

# Puppet Tricksters

Puppets

with Dennis Murphy



"Dennis is one of the world's greatest puppeteers." L'Unita Newspaper, Rome

## THE PROGRAMME

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.

Arlucchino, 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 shadow and rod puppet shows of Indonesia. Dennis shows the audience two of the puppets, the character Semar and his mischievous son, Petruk.

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

Dennis Murphy has been a puppeteer since early childhood. Over the years he has studied puppet history and has honed his skills training with puppeteers the world over. He has performed in Australia's Outback as well as Russia's Siberia and commutes regularly to Europe to perform at puppet festivals.

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

### NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING-AUTHORISED PERFORMANCES

This thoroughly entertaining puppet show, combines elements of puppet history, puppet making and some of the "tricks" used by puppeteers. This performance has a strong multicultural appeal as links between puppets from a variety of cultures are highlighted. Lots of humour and variety from a very skilled puppeteer. Award for Excellence 2007