

O

P

E

N



Nø 7 August 2010

In this issue:

Al Martinez Studios Closing Down
What's On
Puppet Palace 2011
Coming Up
News of Puppeteers and Companies
Pupperoos: Jeans for Genes
Review: 'Terrible Comfort' at La Mama
Training - L'Atelier d'Arketal
Festival - Call for Applications
Kassius Kamel - Just Desserts



Al Martinez Studios to close

Al Martinez has announced that the Al Martinez studios are closing.

I report this with great regret and sadness as the studios in Kensington have been a precinct of industry and creativity for many artists and students for over 7 years.

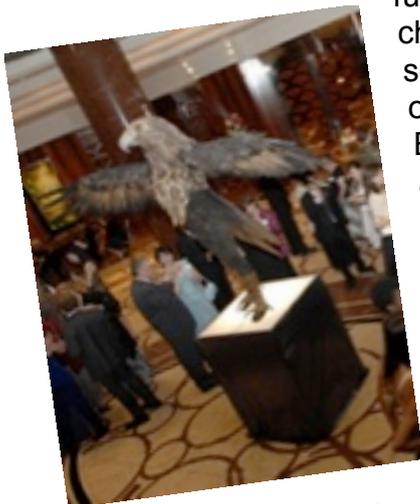
Marvels have been created there: sets, costumes, props and puppets for major theatrical productions and films, giant Moomba floats and puppets/props/sets for the Opening and Closing ceremonies of the 2006 Commonwealth Games.



Although I knew of the studios and had visited there, I didn't really become acquainted with the space until last year when I enrolled in one of Al's 'prop making' courses, scheduled to run for 3 hours weekly for eight weeks and at a very low cost.

Now, I have been sculpting, making puppets and things for fifteen plus years and have even been well remunerated for my output. But I have to 'fess up: I am in awe of, and have a fear of basic machinery and tools. I have a history of sculpting with knitting needles rather than knives and have avoided any contraption that whirrs, grinds or judders: band-saws, drill presses, sanders etc.

With Al's infinite patience and compassion I was able to approach these beasts without trepidation. I even became the band-saw monitor and changed and folded the blades each week! And I learned so much: how to make silicon molds and mix materials I'd never encountered previously. In the 2nd course I discovered a flair for soft foam carving, something I hadn't really tried before. Al also taught me to *measure* quantities and sizes rather than guessing, and to take -- my -- time. Around me as I worked, other artists and students were black-smithing, creating metal furniture, carving wood or constructing a chandelier out of china tea cups. At intervals, someone would call, 'loud noise warning!' as he or she prepared to tackle one of the beasts -- and I would look on and be encouraged by their daring. Eventually, I, too, kitted out in my protective gear, conquered the monsters and achieved modest competence in handling the machinery.



Those 3 hours each Thursday evening were a special time for me -- there in the Al Martinez studios, surrounded by the surviving treasures, artefacts and puppets from past productions I'd seen and remembered, guided by Al and watched over by the spirit of a history of creative endeavours.

Al would like to sell the studios as a whole working package. If you are interested in taking over, please contact Al.

al.martinez@almartinezstudios.com

www.almartinezstudios.com

(Photo Images from Al Martinez website)

by Julia Davis

What's On:



the education show

Now in its fourth year, attracting over 4000 educators.
Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 August, 10.00 a.m to 4.00 p.m. Caulfield Racecourse, Melbourne.

Over 100 exhibitors including Puppetry in Education stand with Gary Friedman Productions and Dream Puppets.

educationshow.com.au Register on line for free pass (including seminars)



Superbia

Dream Puppets

When the Dreamer family, who live in the heart of the Australian suburbs, learn of the nearby supermarket's plans to convert their street into a carpark, they go into battle to save their state-of-the-art-environmentally-friendly-and energy-efficient dream home.
Exquisitely designed black light puppet theatre suitable for ages 4 – adults.

