



THOMLYN'S

Tantalising TALES

17-18
FEBRUARY 2024

AGES 5-8



TEATRU MANOEL, STUDIO THEATRE
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About TOI TOI

TOI TOI is the learning wing of the National Theatre in Malta, Teatru Manoel, committed to reaching out to audiences at every stage of life, be it through events for children, performing platforms for youth, informative interviews with artists or live music brought directly to our senior community.

TOI TOI is the home of opportunity to so many locally based artists both amateur and professional alike. The programme is wide-reaching, continuing to introduce and explore Classical Music, Creative Plays, Contemporary Dance through thought provoking Theatre.

The Season runs throughout the year and is well-known for its quality and value for money, encouraging an inclusive space for all to feel welcome.

Our long term strategy is based on commissioning new work, bringing together artistic teams who understand our young audience and who deliver high-quality results time after time. We look forward to seeing the children enjoy our unique introduction to improvisation, hopefully leaving the theatre bursting with new ideas for stories and creating their own plays.

TOI TOI to all for this different-every-time show!

Kate Fenech Field
TOI TOI Manager
Teatru Manoel

Synopsis

A tabletop puppetry show where the story and characters are decided upon by the audience.

Meet Thomlyn, the teller of tantalising tales, and Archibald, the assimilating assistant, and follow them through an epic adventure where the audience helps our hero overcome obstinate obstacles, defeat villainous villains, and reach a commendable conclusion!

Meet The Cast - Sean Briffa



Sean Briffa is an actor and a performing artist. Apart from his work on stage, he also performs his puppet shows and his fire shows all around Malta.

Some of his favourite shows featuring his puppets were the street theatre shows done for festivals such as Medieval Mdina and Notte Bianca, the science shows done for Science in the City, Science in the Citadel and the Kids Dig Science program.

Another theatre experiment he holds close to heart was Teatru Malta's production of Fi-Do, a performance joining puppets, physical work and music for an audience of dogs and their owners.

Sean also has a passion for improvisation. His show Nibnu Storja and Teatru Malta's Etikett have toured the islands with several shows, each time bringing a new adventure to the stage.

Meet The Cast - Jeremy Grech

Jeremy Grech is an enthusiastic artist with a deep love for history. With over 6 years working as a professional in the industry, Jeremy has been able to work on several different projects. From Commedia dell' Arte to Musicals to Poetry recitals he is using these experiences to now create his own art pieces. Some of his most memorable and favorite performances were in Sette by the New Victorians, Cats by Hoi Polloi, Leggendi by Joseph Galea and The Bards Farewell by the New Theatre Company.



His background in Tourism and Archaeology also helps him add a little touch of History to his Theatre. Recently Jeremy was able to create MythoXjenza which teaches science and geography through ancient mythology, he is proud to say that the first launch was a hit! Apart from being a practitioner he has worked as a director, a writer and also a tutor with several different companies. Now, thanks to The Gentleman Pyrate he aims to embark on bigger projects spanning from theatrical tours to theatre reviews to workshops and even more shows!

Make Your Own Puppets!

Sock Puppets

What You Will Need:

- **Sock**
- **A Marker**
- **Hot Glue Gun or Fabric Glue**
- **Buttons, Pompoms, or Googly Eyes.**
- **Felt**
- **Yarn**
- **Any other decorations you would like to add**



- **Find a clean sock that's long enough to cover your arm.** A knee sock would work great for this! The sock can be any color you like. It can be fuzzy or plain. It can even have stripes or polka dots! Just make sure there aren't any holes.
- **Slip the sock over your hand.** Once you the sock on, make a C-shape with your hand. Put your fingers into the toe part. Try to get your thumb into the heel part. If you can't reach it, tuck the sock into the groove between your thumb and fingers. Open and close your hand. Your sock should already start looking like a puppet.
- **Use a marker to make two dots above the seam for the eyes.** If you want your puppet to have a nose, make a dot for that as well.
- **Take the sock off and spread it flat on the table.**
- **Glue some eyes onto the sock.** You can do this with a hot glue gun, fabric glue, or tacky glue. For the actual eyes, you can use buttons, pompoms, or googly eyes. You can also draw the eyes on with a marker. If your puppet is a girl, draw some eyelashes with a marker!
- **Glue a small pompom just above the seam for the nose.** You can also cut a triangle or circle out of felt and use that instead. A button would also make a cute nose. If you don't have any of these, you can draw a nose on instead!
- **Add some other decorations.** Your puppet is done at this point. You can still glue items onto it to give it more character. For example, you can glue some yarn to the top for hair. Or you can add some felt and add some clothes to your sock puppet.

