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## Vagabond Puppet People, Arlington VA: Puppet Fantasia

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# Vagabond Puppet People Arlington, Va. 

Culminating Project
Lindenwood 4
February, 1978

Research Notes on The Play

You will soon be seeing our production, "Puppet Fantasia." This guide is intended to help you prepare both yourself and your students for our performance, our workshop and other experiences which can develop from our work.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The show combines elements of music, dance, mime, masks and puppetry. The goal was to build a production whose essence was creation from simple elements. Thus, shapes are basic and materials are familiar, (i.e. a spider created from a broken umbrella). Metamorphosis is another key element, whether it be a scarf used to symbolize sky in one scene and water in another, or a costume that reverses for a new look. Also space, it's creative use and it's symbolism, is a vital ingredient of "Puppet Fantasia".

This production is multi-cultural and contains two myths intersperced with celebration episodes. Myths have throughout history served four functions:

1) To convey a sense of awe for the mystery of being.
2) To describe in poetic terms the culture's understanding of the order of the universe (the world, spirits, plants, animals and how they relate to each other).
3) To support the established social order by describing the society's customs, tabus, etc.
4) To initiate the individual into awareness of his sense of worth ( in primitive societies this is done by archtypes).

The Vagabond Puppet People intend to convey this sense of joy, happiness, "Be glad you're alive!".

## UNDERSTANDING THE PLAY'

Prologue A children's game of Freeze Tag in slow motion
mime, leading into boredom and then a new creation, "Fantasia". Fantasia is used in the sense of a fantasy trip in which ideas, images, fanciful things create a world of their own.

Africa The spider is a key element in many African myths and folk-tales. In West Africa he is Anasi, the trickster spider. This production uses an East African tale involving a spider, a mouse and a fly. Several versions of this tale exist. "The First Morning", retold by Margery Bernstein and Janet Kobrin, is the version mainly used. This episode uses a form of narration in which the mouse interprets for all characters except the Kings.

Puerto Rico The festival of Santiago is celebrated. It was chosen as the festival which appears in most Latin American countries, as well as in Spain. While the historical elements are present in our mime-dance, and teachers may do a follow-up if they choose, "Puppet Fantasia" stresses the fiesta aspect of the culture.

China In "Tales of a Chinese Grandmother" by Frances Carpenter, the second chapter contains the legend of Pan Ku. Elements of this myth form the basis for our third segment. The style used is modified Chinese theater, with a narrator telling the tale and actors miming the story line. The true Chinese stage is a bare platform, stripped of all scenic aids, to emphasize the actor's performance and colorful costumes. It is hung with a curtain at the rear and curtained openings at the extreme left and right for entrances and exits. All changes of scenes go on in full sight of the audience. Stage hands are in sight handing out properties and assisting the actors. The actor is the focus of attention. His movements are highly stylized according to his standardized role. Painted face actors (this production uses masks) must be strongly built and
able to perform gestures and movements in a bold way. Music is an integral part of the action on the stage. Without music the actor could not function. The music changes in emotion and movement.
U.S.A. The final segment is a celebration of our nation's art and science contribution to the world. With music that has elements of contemporary jazz and rock, the Vagabond Puppet People build a dance testimony to the Space Age.

Throughout the play music has been chosen for it's authenticity anc it's contribution to contemporary rhythms and tones.

Director's Report: The Process

## 47 S. ABERDEEN ST.

ARLINGTON, VA. 22204
"Puppet Fantasia": The Process of Creating a Culminating Project

Metamorphosis is one of the themes of "Puppet Fantasia"; metamorphosis of one mask into another, of a scarf from one function to another, of music spanning differing scenes. Metamorphosis is also the process by which "Fantasia" came into being.