Saturday, August 21, 2.00 p.m.
Northcote Uniting Church Hall
251 High Street, Northcote, VIC
Bookings: 03 8682 8577 or
curious@curiouslegends.com.au



Please send news of forthcoming puppet productions so we can include details in What's On. It's free advertising for you!



Puppet Palace 2011

Garden of Unearthly Delights Adelaide Fringe Festival Feb 11th - March 13th 2011

Puppet Palace is Australia's largest annual puppetry project. In 2010 we attracted an audience of 8,000 to our season. We present twelve shows as part of the Adelaide Fringe Festival.

Companies can come for 1-4 weeks depending on the style of show and dates available.

This has been set up to minimise risk for puppet companies to take part in the Adelaide Fringe Festival,

At the current time we are looking for one adult and one family puppetry show to complete our program for 2011

If you would like to take part and would like to find out more details, please contact :

Keith Preston 0418 839 264

Email artbeatkp@aol.com

website www.puppetpalace.com.au

SPARE PARTS PUPPET THEATRE

The Birthday is a growing up story for the whole family, but perfect for ages 3 – 8 years.

15 September - 30 October

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre

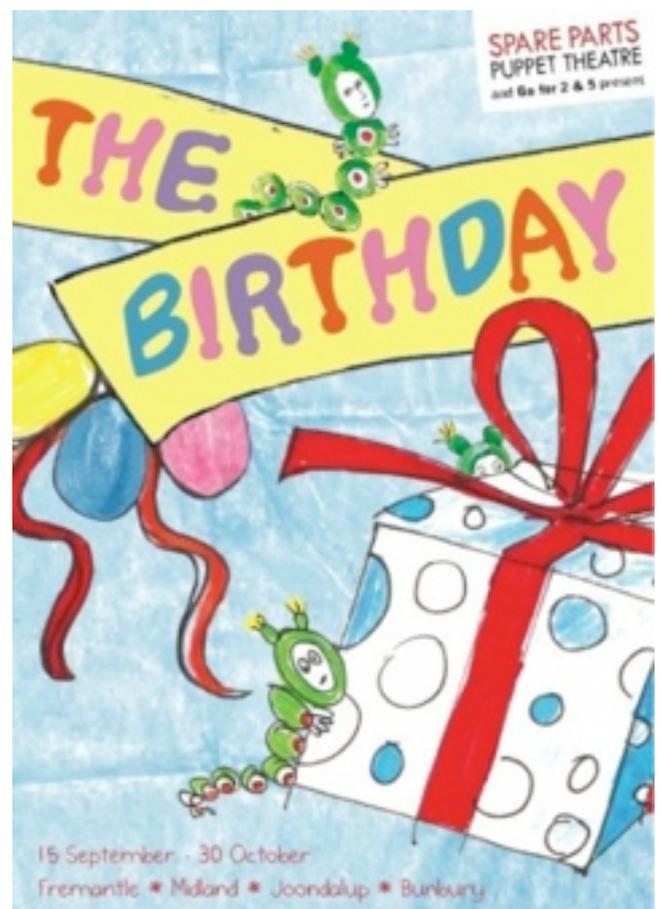
1 Short Street

Fremantle. W.A.

Tickets are on sale now

visit www.sppt.asn.au

or call 9335 5044



NEWS

OF PUPPETEERS AND THEIR PROJECTS

Bryan Woltjen has just returned from 8 months overseas. He has been working on some puppet development projects in London.

He's back in Perth designing for a couple of projects, including an adaptation of Sean Tan's 'Tales from Outer Suburbia' with the Spare Parts Team, but he will be heading back to London to follow up a few leads...

Gabrielle Griffin was recently successful in obtaining further creative development funding from South Australia's Arts SA to continue work on 'Pie', a solo show exploring female reproduction desires. She will be collaborating with Nancy Black and Rod Primrose is in charge of puppet design and construction. There will be projections/light images by Cindi Drennan of Illuminart. Production is pencilled for July 2011..

Vicki Philip (Skipjack Theatre) has just recorded an album and is heading off on an East Coast Tour this August. She is also carving a wooden puppet for a new puppet project....