Paper Bag Puppets

What You Will Need:

- Paper Bag
- Googly Eyes
- Construction Paper/ Kartoncin/ Crepe Paper
- Wool
- Markers
- Glue or Tape
- Any other decorations you would like to add



- **Gather your materials.**
- **Glue the eyes onto the bag.** If you don't have googly eyes, you can cut out eyes from the construction paper, making tiny black pupils and gluing them onto larger white circles. Regular glue will work just fine for this -- you don't need to use the stronger stuff.
- **Glue the mouth onto the bag.** Draw a little red mouth on the construction paper. Cut it out and then glue it in place.
- **Glue the hair onto the bag.** Now, either use strips of construction paper or wool onto the top of the paper bag. Wait for it to dry.
- **Draw the nose.** Use a black marker to draw a nose on the paper bag in between the eyes and the mouth.
- **Add any other accessories to your puppet.** These will be the final touches. Once these are ready, your puppet is ready!

Stick Puppets

What You Will Need:

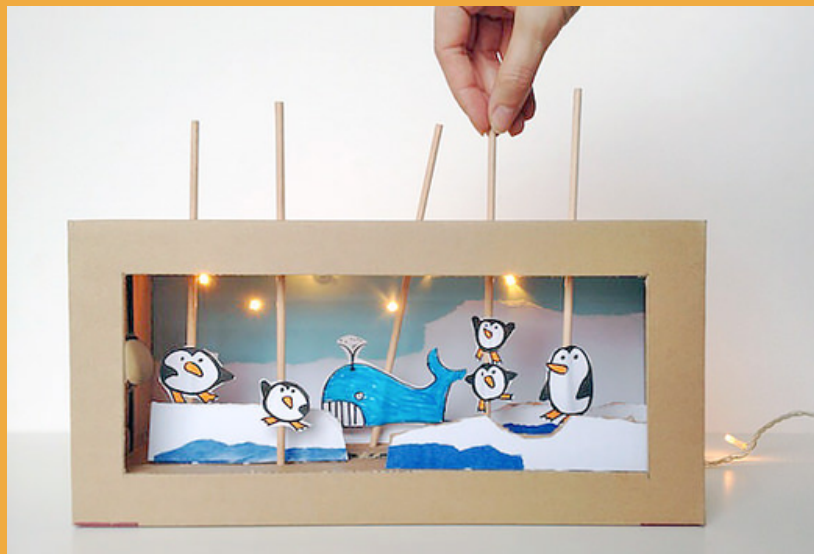
- **Paper/ Cardstock/ Kartoncin** - Can be whatever colour that you choose
 - **Crayons/ Markers/ Coloured Pencils**
 - **Coloured Paper**
 - **Glitter**
 - **Skewers or Popsicle Sticks**
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- **Choose a Pattern and Print It.** Choose the puppets that you want to make. You can choose to make farm animals (ex. cows, sheep, duck, horses etc.) or sea creatures (seahorses, sharks, octopi etc.) Print the pattern from the internet. You can print the pattern on white or colored paper. Make a stiffer puppet by printing on cardstock or Kartoncin.
 - **Color and Decorate.** Once you have printed your puppet, color the puppets any way you like with crayons, markers or colored pencils. You might also decorate the puppets with glitter or bits of colored paper, but you may want to wait to decorate the puppet with glitter until after you have cut it out.
 - **Cut (and Glue).** Cut out each puppet, taking care to stay close to the line around the puppet. If you printed on paper, a stronger puppet can be made by gluing the cutout to cardboard or cardstock. First do a rough cut, and then glue the puppet to a piece of cardboard. After the glue dries, finish cutting the puppet.
 - **Attach Stick.** Put the puppet right-side-down on the table. Position the skewer or popsicle stick with the point up near the center of the puppet. Cut one or two 1" (2 cm) lengths of tape. Tape the skewer or popsicle stick to the puppet.
 - **Put on a Show.** Your puppet is now prepared and you are ready to put on a show.



Make Your Own Puppet Theatre!

What You Will Need:

- An empty shoe box or cardboard box.
 - Crayons/ Markers/ Coloured Pencils/ Poster Paints
 - Paintbrushes
 - Coloured Paper
 - Glitter
 - Any other accessories or decorations you would like
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- **Prepare and Cut.** Prepare your box. Look at the bottom side of the box, and mark with a pencil the part of the box that you will be cutting out. That will be the stage. Once you have marked it, cut it out. You should now have a hole at the bottom of your box.
 - **Decorate.** Decorate the box/stage in any way you would like. You could paint it or stick decorations and stickers.
 - **Put on a Play!** Using your puppets you can now put on plays and act out adventures on their tin stage!



Thomlyn's Tantalising Tales Team

Sean Briffa – Creative Producer & Director

Kate Fenech Field – Production Manager

Sarah Grech - Stage Manager

Nicole Sciberras - ASM

Nathaniel Mangion - Lighting Technician



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