My original idea for a culminating project was to rewrite a traditional folk tale and mount it as a marionette show with one live actor, a technique which I have used previously. However, Paul Vincent-Davies consistently prodded me to redefine my definition of puppetry, to move out and try new forms. Thus, by the end of the first trimester my thinking was already in flux. Accordingly, the second trimester I spent researching definitions of puppetry, listening to descriptions of innovative forms other puppeteers had seen and analyzing the shows which I saw. As I wrote my second trimester paper, I was constantly comparing what I had learned in theare history with the ideas of the master puppeteers I was reading. The process continued throughout the summer, while $I$ took a leave of absence to gain more contemplation time. Near the end of summer a new approach was taking seed, one in which music would dictate the action. Hours were spent listening and jotting down images which came to mind. Gradually, several things became clear. 1) The set would be constructed from boxes which could be moved and shifted as if they were living sculptures, 2) The production would be multicultural and utilize authentic traditional and contemporary sounds and 3) The format would blend several different theatre arts together into a whole. By mid-July a scenario was taking place which opened with'two young people devising a new dance
step and Mr. Music (a puppet) arriving to challenge the newness of it all. He would then lead them on a trip around the world to see the origins of rhythms and dance. This was the status of my thinking when I departed for California in August to take a Master's Class in Puppetry.

Califormia was another turning point. Many factors were involved-the different lifestyle, the privile ge of learning from Kermit Love, George Latshaw and Albrecht Roser, the many chances to glean bits and pieces of information and thinking from many differmet puppeteers. I found myself disappointed in and impatient with many workshops I attended and unwilling to remain within them. At the same time, I was extraordinarilly excited by those which I felt were excellent. At the time and for months thereafter, I felt that it had to do with the professional level of the workshops and my own personal growth in the knowledge and skills of my profession. Although both factors may have been involved to a minor extent, I have recently come to realize that something quite different was responsible. As I analyze my Califormia trip today, I am aware that the key factor was not how professional the information seemed to be; it lay, rather, in whether it was stretching and prodding me into new directions. The traditional was what I knew; what I was seeking was new ideas, new forms, new techniques which I could appropriate and transform into my own style. How helpful it would have been to have understood what underlay the ferment at the time it was happening!

It was in California that I met Tom Miller and arranged for him to serve as my sponsor for my final trimester. Bob Brown, Paul Vincent-Davies and. I had discussed the need to have someone involved who was theatre arts oriented. Tom fit the bill and his troupe had an intermational reputation. In conversations which I had with Tom I found that he had a capacity for sparking new ideas and images within me; and that he had an immense amount of practical knowledge that was the combination of attributes $I$ 'neede in a sponsor at this final stage
of my studies.

Upon my return from Califormia, I realized that I was dissatisfied with the project as planned. While many of the ideas seemed good and several were exciting, the concept as a whole was not working.for me. Then I lost my hearing. Although eventually it was partially restored, the impact of that adjustment was to play a role in the final outcome of the show. I had always tried to write my scripts as if a deaf person were to see the show, but I had not been deaf. Suddenly, I was plunged into a world in which everything was visually-oriented. Things which had been taken for granted had a different focus; if they couldn't be analyzed through sight they had little or no meaning. Now I wanted to experiment with puppetry forms which needed no verbalization. And timewise the resident theatre season was upon us.

The first show to be mounted was the Halloween show. Accordingly, I put together a show with little dialogue. I experimented with a variety format, which is traditional among puppeteers but was new to us. I played around with some new concepts, such as puppets and puppeteers in dance games toegher. Some of the show worked brilliantly, some was disastrous. The next two shows were traditional in style and gave me time to reflect on what had worked or not at Halloween and why. Out of these reflections a new show structure began to form in my mind. At this point I presented the concept outline to my staff and opened it to discussion. Meanwhile, I went back to the research books to find folk tales or cultural celebrations which might lend themselves to the new show fermenting. Many ideas were discussed and different approaches analyzed. The show was still in embryonic form when Tom arrived for his first visit. After one more session of staff input, discussion was closed down and the decision making process begun. Tom recommended the story-board technique, which was a great way to conceptualize the show. The danger from the beginning was that the show could easily turn out fragmented and not work as a unified whole. The story-board technique helped me
avoid some pitfalls. As I worked with the story-board some elements began to increase in importance and others diminished. The decision had been made earlier to use some of the same materials in differing ways throughout the show. This became stronger, until metamorphosis became a key element in the show and we began playing around with masks that could change characters, as well as props and set. The decision was made to alternate color moods and each segment was assigned a prevailing color scheme. It was also decided to alternate the segments between myths and celebrations and to have contrasting styles of presentation. Thus, it started with a prologue in slow motion mime, moved to an African folk-tale done predominantely in browns and blacks, told with masks and puppets, switched into a gay Puerto Rican fiesta dancemime celebration in bright sunny colors, with one giant puppet, keyed down into a formal narrated Chinese myth designed largely in blue-greens and finished with a multi-colored jazz-rock dance celebration of the space age. The concept was no longer a "puppet show", it had become a theatre arts presentation.

