

## A view of the THE MARIONETTE

The visual/theatrical experience of a marionette spectacle is rare and unique. Few people in the world practice the art. The marionette has within it a spirit which many eminent poets and scholars have tried to define:

**George Bernard Shaw:** *"...Their unvarying intensity of facial expression, impossible for living actors, keeps the imagination of the spectators continuously stimulated."*

**Joseph Conrad:** *"Marionettes are beautiful, ....Their impassibility in love, in crime, in mirth, in sorrow, - is heroic, superhuman, fascinating....I love the marionettes that are without life, and that come so near to being immortal."*

**Edward Gordon Craig:** *"...the history of puppets, so modest and so simple in appearance is bound up in a hundred ways with the most arduous questions and the most important events in the history of humanity...Thirty centuries of public life, three thousand years of uninterrupted tradition; do these suffice to prove the nobility of lineage in the family of the Marionettes?"*

**Goethe** *"He who would work for the stage should leave nature in her proper place and take heed not to have recourse to any thing but what may be performed by children with puppets..."*

**Jean Cocteau:** *"Simple minds see fairies more easily than others, because they do not fight against the miracle with set minds."*

*Movingstage*

present

**'THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE**

**AND**

**OTHER TALES FROM AÆSOP'**

adapted for the marionette stage

by

J Harvey

Marionettes and Staging: *Gren and Juliet Middleton*

Two leading manipulators in the field of marionette theatre, they have to their credit over 20 productions featuring fully carved marionettes. **Juliet** has been working with marionettes since 1970 and is an accomplished operator. **Gren** has been involved with theatre and film from childhood. After school he trained as a film cameraman photographing some 14 feature films and many documentaries before he and Juliet realised the potential for combining the marionette theatre and modern technology with the obvious opportunity for the control of light and sound in a production. Together Gren with his film background and Juliet with her puppet experience started Movingstage in 1978 and have run the PUPPET BARGE for one and a half decades as well as touring on land both abroad and in this country.

Fables: *Aesop*

By almost universal consent Aesop was born, a slave, in approximately 620BC. He was given his liberty as a reward for his learning and wit. Aesop, taking advantage of the freedom offered him, raised himself from the servile status of slavery to a position of high renown. He was employed by the monarch Croesus to handle various difficult and delicate affairs of the State. Aesop travelled throughout the peninsula visiting the different petty republics of Greece. It was during these visits that he narrated some of the wise fables to reconcile the different factions. One of his ambassadorial tasks was the cause of his death. Aesop was sent to Delphi by Croesus with a large sum of gold for distribution among the citizens, he was so provoked by the covetousness of the citizens that he refused to divide the money. The Delphinians were so enraged at this treatment they had him executed as a common criminal. Eventually the citizens of Delphi made a public apology for their crime and "The blood of Aesop" became a well known adage, bearing witness to the truth that deeds of wrong would not pass unpunished.

The Actors: *Rudolph Walker, Louise Middleton, Robert Humphreys*

**Rudolph** is the leading Caribbean actor in this country and has been a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company. He has taken numerous lead roles in theatre productions, film and TV. He is currently starring in 'The Thin Blue Line' with Rowan Atkinson. **Louise** has played in both theatre and TV, including The Bill, Jeeves and Wooster and as a presentation girl for Channel 4. **Rob Humphreys** wrote and acted for The Works Theatre Co after leaving Cambridge University. He is now a writer on the Rough Guide travel series.

**MOVINGSTAGE MARIONETTE COMPANY**

PRESENT

**'THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE AND OTHER TALES  
FROM AESOP'**

narrated by  
**Rudolf Walker**

**ACT 1**

The Lion and the Fox  
The Gnat and the Lion  
The Lion and the Mouse  
The Spider and the Gnat.

**INTERVAL**

*Refreshments are available in the foyer*

**ACT 2**

The Cat and the Mice  
The Goat and the Fox  
The Hare and the Tortoise

Produced by

**G & J Middleton**

Music composed by

**Rory Allam**

Voices

**Rudolf Walker, Louise Middleton & Rob Humphreys**

Sky cloth painted by

**David Welsh**

Jungle cloth by

**LWTV Scenic Studios**

Puppets carved by

**Gren Middleton**

Manipulation by

**Mhari Smith & Juliet Middleton**

**...THE ONLY THEATRE IN THE COUNTRY THAT  
PRESENTS MARIONETTES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR...**

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