

Dennis Murphy presents

PUPPETS & MASKS OF ITALY

Puppetry



NSW Department of Education and Training Authorised Performances

Dennis Murphy's show 'Puppets and Masks of Italy' is a wonderfully entertaining show which uses the characters of Commedia dell'Arte to introduce us to masks, puppets and the puppet show. This show will inspire both students and staff to further investigate the culture and language of Italy as well as the history of the theatre. Highly recommended for schools with Italian programs. Frater Award of Excellence 2007

THE PERFORMANCE

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 Columbina 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.

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 1998 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.

SCHOOL COMMENTS

"...superb performance of the Puppets and Masks of Italy. You had a profound effect on the children (and teachers) all of whom were very excited and enthusiastic."
Gina Polito. Brookvale P.S

"...an important stimulus for the L.O.T.E program."

Lindsay Roy. Cromer P.S

DURATION: 55 minutes	SUITABILITY: Years K-6
2009 PERFORMANCE COST \$4.00 per student \$0.40 gst \$4.40 Total	2009 PERFORMANCE MINIMUM 100 STUDENTS \$400.00 per show \$ 40.00 gst \$440.00 Total
2008 PERFORMANCE COST \$3.50 per student \$0.35 gst \$3.85 Total	2008 PERFORMANCE MINIMUM 100 STUDENTS \$350.00 per show \$ 35.00 gst \$385.00 Total