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Marionettes: How To Make And Work Them



Synopsis

This is the complete book of marionette craft – from making heads and constructing bodies to stringing the marionettes on one- and two-hand controls, operating the marionettes, and putting on your own shows. Four books by Helen Fling have been brought together to make this volume. Their wealth of illustrations, tricks, helpful hints and solid, easy-to-follow advice will go far toward making your performances successful, enjoyable, and creative. In the first section, full details are given on making puppet and marionette heads – creating them, molding them, casting them, making them out of plastic wood and papier-mâché, painting them, and adding character details such as noses and wigs. The second section tells, in equal detail, how to make hands, feet, legs, arms, and bodies with a variety of methods for joining the parts together, taping, painting, finishing, and placing screw-eyes for mechanical perfection. The third section shows how to construct marionette controls, how to string your marionettes, and how to manipulate your controls for the movements, postures, gestures, and tricks. Costume and character details are also covered. By the end of this section both you and your characters should be ready to perform. The final section covers the details of marionette show production – building a stage, lighting, scenery, sound effects, curtain-drops, and presentation. One complete play, with full details on stage props, marionettes, and background, is included. More than 400 helpful illustrations show every step of marionette craft from conception and construction to performance. Beginners will find this book to contain everything they need to know to construct marionettes and present their own shows. Puppeteers will find the chapter on head-making equally suited to their craft. Those who have some experience with marionettes will find the sections on tricks, alternate procedures, and professional methods to greatly increase their abilities to build marionettes and create a variety of new effects and successful marionette performances.

Book Information

File Size: 20802 KB

Print Length: 192 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications; Revised edition (December 6, 2012)

Publication Date: December 6, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00A44M6FO

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #655,273 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #14

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Customer Reviews

So I love puppets / marionettes. I bought this as a bit of a splurge item because I really just wanted to see what goes into making them and then I'd decide whether or not I wanted to take on a new craft or not. This book is a good starting point. It did give me a good idea of what goes into making a marionette. As others have said, the images are a bit dated, but that's okay, while simple it's done well. My only real gripe is that there is a large chunk of the book taken up by a play and how you would put it on. I'd really rather see that space used for more advanced tricks and techniques on how to make even better / more advanced marionettes. For example - there is little to nothing on how to handle eyes in this book (I can sum up all it says on the subject with they should be larger than normal and shellac them after painting them - when I wanted to know about making moveable ones). Same with mouths - the only really details information on a mouth is one page on making a dog mouth open. I'd really rather have had all of that space used on that play given to those kinds of things. You'll surely want to supplement this with other books or information found online - possibly even when making basic marionettes but still, as a beginner guide it does offer a fair amount of information.

I am glad I got it, because I like puppet books, but the line drawings are sometimes difficult to understand, and the book often makes things seem very quick and simple, when in fact it can take a long time, for instance, to carefully cover a small puppet hand with paper mache, then finish it. I like the book because it specializes in marionettes, and I love the cover design.

I remember this book from years back, after I became a puppeteer and traveled in NYC in a troupe

led by two professional puppeteers. It is quite explicit. It has so many great illustrations and patterns. It is quite clear and terrifically thorough. It even tells you things such as how to make gesso--I may have been happier when I didn't know! :)I had wanted to own it since I first saw it in another millennium, far far away. I'm glad it's in my library now.

A great read for people interested in the history of marionettes and other puppets and how to use them. Very informative and interesting. Would recomend for pupet fans.

A very out dated book that references a lot of unusable methods such as wax moulding. I mostly wanted to learn how to make movable interlocking joints but this was mostly using cloth or metal eylets for the joints. However it was helpful in teaching me how to string a marionette in various ways.

I bouth this book trying to see how a marionnet is built, how ever I got just a bunch of diagrams that are difficult to understand for a newcomer.

This book is awesome. I love to buy used books. Great deal.

Excellent book I will recommend it to everyone thanks

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