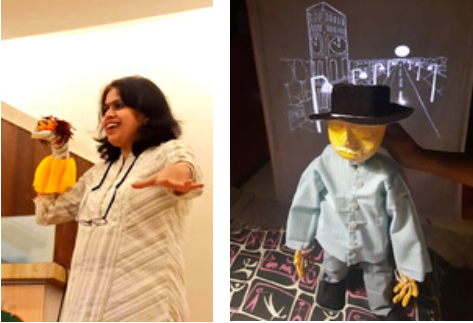
**Asst. Director Devayan Sen**

**Performers are Students of Ananda Shiksha**



## HANDS 'N STORIES

RINTI SEN



Rinti Sen says she was very privileged to have attended the Bunraku workshop from 2nd to 13th May 2022, organized by Anurupa Roy. A lot of takeaways from the workshop include making a short film on her puppet.

Rinti has recently completed her Masters in Education Technology and says she was honored to be a resource person and represent her college, BTTC, Mumbai to talk about her journey as a micro entrepreneur, Hands 'n Stories. The talk was on Career guidance session in the month of July, at MMK College where she got an opportunity to interact with the students pursuing Business studies and talk about her journey as a puppeteer and the work she does in education with puppets and stories.

## KALABAAZ PUPPET THEATRE

AJIT BHAAT



Ajit Bhat of Kaalbaaz is a traditional string and modern contemporary puppeteer, son of master puppeteer Mr. Puran Bhat has conducted along with his team workshops for teachers in Sangeet Natak Academy, National Balbhawan, CCRT, Sahitya kala parishad (SKP) and many schools. His puppets displayed in SKP Exhibition at AIFACS art gallery, Delhi from 25th to 30th June 2022



***"Sahitya kala parishad aur Delhi government me kayi varsho se Delhi ki schoolo mein summer workshop ka aayojan karte aa raha hai or mujhe aayojan mein mouka mila bachcho ko apni kala sikhane ka or unse puppets banwane ka."***

AJIT BHAT, KALABAAZ PUPPET THEATRE, NEW DELHI



## ISHARA PUPPET THEATRE TRUST

DADI D. PUDUMJEE

Ishara Puppet Theatre facilitated two workshops for Children at The Beehive, Gurgaon.

After a string of successful Online sessions during the COVID phase it was great to work with the kids in person

The two programs spread over 5 consecutive days were specially curated for 4-6 Year and 7 to 11 Year Olds respectively



The children crafted some really nifty puppets and then learnt basics of manipulation using their own creations

The sessions were peppered with demos, engaging conversations and lots of fun and colourful chaos.

The encouraging response has spurred us into developing more formats across age groups.

### About The Beehive:

The Beehive is an initiative conceived and inspired by the immense possibilities of Creativity

We have extensive experience Curating and Customizing workshops and programs across different formats for different profiles Our driving philosophy is to have FUN doing something QUIRKY and CREATIVE

We work closely with Children & Adults across age groups and also host and facilitate Shows, Events, Festivals & Camps for our diverse audience

[www.thebeehive.net.in](http://www.thebeehive.net.in)

[www.instagram.com/the\\_beehiveggn](https://www.instagram.com/the_beehiveggn)

[www.facebook.com/thebeehiveggn](https://www.facebook.com/thebeehiveggn)





## PEP-UP

REKHA VYAS

**Rekha Vyas - PEP-UP In July 2022** :- PEPUP worked with ECA -Early childhood association of India and APER -Primary years association of India to create advertisement video exhibiting their 10 years of work . They used puppets for this project.

ECA-APER NGO has brought together early and primary years teachers & administrators, School and day-care owners, anganwadi and creche professionals working with & for families. Their 42000+ members include child care facilities, Early Childhood and Primary years Educators, Parents, Doctors and professionals.

