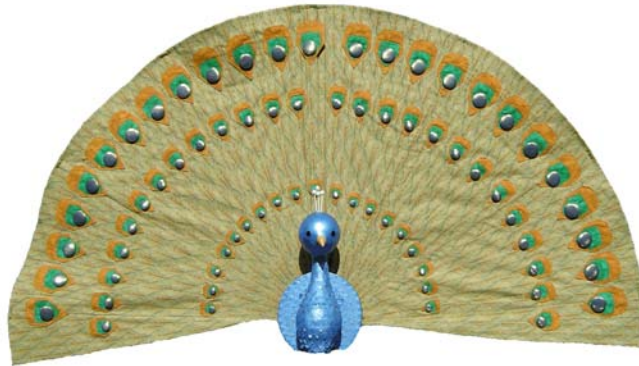


COAD CANADA PUPPETS

PRESENT

HARLEQUIN'S CLOAK

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE



THE STORY



Columbine, the ward of the elderly Pantalone, is destined to marry the pompous El Capitano. But plans go awry when the dashing Harlequin passes her balcony. Pantalone's attempts to keep the young lovers apart only increase their desire to marry.

Harlequin serenades Columbine but instead attracts the unwanted attention of the neighbour Frau Franken. He is forced to disguise himself in a cloak.

El Capitano proposes marriage to Columbine and Pantalone insists she accept. When she tells Harlequin, the young lovers decide to elope. However Pantalone discovers the plot and chases Harlequin away.

- Will the young lovers be united?
- With Pantalone's wishes be fulfilled?
- Will Frau Franken find happiness?

BACKGROUND

Inspired by the Commedia dell'Arte pantomime-dance at Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens, Luman Coad has created his own version of the timeless stories of Harlequin, Columbine, Pierrot, Pantelone, and El Capitano. As a tribute, our performance opens with a Peacock Curtain folding into the floor. (The original Peacock Curtain at the Chinese Theatre in the Tivoli, created in the 1850s, requires five men to operate.)

Commedia dell'Arte originated as Italian street theatre in the mid-1500s. (Hence the opening backdrop of Venice.) The players were itinerant players who would set up their stages wherever an audience could be found. After the performance they would move on to the next village. Before long there were troupes roaming through Europe. Their improvised performances, based on set characters and simple storylines, began to influence the local theatres and playwrights. Moliere's classic comedies are based on many of the Commedia characters.





Based in North Vancouver, Coad Canada Puppets tour the world. They have performed in nearly twenty countries and won numerous awards. They are frequent performers at puppetry festivals across North America and abroad.

Luman's interest in puppetry was kindled in grade five when he saw a marionette (string-puppet) production of "*Pinocchio*." Then he found a very old copy of "*Marionettes: Easy to Make, Fun to Use*" by Edith Flack Ackley in the public library. The interest in puppetry continued to grow and when he entered university, he began to earn a living by creating and performing puppet shows.

His first international performance was in Bucharest, Rumania, where he was awarded a First Prize. The following year he formed Coad Canada Puppets with his late wife Arlyn, who became the company's Designer. The puppets in this play are inspired by some of her original designs.

BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

- Read and discuss the storyline.
- Research Commedia dell'Arte and Moliere.

PERFORMANCE

The total performance, lasting approximately forty to forty-five minutes, will be in three parts: 1) a brief introduction, 2) the play, and 3) a demonstration of the puppets followed by a lively Question & Answer session.

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

- Discuss the performance: what happened and why. Also discuss the feelings of the characters.
- Discuss the story elements:
 - Characters and their goals
 - Conflict
 - Climax
 - Resolution
- Research and discuss how Commedia dell'Arte might have been influenced by the Renaissance.

GOALS

- To develop skills in listening, watching, and concentration.
- To create an appreciation of verbal and non-verbal communication.
- To explore the creative use of imagination and fantasy.
- To generate interest in puppetry as a craft and as a performing art.
- To stimulate interest in writing dramatic stories.

BOOKS ON PUPPETRY

The Puppetry Store, a service of the Puppeteers of America, Inc., carries all the titles currently in print. www.puppeteers.org - click on Puppetry Store.

ORGANIZATIONS

The Puppeteers of America, Inc., is North America's largest and most active association of puppeteers, educators, therapists, and enthusiasts. Besides publishing a quarterly magazine and a bi-monthly newsletter, the association sponsors weekend and week-long festivals across North America, maintains a panel of consultants who are experts in aspects of puppetry, and operates a mail-order bookstore service.

For further information contact:

Puppeteers of America Membership Office

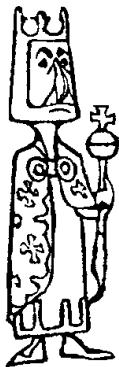
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