Michael Bevitt and Beth McMahon (Purple Capsicum Puppets) have crossed the Nullarbor and have begun their puppet tour of W.A. They are hoping their van will last the distance.... (Pictures in the September issue)

Snuff Puppets will be holding a People's Puppet Project workshop in Denmark at [Frit Oplysningsforbund](#) the Danish Free Education Association in late August/September. The 30 workshop participants are a bunch of young local artists who will collaborate with Snuff Puppets. to design, build and concoct a giant puppet theatre work.

The puppets created during the workshop will then proudly go on parade at the opening gala of Denmark's [Aarhus Festival](#) - : www.snuffpuppets.com

Pupperoos Puts on the Denim

by Kay Yasugi

Last month a very small and rather peculiar guest danced his way into the annual Jeans for Genes Denim Charity Dinner in Sydney. His name is "Billy Jean" and he is a rod/marionette (created and performed by KayYasugi). Billy danced, 'moon-walked' and kicked around a football with guests as they enjoyed the night's festivities. The dinner was held at Sydney's Doltone House and raised funds for the Children's Medical Research Institute.

Some of the celebrity guests included MC Chris Bath (Anchor for Channel Seven News), the cast of the



Channel Nine TV series "Underbelly", Angus McLaren (who plays "Nathan" on Channel Seven's "Packed to the Rafters") and a myriad of artists who had donated their time and talent to create the denim artworks being showcased. The main highlight of the evening was auctioning off the various artworks of jeans donated by international and Australian celebrities including Russell Crowe and Sigourney Weaver. The People's Choice Award was given to Paul Dorin for his artwork of Ricky Ponting's jeans.

Jeans for Genes Day is on Friday August 6, 2010. Please wear your favourite pair of jeans and give generously to a very good cause. For more information on this charity (and to view the auctioned artworks) please visit www.jeansforgenes.org.au

For more news about "Billy Jean" and Pupperoos visit www.pupperoos.com

REVIEW

Terrible Comfort

Everything Will Be Okay and

Urgent Little Things (All the constant loud talking is making me tired)

(Terrible Comfort are: Robert Reid and Sayraphim Lothian)

La Mama – July 21st until August 1st 2010

Everything Will Be Okay

Everything Will Be Okay tells us the story of Doug and Debbie, represented by 'designer art market' style stuffed toys. The puppeteers are present on stage but clothed in white lab coats and masked with Mexican wrestling Masks. There is Doug and his need to sabotage the federal election (set back in time at the last election) with extreme measures – not content with kicking over a couple of cardboard polling booths he goes nuclear! Debbie, concerned, seeks advice from the melodious female voice of an artificial intelligence that takes the form of a giant cat. There is a low, low tech, aesthetic to the show in its use of found and cheap materials and production values – sound and lighting is all controlled on the stage, at the 'play table' where all the action takes place. Whilst the two main characters are plumped out softies in the round the rest of the cast is 2D cutouts, standies, montages and a very scary set of Kevin Rudds. Objects and hokey homemade props move the story along, metonymically re-presenting events in the characters lives. Objects and props were brought on and off the set, sometimes in rapid succession to create little tableaux with lamps and torches clicked off and on to effect the transitions. The Boosh style roughly hand-made quality of the set and little performers was offset by the droll hitchhikers style humour that is consistent throughout. A potentially

serious subject matter is made accessible through this humour and the randomly generated general knowledge that peppers the whole piece. The show as a whole made me think of 19th century picture show street storytellers who slid images in and out of a frame as they narrated the story – this was a precursor to film. In this vein I felt that *Everything Will Be Okay* was a kind of 'live animation' closer to stop motion and illustration rather than puppetry. It's really great to experience good storytelling in an original form which is what *Everything Will Be Okay* delivered.