**June 1:-** Puppetry workshop for Symbiosis school teachers at Pune:-

As they say 'Teaching once is, learning twice'. Rekha inaugurated event with Dr. S.B. Mujumdar, the doyen of education sector in the country "It was a wonderful experience promoting puppetry as an innovative medium of teaching. "Teachers from India , South Africa, and the U.S. actively participated in the workshop : "**Theme based storytelling using different forms of puppetry**". PepUp presented a corporate show "**Women who moved the world**" for LinkedIn Singapore and Australia employees. Show included stories of five inspiring women and their achievements. Famous personalities like Miriam Makeba , Tulsi Gowda , Ema Gonzalez and Dr. Amani Ballor .Their stories truly inspired and motivated the audience. Medium used Shadow puppets.

## THOLPAVAKOOTHU IN CINEMA

SAJEESH PULAVAR

**Tholpavakoothu** artist **M Sajeesh Pulavar** informs us that along with **Lakshmana Pulavar, Sadananda Pulavar, Sajith, Ramadas, and Vishnu** they are in behind the screen in Chennai for **a Tamil film trailer release**. The Film shoot was done in Kumbakonam in 2018. They made new shadow puppets as Krishnan, Arjunan ,Gandhari, soldiers, chariot etc for the mahabharatha war and they also made some special puppets for the theme of the cinema. This is indeed a new entry for the Tamil movies -"**Maayon**" -film . It's a **World Wide Release** movie done by Producer Arun Mozhi Manikyam and Director Kishore.,

Famous actor's son Sibi Sathya Raj and Tanya Ravichandran are the hero and heroine, Now the traditional puppeteers are doing different stories in different styles and not just sticking to the Ramayanam. (Great NEWS- Congratulations!)

**click the link below to watch the film trailer.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAsBJQym0J8>



# RANGAPUTHALI PUPPETEERS

M. R. SRINIVAS



- Performed Ramayana Puppet show and Narakasura Vadhe in Dakshina Chitra Heritage Museum, and Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai.
- Performed *Bhakta Markandeya, Swami Vivekananda and Narakasura Vadhe* and given a small demonstration on Indian Puppetry in Gubbi Veeranna Trust during 'Bala Kala Vinodini - Summer camp in Association with National School of Drama, Delhi.
- Given 2-3 interviews to create Indian Puppetry for Masala Chai Media, E Narada News channel and Sumadhyama News channel
- Ref Youtube link : Traditional Puppet show of Karnataka - Masala Chai Media - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KcADkJjha-E&t=11s>
- Ref Youtube link : Puppet Show - E Narada News channel - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFAzWPY2mSM>
- A documentary was created by Dakshina Chitra Heritage Museum on Rangaputhali Puppeteers. Ref Youtube link : Rangaputhali Puppeteers @ Dakshina Chitra - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=px19PKaTMPY&t=26s>
- Puppet making workshop conducted in Canadian International School.
- Performed *Swami Vivekananda Puppet show* in Surana College
- In addition to this created new contemporary script and given puppet show performance in Vipra Business Forum for product launch and for creating awareness about various products.

# JAN MADHYAM

NGO WORKING TOWARDS INCLUSION, NEW DELHI



During the pandemic, like everyone else, Jan Madhyam chose to continue their programs online. But the Puppetry workshop was erratic and difficult to hold together.

Some of the children had gone home to their villages and the group was scattered.

So now when everything is “normal” again and children are back at the centre, Kapil Dev ( was kind enough to make a special trip from Mumbai) came to complete the workshop. The puppet story was written by the children, they did most of the work making the puppets and the performance was a long awaited culmination. Even the rain did not deter the audience. The show “Golu” will be taken to schools in Aya Nagar Village and the neighbouring villages during August and September.

The performance showcases Inclusion and ability.



# SPHOORTHI THEATRE FOR EDUCATIONAL PUPPETRY, ART AND CRAFT-STEPARC PADMINI RANGARAJAN



I always believed in telling stories to children. I tell folk narratives connected to regions, culture, food habits, language, life style and culture. Blessed are the ones who get to learn that in India--a land of diverse culture and home to several communities.