As Tom returned to Nova Scotia, the designing process began. The task was to design a unified show. Everyone was aware that it could easily look fragmented. After much reflection, I decided my focus would be basic shapes and simple materials. The sets were to be cardboard boxes; most of the masks would be also. Each puppet and mask would be designed from a basic shape, such as a circle or triangle, and would be constructed in materials suitable to the culture portrayed. With that guideline established, I began putting pencil to paper. Many sketches were drawn. Gradually, those which seemed to work best were selected and the construction process began. While my staff worked from the sketches, I returned to working on the script until a rough draft was ready. Upon completion of the rough draft work began on the set design, the music for the sound tape and other technical aspects of the show. At this stage the plan was to do a completely taped show. That, too, was to change.

This was a time in which many facets of production were going on simultaneously. Construction, staging ideas, script work, music research and costume designs all took place in a kind of high intensity chaotic atmosphere. By the time Tom returned, approximately four weeks later, almost all the puppets and and masks were completed. More revisions of the script took place and the prologue was changed. One combination puppet and mask was discarded as unsuitable. Then, at long last we went into blocking rehearsal.

Working from ideas which I had formed as the writing took place, we began structuring the show. Again the process was open to staff input and creative ideas flowed. A comment by one person would start several others on possible approaches and the "brainstorming", gained momentum. Usually a consensus would occur as to which form was working best and that form would become a part of the final blocking. Tom's aid during this time was invaluable; I wished we could have had him with us for another week. When he left the rough blocking had been completed. Now rehearsals began in earnest. Just before Tom left, we finally tracked down authentic Chinese music and spent two afternoons watching a Chinese opera instructor teaching dance movements. She was extremely gracious and gave of her time to show us the correct way to incorporate authentic moves into our blocking. Finally the staff and I began to have the feeling that it was going to come together and be an exciting show. We decided to go live! Two weeks were left before opening.

Rehearsals went into high gear. We rehearsed for several days, then Kathryn Fredgren, with whom several troupe members were taking a jazz class, came and worked with us. Following her, Craig Babcock worked with us on the mime sequences of the show. In between rehearsals, troupe members were putting finishing details on costumes, props, sets, masks and puppets.

I was finding it difficult to develop characterizations for my puppets since most of the time $I$ was out front directing and was racing to make my entrance in time for my cue. Therefore, during the final week I had several friends with theatre backgrounds come in and critique the show while I functioned strictly as a performer. This proved to be highly beneficial since not only
was I able to relate to my role in th show but we got the benefit of several persons viewpoint. Up to this point we had not rehearsed on a stage, only in our room. Dress rehearsal was our one chance on stage before opening! To our delight we discovered the show was comtogether. At 10:00 that evening, it was ready for opening and the traupe went home for a good night's sleep.

As the show has progressed we have continued to critique it, re-doing some blocking and rewriting the script. I expect this process to continue as theatre is a living form, new each time it is performed.

Set Layout and Designs



$-17-$


PERSPECTIVE OF STAGE

$$
\frac{1}{\sin .}=1 \mathrm{ft} .
$$



PUERTO RICO

Fantasia
Sets


AFRICA

PAGE 2


FINIS


CHINA

Set Photographs


Rooster hand puppet sur-
veying the world from the top of an African Hut.
(Scene 2)


The following costumes were used in this production:
A basic black jumpsuit

## Africa

A lion's mask
Chief's mask and long brown and grey figured robe

## Puerto Rico

Vembr's straw hat and green poncho
Conquistidor's helmet and orange and white poncho
Devil's mask and red ribbon neck rings

## China

Narrator's fan-shaped hat and silk embroidered robe
Pan Ku's mask and green brocade poncho (reverse of Puerto Rican)
Sun mask
Moon mask and red net used as drapery for chest
Blue scarf used as drapery for ribbon dance
Emperor's mask and silk embroidered robe

Yeny of the elements in this show serve more than one function. Thus, the devil mask reverses into the moon mask, the African chief's mask changes into the Emperor's mask by flipping the features and adding a different top, the poncho reverses, red net and blue scarf have jeen props and are costumes as well. Metamorphosis is the key factor.

