

## Festival of Ideas 2023: MATERIAL PUPPETS

*Ideas 2023 asks, how can puppets, 'metaphors of matter', help us address our Material World?*

*A Festival/Conference using the power of puppetry to explore & impact social issues of our time.*

*International and local presenters inspire through in person and online streamed sessions.*

**Friday November 24 and Saturday November 25, 2023**

**In-person at [C-Space](#), Calgary, AB**

**& Online//Live Streamed**

The magic and wonder of live puppet theatre, like any theatre, is the ephemeral. The moment is there and then it is not. The 'sparks of animation' live on only in the memory of the performer and audience.

But at the same time there is a materiality in the puppet. It is a physical object. It's very being is wrapped in a wood or fabric case. They can be ice puppets, brick puppets, plastic puppets or even puppets from adult diapers. It's character dictates the materials and animation methods chosen by the maker. It's appearance influences the audience's perceptions of it's nature. "It is the ultimate 'mark maker' – a statement that we are here and we exist"\*.

Puppets quite literally are the stories of stuff.



What is the interplay between essence and presence? How does it mirror the larger world stage? Our Festival of Ideas uses the power of puppetry to explore and impact the social issues of our time. Certainly, a current 21<sup>st</sup> century issue is our human relationship with Stuff. Things. Assemblage. Collections. Fabrication. Pollution. Consumerism. Excess. Desperate need. Some in the world have too much stuff and fight a battle of 'downsizing', disposal, recycling and deconstruction. Others have nothing but the items in the plastic bag they carry.

*\*Cariad Astles <https://www.cssd.ac.uk/staff-profiles/cariad-astles>*

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LOWER HALLWAY	C-SPACE STUDIO THEATRE	C-SPACE TREEHOUSE CLASSROOM
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2023		
	Fri, Nov 24, 01:00 hrs MST - INTERMISSIONS FROM SINGAPORE - PANEL + DISCUSSION (Duration 1 hour) (online only)  <a href="#">TICKETS &amp; INFO</a>	
Fri, Nov 24, 17:00 hrs MST - PUPPETS WITH JOY & CRAFTY PUPPET STUFF SALE (Duration 3 hours) (In - person - FREE)	Fri, Nov 24, 17:00 hrs MST - MIX, MEET & MINGLE, CURATORIAL MUSINGS (Duration 1 hour) (online only)  <a href="#">TICKETS &amp; INFO</a>	
	Fri, Nov 24, 19:00 hrs MST - LIVE PERFORMANCE + PUPPET MAKING (in-person or online)  Puzzle Theatre - PLASTIQUE  <a href="#">TICKETS &amp; INFO</a>	
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25 2023		
Sat, Nov 24, 10:00 hrs MST - PUPPETS WITH JOY & CRAFTY PUPPET STUFF SALE (Duration - until 20:00 hrs) (In - person - FREE)	Sat, Nov 25, 11:00 hrs MST - TALK + DISCUSSION (Duration 1 hour) (in person or online)  Riku Laakkonen - Zooming in from Finland: "Evolution from a Diaper to Puppet" <a href="#">TICKETS &amp; INFO</a>	Sat, Nov 25, 10:00 hrs MST - HANDS ON WORKSHOP #1 (duration 2 hours) (in person only)  Puzzle Theatre - Workshop <a href="#">TICKETS &amp; INFO</a>
LUNCH (on your own)		
	Sat, Nov 25, 13:00 hrs MST - TALK + DISCUSSION (Duration 1 hour) (in-person and online)  Tea Kovse - Zooming in from Slovenia: We are all the Shakespeares of our own lives <a href="#">TICKETS &amp; INFO</a>	Sat, Nov 25, 13:00 hrs MST - HANDS ON WORKSHOP #2 (duration 2.5 hrs) (in person only)  Jennifer Stables - Workshop <a href="#">TICKETS &amp; INFO</a>
	Sat, Nov 25, 14:15 hrs MST - VIDEO SCREENINGS A collection of short videos exploring the human relationship with materials (Duration - 1 hour) (In person - FREE)	
	Sat, Nov 25, 16:00 hrs MST - INTERMISSIONS FROM IOWA - PANEL + DISCUSSION (Duration 1 hour) (in-person and online)  <a href="#">TICKETS &amp; INFO</a>	
DINNER (on your own)		
	Sat, Nov 25, 19:00 hrs MST - LIVE PERFORMANCE + DISCUSSION (in-person or online)  Puzzle Theatre - Disposable <a href="#">TICKETS &amp; INFO</a>	

*Please read start times carefully*

Note we are presenting sessions in several ways:  
Presenter is In person |||  
Audience is in person OR Zoom  
Presenter is via Zoom |||  
Audience is in person OR Zoom  
Presenter is via Zoom ||| Audience is Zoom only  
Presenter is In person |||  
Audience is in person only

## Our Presenters!



### Puzzle Theatre

**Performing 'Plastique' on Friday Nov 24 at 7:00 pm MST, followed by puppet making fun!**

A multicoloured performance with unusual puppets, humour and unexpected situations!