So it is with puppetry and storytelling art forms. We have all kinds of puppets and folk narratives. I enjoy telling stories with simple hand and glove puppets, simple rod puppets, and sometimes shadow puppets to promote the art forms with young children who are quite open and receptive. Then, as I started appreciating the folk art forms, I eventually started living with them. Throughout this process, I've worked with underprivileged children from the unorganised sector, teaching them so-called academics through storytelling and puppetry. Now at this stage of my life, I feel I need to pass it on by sharing my knowledge so that the art forms flourish and live.

During this summer, I was part of the summer camp at Oxford Grammar School, Himayathnagar, Hyderabad. As part of up-cycling waste into productive purpose, I taught the young children how to make simple rod puppets out of waste material. While teaching them, I also touched upon basic dramaturgy, voice modulation, and engaged the kids in theatre games. This pushed them to appreciate the art form and enhanced their eagerness. As a story building game play, kids built up a story which was also presented as a short puppet play on the closing day. This proved that kids are high in creativity; they just need the space and the opportunity to project it.

Last year in July, I was part of the Diabetes Storytelling Lab organised by Dalberg Media, Denmark. It was here that I met a wonderful woman named Ms. Sirisha Mantha a mother of a Type One Diabetic (T1D) child, who gave her career up to cope with her child. Eventually, she gained certification courses about Type One Diabetes. Now she has formed a group named Sweet Souls along with other likeminded ones and is working towards the welfare of T1D. The new acquaintance not only pushed me to work with these amusing kids but also to learn more about T1D, the problems, challenges, awareness and acceptance. We had two initial one-day virtual workshops and one offline meet up at Saptaparni cultural space, Hyderabad, on February 9, 2022.



## SPHOORTHI THEATRE FOR EDUCATIONAL PUPPETRY, ART AND CRAFT-STEPARC

PADMINI RANGARAJAN



As part of an awareness campaign, in association with Typeone Thriving, Sweet Souls, and Social Substance, we conducted 8 sessions of Virtual Summer Camp. This was a big success as the advantage of technology usage, like WhatsApp groups, Zoom Meets, Google Meets, and so on, and establishing connections from North to South and East to West. This also made the children identify the problem of T1D, which they would like to address with the community. Making simple rod puppets out of newspaper, cardboard boxes, and paint allowed them to express themselves in a variety of ways. The final day's presentation of 3 wonderful puppet plays moved the audience and especially me, as these children taught me to **'keep calm and carry on'**.

The Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) is the oldest association of theatre-artists in India. A good friend, Ms. Arpita Srivatsva, who is an integral part of IPTA Raigarh, fondly works with children. Last month, IPTA organised "**Dhanak**"—a three-day youth exchange programme at Daltonganj, Jharkhand from July 22–24, 2022. I was one of the guests privileged to be part of this wonderful event. Here, it was an orientation to the youth about the adaptation of different forms of storytelling—one such being puppets. Humans and puppets are part of a theatrical performance. In Western countries, it is quite common to find a human-sized puppet or a tabletop puppet performing a role along with a human actor on a stage. In India, it is still in its infancy stage, although few have experimented with it. It was indeed a challenge for me to perform a solo puppet play performance on "**Changing Roles of Gender**"—this was to sensitize towards gender and gender issues. Nevertheless, the play was well received and applauded. This was followed by a puppet making workshop and a small puppet play performance.

**Padmini Rangarajan**  
August 8, 2022

## NORI ART AND PUPPETRY CENTRE, HYDERABAD

RATNAMALA NORI

The Nori Puppets of Nori Art and Puppetry Centre, Hyderabad had an opportunity to participate in the **INTERNATIONAL Thalassemia Day** celebrated by the Aarohi Blood Donation Centre on May 8th 2022 by giving a performance for the children suffering from this disease .

The program was focused on creating awareness about the disease. Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder characterized by less oxygen-carrying protein (hemoglobin) and fewer red blood cells in the body than normal. Patients need blood donations on a regular basis and healthy youngsters should be encouraged to donate blood regularly

The puppet show was much appreciated by children and adults alike and it was felt that puppetry would be useful for creating an awareness in the general public about Thalassemia and the importance of donating blood to these patients.