Puppet and Mask Designs






Photographs of The Production
Puppeteer tries to look
inside one of the 'chaotic'
boxes. (Scene 1)


Puppeteers playing freeze tag in "chaos". (Scene 1)



The Sky People greet the mouse. (Scene 2)

The Sky King. (Scene 2)



The Devil replaces the Sun at Santiago's command.
(Scene 3)


The Ribbon Dance of the
Waters. (Scene 4)


The Emperor requests that the Sun \& Moon be placed in the Sky. (Scene 4)


Our "Supersonic Rocketship"
finale. (Scene 5)


Stage Manager's Tour List
ollowing are to be packed for touring:

Africa
Lion's mask
Fly
Spider
Mouse
Ants
Chief's Mask
Chief's costume
Booster
Red Box
Black Box
Sun
3 Sun Faces
Sky People
Blue Scarf
Red Net

Puerto Rico
Vendor's Fiat
Vendor's green Poncho
Vendor's Blue Blanket
Vendor's Whistle
Vendor's Mask
Vendor's Pipe
Vendor's Basket
Vendor's Belt
Conquistador's Helmet
Conquistador's sword
Conquistador's Black Belt
Conquistador's Orang ; inck,
Devil's Mask
Devil'sr Aelmit
2 Red Rings for Devil
Santiago

## China

Narrator's Hat
Narrator's Costume
Panku's Mask
Emperor's Hat
Emperor's Costume
Emperor's Belt
Emperor's Moustache

## Staging

l1. Eoxes
4 Curtains
4 Poles
4 Corss Bars
1 Connector Bar
4 Sets of Lights
2 Tripods
1 Tape Recorder
1 Tape

Script

1. Enter DSL X C. Examine boxes. Hears someone coming and hides behind boxes SR.
2. Others enter UC in slow motion splitting and going in different directions. 4th puppeteer catches 2nd puppeteer, then turns and chases 3rd puppeteer. As he catches 3rd one, lst puppeteer rises up laughing. He whirls and chases her, she reaches 3rd puppeteer and unfreezes him, he unfreezes 2nd puppeteer and 4 th puppeteer sits in anger.

4

3. 4th puppeteer is CS. Ist puppeteer is DR. 2nd is DL. 3rd is standing UL.
4. 2nd puppeteer $X$ 4th puppeteer mimes game to "Jacks". He refuses and she returns DL. lst puppeteer $X 4$ th puppeteer, hopscotches away and back, is rejected by 4 th puppeteer and returns to place. 3rd puppeteer shouts, "Red Light" is refused by all.
5. 4th puppeteer counts to 3, all respond by looking and pointing to SR for 3 count, then panning to SL.
6. Sound of drums.
7. lst and 4th puppeteers are assembling boxes from SR and 2nd and 3rd are assembing boxes from SL. Clapping rhythm is established for throwing and setting boxes: When hut is completed, all look at hut, lst and 4 th puppeteer SR, 2nd and 3rd SL, in Vformation.
c Gail-Eeverly Cummins 1978
BOKES ARE SCATTERED ON STAGE IN TNO
SEPAPATED PILES. MUSIC BEGINS (1), A
PUPPEMEER STROLLS ON TO STAGコ, EX-
AMINES BOXES. (2) THAT PUPPETEER IS
INTERRUPTED BV ENTRANCE CF REMAINING
PUPPETQERS PLAYITI A GAME OF PREEZE
TAG IN SLOW MOTION. (3) THE GAME STOPS
AND THEY SIT ON STACE. (4) A PUPPETEER
MIMES SUCGESTING GANES OF BAIL, ANOTHER
SUGGESTS HOPSCOTCH, ANONHE? SUGGEST
REDLIGHT, GREENLIGHT AND IS REFUSED.
SOUND OF AIRPIANE OVERHEARD. (5) RE-
SPONSE.
I Know, let's take a trip!

3rd Person:

2nd Person:
Fantastic!

4th Ferson:
Fantabulous!

Ist Person:
Fantasia!!!

All:
Fantasia?

1st Person:

All:
A fantasy trip!