**(Audience ---- In person OR Zoom)**

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**(Audience ---- In person OR Zoom)**

**(Audience ---- In person only)**

*Montreal's Puzzle Theatre has a unique style of combining various types in the traditional and the contemporary: drama theatre, object and puppet theatre. The company distinguishes itself by the coloured amalgam of styles and the great diversity of means of expression that they propose, leave the audience the freedom to interpret the unmentioned, to freely associate ideas and allow them to feel what is not explicitly told.*

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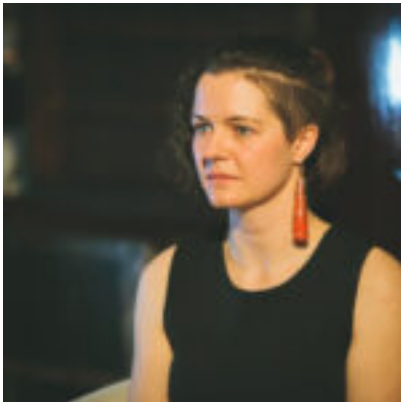


### Riku Laakkonen

**Zooming in from Finland, Riku shares his work with the elderly in his talk and Q&A "Evolution from a Diaper to Puppet", work that aims to de-stigmatize this object of care.**

**(Audience ---- In person OR Zoom)**

*Riku Laakkonen is a puppeteer, director, actor, and teacher. After studying at DAMU (Theatre Academy of Music and Art) in Prague, Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, and Turku University of Applied Sciences he has been working with both professionals and amateurs. He is one of the founding members of the Centre of Stage Animation Research (founded 2007). He started his artistic doctoral studies at the Tampere University's Center for Research Theatre Work in August 2020. His thesis "Object expression and social death: Animation with Kanssa building the weak agency of the elderly" is part of the wider Kone foundation-financed Social Death at the Threshold research project.*



## Tea Kovse

Zooming in from Slovenia for this this talk and Q&A, Tea, shares her research of personal objects with both seniors and young people. The objects that carry precious moments of our past and help create the feeling of home and make us all Shakespeares of our own lives.

**(Audience ---- In person OR Zoom)**

*Tea is a puppeteer who explores the performing area within puppetry, physical theatre and street theatre. After completing MA Dramaturgy at the Academy of theatre, radio, film and television (AGRFT) in Ljubljana, Slovenia, she co-founded Gledališče DELA (Theatre WORKS) – <https://ojoj.blog/> – a performative theatre based on puppetry, movement and music.*



## Jennifer Stables

Presenting in-person, Jennifer will "Unveil Paper's Potential: Exploring Post-Consumer Papers and Crafting Handheld Mask Puppets". A hands -on workshop for educators and anyone who works with children.

**(Audience ---- In person only)**

*Jennifer is an experienced Artist and Art Educator with a background in Reggio-Inspired teaching and learning. Her whimsical artwork includes puppets, paintings, sculptures, and illustrations. She has created community art programs, worked as an art educator and classroom teacher, and currently works as an Artist in Residence for schools in Calgary and surrounding areas. <https://www.jennydaledesigns.com/>*

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## Joy Kirkwood

**Puppets with Joy - Drop-in Puppet Making** At this drop-in puppet making table, Joy will share her expertise in making puppets from recycled and recyclable materials. Participants can get creative to make their own puppets on spot. Next they can take their puppets home and/or create another puppet to participate in WP Puppet Theatre's donation drive for senior homes for holiday season and donate their creative puppets to the campaign.

Great for anyone wanting to get crafty and to create impact with generosity!

*Joy Kirkwood (BFA) is a visual artist whose skills include drawing, painting, sewing and papier mâché. Joy was an artist in residence in Calgary schools for many years as well as teaching art classes for children and adults at Place des Arts in Coquitlam BC. Joy is also well known for her nature inspired poetic fibre figures she fondly calls 'dolls'. Having retired back to Calgary she continues to create and share her artistic ideas when the opportunity arises. <https://joyannkirkwood.com/>*



## Festival of Ideas Campaign - CALL TO ACTION

Festival of Ideas uses the power of puppetry to explore and impact the social issues of our time. Certainly, a current 21st century issue is our human relationship with Stuff. Festival of Ideas is encouraging you to think about the *stuff* you hold on to or consume or disregard and dispose, or avoid. With this campaign, we are calling you to reflect, learn and take action in response to our relations to materials and show your impact!

- Commit to our 5 actions for 15 days
- Take a picture what you've done
- Share it at your social media platforms (Instagram or Facebook) and tag WP Puppet Theatre or or send us and email at [admin@wppuppet.com](mailto:admin@wppuppet.com)
- Learn more about materials and our relations to it and share with others #festivalofideas!