On **World Environment Day June 5th** 2022 A new Pop-up Puppet production was premiered. **'Bhaloo's Adventures in Hyderabad'**  
<https://youtu.be/Ey4mGp6YW0Q>

The story is about a bear Bhaloo who lives in the jungle near to Hyderabad. He is woken up rudely one day by his parrot friend Mitto who complains that all the bad men from the city of Hyderabad had come ,cut and taken all the trees from their jungle .The birds were now homeless! How Bhaloo decides to investigate with his bird friends by going to the city of Hyderabad forms the story and his adventures give us a strong message suitable for saving the environment .

This was also performed live for the All India CCRT teacher trainees as part of their training program **"Swachh Bharat Mission"** at Regional Centre, CCRT, Hyderabad on June 08th 2022.



**Bhaloo's Adventures in Hyderabad**  
 A pop-up Puppet Story  
 Live on You-tube NoriPuppets  
 at 4 .30pm  
 Environment Day 5th June 2022



## KNOW YOUR MEMBER

UNIMA PUPPETEERS TRUST-INDIA

### KAPIL DEV

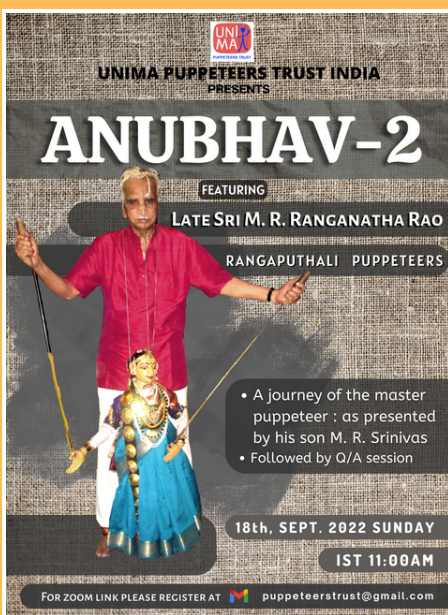
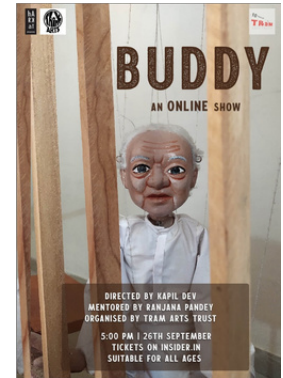
Today Kapil Dev is an experienced children's theatre director, sought after puppet maker and puppeteer.

His career began 25 years ago in Salaam Balak Trust. He trained with many directors- but the experience in Sweden (he went on a scholarship) was outstanding and guided his aesthetics and commitment to perfection in the crafting of puppets.

His latest work are "The Big Bad Wolf" (gloves and muppets) and "Buddy" (strings) both delightful and popular stories for children specially.

Kapil has a parallel life in the film world of Mumbai. He has made and moved puppets for many ad films, mainstream films and even does acting roles.

His article was published in "MumbaiTheatreGuide.com" by Divyani Rattanpal [HERE](#)



## ANNOUNCING ANUBHAV-2

FEATURING LATE SRI M.R. RANGANATHA RAO  
ANUBHAV 2

- RANGAPUTHALI PUPPETEERS : The Journey of Late Sri M R Ranganath Rao (As presented by his son)
  - Date : 18th September, 2022 SUNDAY
  - Time : 11am via ZOOM broadcast
- Zoom link will be shared a day before.

Please do registration for the session by writing to us

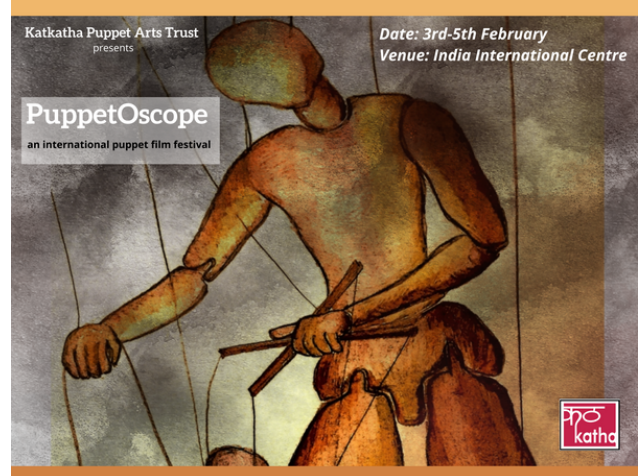
[puppeteertrust@gmail.com](mailto:puppeteertrust@gmail.com)