Fantasia!!!!!

4th Person:

A11:
Veah, Africa.
(6) MUSIC CHANGES. (7) PUPPEMQZRS AS-

1. All yell "Africa" in stretch position. Lion roars and they resister surprise. Iion roars arain and 3rd ruppeteer pells and leaves. Other puppeteers move in confusion and lst freezes and yolls for help. uth puppeteer picks her up and carries her off UL allower by 3rd puppeteer.
2. Iion enters $C R$ from behind hut on all fours in mask and oropes around floor to emphasize hard conditions.
3. Faces, sniffins from side to sine, bumps into hut, smells and reacts.
4. $X$ diaronally $C I$ of hut.
5. Soider enters from UL, moves dom SI and bumps into Lion. Zounces avay, oumpinc and making angry sounds.
6. Lion rears up, feels spider's legs and nods approval.
7. Nouse enters $C R$ from behind hut roof.
8. She looks dow, hesitates, puppeteer's anm comes up, she perches on the amm, puppeteer does travelline dance step forward and kneels CR so that mouse is perched on mee.
9. Fly enters UL buzzes formard into Iion, he rears and sine bounces off and hits into hut, and zir zars close to llouse, settling on puppeteer's shoulder.
10. Ants enter UP and travel dornstame and puppeteer, $X$ to Lion walk across his back and Spider jumps out of way and they exit UI.

SEMBLE BOXES INTO AFRICAN HUT AND SET SCENE WITH BLUE SCARF AND RED NET..:

All:
Africa! (1)

ROAR OF LION IN BACKGROUND

3rd Person:

All:
A Iion:

A Lion. Help, etc.

PUPPETEERS EXIT. LION ENTERS (2)

Lion:
I hate this darkness. I can't see anything. (3) Where are all my friends? That smells of Man, Yetch!! (4)

SPIDER ENTERS (5)

Lion:
Spider, there you are. (6)

MOUSE ENTERS AT TOP OF HUT (?)

Mouse:
Can somebody help me down? (8) Thank You.

FLY ENTERS, BUZZINC. (9)
ANTS SNTER (10)

Mouse:
Who's that? Oh, hello ants.

Who dares walk over me?. It's the ants !
I need to see, around me. I want some light in my Kingdom.

All: 1 $1+4=$

That's right, we need light.

1. Spider goes to comer and dances. 5th puppeteer comes out and picks up comer of net. Spider begins crawling up and puppeteer moves CR, stretching net as he goes. lst puppeteer hands fly to 2nd puppeteer and picks up blue sky, carrying it in front to CL, moving under as hands scarf to 5 th puppeteer, and getting fly back from 2nd puppeteer. 4th puppeteer is to R of 6 th puppeteer. Spider then erupts into sound.
2. Everyone turns and watches spider.
3. Lion turns clockwise and exits CR behind hut. Fly holds up sky for his exit.
4. Mouse rises and does travel step $X$ to CL, fly follows. Mouse ducks behind web and kneels below spider. Fly travels to DLand perches on web.
5. Mouse climbs web diagonally to top comer of web, makes chewing motion.
6. 6th puppeteer flings web to DL stantion and scarf to $D R$ stantion and retires from scene. Mouse, spider, and fly move to CR.
7. Sky people enter from UR and move up on to platform where they begin chopping motion.
8. Earth group continue over, with spider moving near $D R$ stantion, mouse to $C R$ of hut and fly hovering behind mouse. Mouse is facing right towards sky people.

Lion:

Mouse:

Lion:

Mouse:

Mouse:

Nouse:

Fly:

Mouse:

Sky People:

Mouse:

Search again!

SPIDER MOVES AND SKY AND WEB ARE RAISED. (1)
OTHERS SEARCH QUIETLY, NOT DISTRACTING FROM THE SPIDER'S FOCUS. SPIDER MAKES NOISES TO INDICATE THAT HE SEES THE LIGHT FROM THE TOP OF THE NEB. (2) ALL TURN. Spider seeslight. Let's follow him.

I'm not following anyone. You get the light and bring it back to me.

LION EXITS (3). MOUSE AND FLY FOLLON SPIDER UP THE NEE. (4)

I'll climb up the spider web and chew a hole in the sky.