Urgent Little Things

This fantastic shadow puppet show had the shadow puppet characters leave the screen to become 3d flesh and blood (felt and buttons)! A simple story where a larger than all the rest 'demon of dumb stuff' is down as he has no-one to poke (you can only poke those bigger than you) so he sets off on a quest with a small companion to find a demon larger than himself. The shadow puppetry is clear and strong, inventive and funny. The 3D puppets are wonderful (again with the 'designer art market' style). Still low tech and controlled from the play table with shadow screens constructed from the inside lids of little cases. The narration was all pre – recorded. I would love to have had live voice in this one! Especially as there were usually only two characters and there were two puppeteers and in a tiny venue there seemed no reason for recorded voice at all. Liveness adds so much to an intimate puppetry performance and allows for listening to the audience and creating a more subtly nuanced show. Again Terrible Comfort have shown inventiveness and creativity plus great writing and storytelling in these experimental works that do not fear to cross traditional and contemporary boundaries

Bronwen Kamasz

PUPPET ART TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRE 2011 COURSE PROGRAMME

L'ATELIER D'Arketal

Centre de formation des arts de la marionnette
à Cannes



Programme des stages 2011

« MISE EN FORME, MISE EN JEU »

Programme de formation en 5 modules
proposés sur 3 mois à suivre en totalité
ou indépendamment les uns des autres

Du lundi 24 janvier au vendredi 4 février
2011 (70h sur 10 jours)

CONSTRUCTION DE MARIONNETTES

Techniques avec des matériaux naturels
Avec Greta Bruggeman

Du lundi 7 février au vendredi 25 février
2011 (105h sur 15 jours)

CONSTRUCTION DE MARIONNETTES JAPONAISES BUNRAKU

Avec Thomas Lundqvist

Du lundi 28 février au vendredi 4 mars 2011
(35h sur 5 jours)

INTERPRETATION AVEC MARIONNETTES

Avec Pierre Blaise du Théâtre Sans Toit

Du lundi 7 mars au vendredi 1^{er} avril 2011
(140h sur 20 jours)

SCENOGRAPHIE à partir de contes philosophiques

Conception avec Julia Skuratova, réalisation
avec Greta Bruggeman

Du lundi 4 avril au vendredi 15 avril 2011
(70h sur 10 jours)

JEU DE MARIONNETTES à partir des scénographies du stage précédent

Avec Sylvie Osman

Dossier complet sur demande

« BUILDING, PLAYING »

Training programme in 5 modules over
3 months to be followed as a whole or
independently

From Monday 24th January to Friday 4th
February 2011 (70 hours over 10 days)

PUPPET BUILDING

Techniques with natural material
With Greta Bruggeman

From Monday 7th to Friday 25th February
2011 (105 hours over 15 days)

JAPANESE BUNRAKU PUPPET BUILDING

With Thomas Lundqvist

From Monday 28th February to Friday 4th
March 2011 (35 hours over 5 days)

PERFORMANCE WITH PUPPETS

With Pierre Blaise from the Théâtre Sans Toit

From Monday 7th March to Friday 1st April
2011 (140 hours over 20 days)

STAGE DESIGN from philosophique tales
Conception by Julia Skuratova and
realization by Greta Bruggeman

From Monday 4th to Friday 15th April 2011
(70 hours over 10 days)

PUPPET PLAYING from the stage designs of
the previous courses

With Sylvie Osman

Ask for more information

Arketal

4 impasse de la Chaumière, BP 17 - 06400 Cannes
Tél. : 04 93 68 92 00 - Fax : 04 92 99 25 07
Email : compagniearketal@wanadoo.fr - Site : www.arketal.fr



FESTIVAL



OPEN CALL FOR PUPPETEERS from all over the world!

This is an open call to participate in the fourth edition of the Festival Internacional de Titeres al Sur to be held in July 2011 in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The Festival is non-profit and is done mostly with volunteer labor of members of the Grupo de Teatro Catalinas Sur. The Festival will perform its functions in conventional venues, theatres, and unconventional, such as community kitchens, public libraries, hospitals and schools. During the 16 days of the Festival there will be two programmes: one for the whole family and one for adults.