# FUTURE PROGRAMME

KATKATHA PUPPET ARTS TRUST

## PUPPETOSCOPE

INDIA'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL PUPPET FILM FESTIVAL



**FUNDRAISER**

NEXT YEAR WE TURN 25! WE WANT TO DO SO MANY THINGS FOR OUR LARGER COMMUNITY AND THE ART FORM SO WE HAVE PLANNED AN INTERNATIONAL PUPPET FILM FESTIVAL- PUPPETOSCOPE, PUPPET LABS TO MENTOR AND SUPPORT NEW PERFORMANCES USING PUPPETS MASKS, OBJECTS AND MATERIAL, PUPPETS-ON-WHEELS, A TRAVELLING PUPPET EXHIBITION AND PUPPET FRINGE FESTIVAL. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT. PLEASE SHARE THIS WIDELY, DONATE AND ASK FRIENDS TO DONATE. EVEN A SMALL AMOUNT GOES A LONG WAY.

**SUPPORT US AND BE THE PART OF THE INITIATIVE**

<https://fundraisers.giveindia.org/nonprofits/katkatha-puppet-arts-trust>

[katkathapuppet@gmail.com](mailto:katkathapuppet@gmail.com)

[@katkathapuppet](https://www.instagram.com/katkathapuppet)

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/katkathapuppet) [Twitter](https://www.twitter.com/katkathapuppet)

TO DONATE PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#)



In 2023, the Katkatha Puppet Arts Trust, puppet theater company, will turn 25. This journey has meant over thirty puppet productions, tours to forty countries, projects with museums, schools, urban slums, conflict zones like Kashmir and Manipur, village co-operatives and schools. About one hundred and thirty members including students, interns and collaborators have been a part of Katkatha's projects. In retrospect, the key challenges over the years have been to create a wider appeal for Puppet theater while building a serious discourse around the form and its diversity.

The Festival hopes to present the best Puppet films from around the world and India in varied categories that "hero" puppets. The festival will include an exhibition of posters of Puppet films, photos of the process of shooting the selected films, storyboards, Puppet sets and of course the real puppets. This we hope will set in motion future platforms for puppeteers to present their work and receive training, will give birth new cutting edge work, partnerships and collaborations and build a critical mass in puppet theater.

### Three day film festival

This will be India's first film festival to focus on puppet films. It intends to give a platform to both puppet filmmakers and puppeteers. It will also be,

- A platform to discuss the current trends and create a future space for the genre of puppet films.
- It will be an in-person experience of sitting in a large auditorium and watching a film. But we will also keep a digital back up in case of another Covid wave.
- To build a prospective market for these kind of films by inviting critics and studio heads (advertising/ animation).

### Concept

- A bouquet of films that "Hero" the puppet and are carefully curated so that they generate an alternative platform for both the creators and the audience.

### Rules and Guidelines

The Katkatha International Puppet Film Festival will screen all kinds of puppet films except the recordings of the puppet shows and CGI. The films may be puppet documentaries, puppet fiction films, educational and advocacy puppet films, children's puppet films, etc. Films could be short, mid-length or full-length/feature.

#### Selection Criteria:

- 20 films will be shortlisted for the screening.
- All decisions of the jury will be final.
- The festival's goal is to highlight out-of-the -box puppetry art and the puppeteer's expertise, thus films that hero the puppet will be given priority.

#### The festival will include the following:

- Puppet films for children, including workshops for the children in puppet making.
- A student festival of films made by students only using paper theater.
- Talks with the filmmakers and puppeteers after the films.
- An exhibition of puppets used in the films, film sets, story-boards etc.





**END NOTE**

RANJANA PANDEY

**UNIMA PUPPETEERS TRUST-INDIA**

MANAGING TRUSTEE

It is heartening to note the growing presence of Puppeteers from India on International platforms and sessions. This underlines the strength of the UNIMA community- sharing and participation.