## Intermissions:

Puppetry practitioners, researchers, scholars, and theorists and the audience discuss the "metaphors of matter" from the practical to the existential. Hosted from three different parts of the world by:

### INTERMISSIONS FROM SINGAPORE: Hosted by Frans Hakkemars



[Frans Hakkemars](#) (The Netherlands/Singapore) studied sociology and is puppeteer since 1980. He performs solo, together with Koomans Poppentheater in the Hague and worked in applied puppetry with Droomtheater Rotterdam. He is councillor for NVP-UNIMA-Netherlands, co-editor of the Dutch quarterly "*The world of puppetry*" and member of the UNIMA sub-commission Puppetry Publications Online.

[www.franshakkemars.nl](http://www.franshakkemars.nl)



### Padmini Rangarajan from Hyderabad, India

A Storyteller, Educational Puppeteer and one of the founder directors of Sphoorthi Theatre for Educational Puppetry, Art and Craft-STEPARC, research scholar and Editor of Puthalika Patrika-a digital Puppetry Journal Magazine and Sanrakshan-A natural Biodiversity magazine

<http://www.sphoorthitheatre.com/about-padmini.html>



### Terence Tan from Art Solute, Singapore

Terence Tan Si Peng (he/him) is artist, arts manager and community arts facilitator. With Artsolute, a not-for-profit, he designed and led puppetry, drama, and visual arts workshops for children, the elderly and vulnerable communities and co-facilitated interdisciplinary devising sessions for traditional and professional puppeteers and puppet arts educators.

<https://www.artsolute.asia/>





**Putu Ardiyasa, Bali, Indonesia**

Ardi is a lecturer and artist who graduated from the Bachelor of Puppetry Program at the Indonesian Institute of the Arts Denpasar (2015) and the Master of Arts Management Program at the Indonesian Institute of the Arts Yogyakarta (2017) He focuses on puppetry through scientific research and artistic research which is realized in innovative works.

<https://www.facebook.com/thue.ardy?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

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**INTERMISSIONS FROM IOWA: Hosted by Amanda Petefish-Schrag**



[Amanda Petefish-Schrag](#) (USA) is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Iowa State University where she teaches courses in Theatre History, Script Analysis, Acting, and Puppetry. She is a professional puppeteer, playwright, and director. Her puppetry research and practice focus on puppetry's social-ethical function within communities, particularly as it relates to humans, ecology, and the environment.



**Johanna Smith, California**

Johanna Smith is a Professor of Puppetry, Theatre Education, and Entrepreneurship at CSU, San Bernardino and the author of *Puppetry in Theatre and Arts Education: Head, Hands, and Heart* (Methuen Drama), winner of UNIMA USA's Nancy Staub Publications Award. She has directed puppet shows that have taken her and her college students around the world, but she is just as happy playing with puppets in a room full of preschoolers. She believes in the power of laughter and creative re-use to inspire a love of learning.

<https://www.facebook.com/johanner>

[https://www.instagram.com/johanner\\_123/](https://www.instagram.com/johanner_123/)



### **Tangle McClaron, Canmore, AB**

Tangle McClaron is a puppeteer, educator, musician, theatre-maker, mama and caffeine aficionado. She creates didactic musical theatre for Alberta Parks and produces original shows, runs workshops and builds puppets and costumes with her company Entangled Puppetry. A lifelong learner, she loves exploring the limitless storytelling possibilities puppetry affords.

Facebook @entangledpuppetry

instagram @entangledpuppetry



### **Matt Smith, Portsmouth, United Kingdom.**

Dr. Matt Smith, Reader in Applied Theatre and Puppetry, University of Portsmouth, UK, has 37 years' experience, working in diverse settings such as schools, prisons, with environmental agencies, arts for health, youth arts, disability arts groups and with the homeless. Smith's practice is interdisciplinary mixing drama, puppetry, masks, and junk music. Publications

include (2015) The Practice of Applied Puppetry: Antecedents and Tropes, (2016) Thinking Through the Puppet inside Immigration Detention. and (2018) Hand to Hand: The Dynamic Situation of Applied Puppetry.

<https://researchportal.port.ac.uk/en/persons/matt-smith>

### **Video Playlist**

<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOKPcqRdiQU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOKPcqRdiQU</a> Rosza Foundation + Bamboo Shoots: Land acknowledgment
<a href="https://www.storyofstuff.org/movies/the-story-of-solutions">https://www.storyofstuff.org/movies/the-story-of-solutions</a> The Story of Solutions
<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecES6mxeJ94">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecES6mxeJ94</a> Voices of Gun Violence: art and healing with survivors
<a href="https://www.ted.com/talks/chris_jordan_turning_powerful_stats_into_art">https://www.ted.com/talks/chris_jordan_turning_powerful_stats_into_art</a> Turning powerful stats into art
<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TM0eAC5_6dE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TM0eAC5_6dE</a> Ice puppets break the mold in Marseille's production of "The Waves"   AFP
<a href="https://www.pbs.org/video/lived-knowledge-djhbyk/">https://www.pbs.org/video/lived-knowledge-djhbyk/</a> PBS Lived Knowledge Series – a kayak is more than just a boat