Please send:

- 1) DVD with the entire, unedited show
- 2) Cast
- 3) Technical (bump-in/ bump-out times, lights, sound requirements etc .-)

Anyone who is interested or wants more information can send an email to:

festivalalsur@gmail.com

If you want to learn more, visit

www.catalinasur.com.ar / www.festivalalsur.com.ar

Recibimos el material en:

-EL GALPON DE CATALINAS-
Benito Perez Galdós 93 -
CP: 1155
Capital Federal
Buenos Aires
Argentina
(a nombre de Verónica Saban)
+5411-4307-1097

Just Desserts

by *Kassius Kamel*
*Middle Eastern Correspondent and refugee from
Australian Camel Cull*



I may not be residing in Australia currently, but I do take an occasional interest in the politics. The forthcoming election certainly raises some serious issues and I would like to present an erudite commentary:

CLIMATE CHANGE: Well, I'm all for it, personally. I think we could all do with a little more global warming - a few more deserts here and there - for camels to traverse, of course.

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS: I believe Ms. Gillard broke a glass ceiling without actually breaking her nose, which is quite a noteworthy achievement. Then again, Mr. Abbott has performed amazing contortionist feats, like inserting his big right foot into his mouth..

LISTENING TO WHAT THE ELECTORATE WANTS: Oh, indeed, this is critical in the current campaign, and although, as noted in the press, Ms. Gillard's earlobes are somewhat elongated, I'd have to say Mr. Abbott sports a remarkable pair of flappers, (which would actually be an asset if he ever decides to take up swimming).

PEOPLE SMUGGLING: It's an abomination. So is camel smuggling, not to mention *budgie* smuggling. And it is rumoured that one of the candidates attires himself in a style of swimwear promoting the illegal exportation of Australian native bird life....

Of course, as a refugee in Saudi Arabia, I don't have the privilege of voting, but I like to speculate as to how I'd cast my vote if I were back in my homeland.

Unfortunately, the name, 'Abbott', rhymes with the name given to a burrowing, herbivorous, twitchy-nosed mammal, commonly associated with chocolate eggs - and I don't want to go there... Whereas 'Julia' - the name is poetry itself. (Robert Herrick, a contemporary of Shakespeare, penned inspired lyrics to his Julia: "Upon Julia's Clothes", "Upon Julia's Voice", "Upon Julia's Ribbon", "Upon Julia's Hair Filled with Dew", "Upon Julia's Recovery" !!!!!-recovery from *what?*)

Ah, but the Greens..... Although green is not my colour, perhaps it is they who will feature as an *oasis* in the desert.....

MAY WE ALL GET OUR JUST DESSERTS.

K

About O.P.E.N. (Oz Puppetry Email Newsletter)

O.P.E.N. is a free and voluntarily produced newsletter and is open to all. You can contact us on dreampuppets@netspace.net.au Please send reports of any known or suspected puppet activity by the **25th of each month**. (Profiles of puppet characters or drawings/cartoons also welcome). Please keep photo resolutions low. Preferably send written material in .doc form so that it can be edited or rearranged on the page.

Publication will be during the **first week of each month**.

Julia Davis and Richard Hart, Dream Puppets

LINKS to more information about Australian puppetry:

www.puppetsinmelbourne.com.au

www.PUPPETRYNEWS.com <http://africanpuppet.blogspot.com/>

www.unima.org.au

<http://twitter.com/OzPuppetry>

www.dreampuppets.com

www.puppetpalace.com.au

Vote 1 - the Dromedocrats.



The Dromedocrats are committed to raising the profile of camels in the community (without recourse to hump implants) - or at least achieving status equity with equines.

We believe environmental issues are a top priority. We are in favour of global warming and the expansion of hot and sandy desert terrain. Moreover, we can offer proven solutions for the conservation and efficient use of water.

The Dromedocrats have a demonstrable record of centuries of experience in the management of taxing burdens, and can promise tax relief in the form of hump concessions. Non taxable hump sum superannuation payments and a luxury tax on double humps are also proposed.

We prefer rumination to education.