In our Core Group Meeting an excellent suggestion: to have a Unima Representative in every state. Please come forward to take on the role.

Unima Puppeteers Trust income tax returns have been filed.

We have booked a Zoom platform now to meet effortlessly online.

Anubhav and other events and meetings will be hosted on this.

**An Invitation and an IMPORTANT REMINDER**

- All members have free access to Unima Puppeteers Trust Resources.

**What are these?**

- Sutradhar magazine ( they are posted on the [UPT website](#))
- The [Youtube Channel](#) ( has many films )
- The Documentation of [Master Classes](#) and [Foundation Course](#) (films and booklet available via [the website](#))
- [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) pages (Like, share, subscribe and follow for the regular updates)
- A poster design ( which you can print out and use at all your events )
- **Bookmarks** ( we can courier them to you for free distribution )
- Keep sending your reports, pictures and activities update to the editor [ratnamalanori@gmail.com](mailto:ratnamalanori@gmail.com)
- For any query please write us to [puppeteerstrust@gmail.com](mailto:puppeteerstrust@gmail.com)

**END NOTE**  
RANJANA PANDEY

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AVAILABLE BOOKMARK IMAGES

Nala Gareng Gareng (an Indonesian-puppet) is a stock character of Javanese wayang kulit known since 10th century. Traditionally he was a kind of a clown-servant, who limped on his right heel.



Cut-out Gareng's head & paste it on a used ice-cream stick.

voilà you have your very own Gareng stick puppet.

**PUPPETS WORLD-WIDE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PUPPETEERS**

**MASTERCLASSES Intensive Puppetry Training Laboratories**

UNIMA India (the national centre of the International Association of Puppeteers Worldwide) - a pan Indian network of traditional & contemporary puppeteers

Organises Masterclasses in Puppetry Training. For: Puppeteers, Film makers, Animators, Performers, Educators, Visual Artists or people from any allied fields.

Previous masterclasses: Karnataka Shadow Puppetry, Rajasthani Kathputli, Material Theatre, Paper Theatre

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Hanuman (an Indian-puppet) is a stock character of Togalu Gombeyata, a traditional shadow puppetry of Karnataka, this traditional art form originated almost 2000 years ago.



Cut-out Hanuman's head & paste it on a used ice-cream stick.

voilà you have your very own Hanuman stick puppet.

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Karagoz (a Turkish-puppet) is a stock character of Karagoz-Hacivat play known since 15th century. The central theme of the plays are the contrasting interaction between the two main characters.



Cut-out Karagoz's head & paste it on a used ice-cream stick.

voilà you have your very own Karagoz stick puppet.

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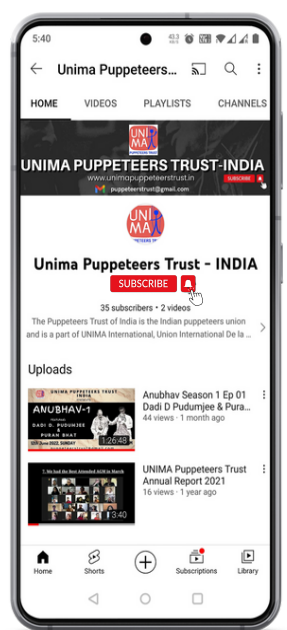
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[@UPTIndia](https://www.twitter.com/UPTIndia)

Punch and Judy (is British-puppet show) they are traditional, popular & very violent: featuring Mr. Punch & his wife, Judy, cast also includes their baby, hungry crocodile, clown, policeman, & prop string of sausages.



Cut-out Punch & Judy's head & paste it on a used ice-cream stick.

voilà you have your very own Punch & Judy stick puppets.

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Petrushka (a Russian-puppet) is a stock character of Russian folk puppetry (rayok) known since 17th century. Traditionally he was a kind of a jester distinguished by red dress, red kolpak, & a long nose.



Cut-out petrushka's head & paste it on a used ice-cream stick.

voilà you have your very own Petrushka stick puppet.

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