## BUSINESS (5)

On to the sky Kingdom.
MOUSE MOVES OFF OF WEB WITH SPIDER AND FIY FOLLONING. (6). SKY PEOPLE COME ON STAGE (7), EARTH GROUP TRATEL OVER TO THEIR AREA OF STAGE (8).

What are those creatures?

Buzz, buzz.

Oh! (TO SKY PEOPLE) Hail, Sky People. (Babble)

We've come to ask for some light.

1. Sky people step dow off box facinc SL and walk behind mouse to $C$ where they turn to face earth roup. Sider, rouse and fly have moved to center un a huddle.
2. Earth group remains $C$ while sky people turn and move DSL beside stantion. They then face DSS and wait.
3. Kine enters from UL, strides in jazz step to $C$, tums body slightly toward DSA while keeping face. forward. Se extends R . arm in pointing gesture.
4. King whirls around brinsino extended arm around and across body at chest level. Spider puffs up and down, mouse tums toward Ill, who buzzes down.
5. King moves to DSI and bends slightly toward sky people, fly inoves over and hovers to $I$ of his mask.

Sky People:

Mouse:

Sky People:

Mouse:

Sky People:

King:

Mouse:

King:

King :

Sky People:

King:

Sky People:

Babble

May we see your King?

GROUP MOVES TO HUT AREA (1).

Babble

We'll wait here while they call him.

SKY PEOPLE CONTINUE ON WHILE EARTH GROUP STOPS. (2).

Babble (Incantation)

KING ENTERS (3)

Why do you visit our kingdom in the Sky?

Oh, King, we on Earth live in darkness. May we have some of your light?

First, I must ask my people. Wait here. (4)

THE KING MOVES OVER TO SKY PEOPLE. FLY SVEAKS OVER TO LISTEN (5).

The Earthlings desire our light.

Negative sounds.

I too do not want to give them our light. Therefore, I will make up a test that they cannot pass, and then we will kill them!

Affimative sounds.

1. Ply turms and moves repidly back to aroup, perchins between spider and mouse. Spider jumps up and dom in anger, mouse shakes head and trembles.
2. King whirls and returns to $C$ with arr extended.
3. Iing turns and Jazz strides offstace UL, sky people walk off behind him.
4. Spider shows excitement, jugales up and dom, moves high and low, then purps.
5. .ouse rises up and usine travelino step yoes join, then tums and roes UI. Ants come from behind stantion. They follow mouse back to DSL adn X to DJS. Nouse locates between box and hut. Ants turn and approach box from $\mathbb{B}$ side and mo onto top.
6. As green poncho is slid to floor, shts corre dom off box and travel diamonally to $C$, then K to DSL, turn and go offstage UL.
7. The Zins enters UL in Jazz stride folloved by sly people. Uine moves to C, sky people stop JSI. Earth


FLY MOVES BACK TO EARTH GROUP AND COMMUNICATES PLAN (1).

Mouse: What Fly? Oh, Spider, they're planning a trap for us.

KING RETURNS (2)

King:

Mouse:
He'll kill us if we cannot cut all the grass. What can we do?

SPIDER DANCES, INDICATING EARTH (4)

Mouse:
The ants? Spider, that's a great idea! The ants will help us. I'll go back to Earth and get them.

MOUSE GOES TO ANTS AND RETURNS WITH THEM (5)

Mouse:
Here is the grass.
Thank you,

THE ANTS LEAVE. (6) THE KING AND SKY PEOPLE RETURN AND EARTH GROUP MOVES OUT TO MEET THEM. (7)

Mouse:
Oh, King, we have done what you asked. Now may we have our light?

1. Chief turns and goes DSL with hands clenched into fists, again bends over with back to earth group. Mouse signals fly to come closer.
2. Fly once again goes DSL and hovers behind chief.
3. Fly goes back beside mouse, buzzes. Mouse tums to spider and whispers to him.
4. All three huddle together, then mouse rises up and forward, hesitates, looks back at spider. He dances, fly buzzes and mouse moves toward L hand of chief. He pulls box away, across his chest to R side, mouse turns, grabs box and runs behind hut

King:

Mouse:

King:

Sky People:

Mouse:

King:

You indeed have done a magical job. But before I give you what you ask, I must call another meeting to get my people's approval.

CHIEF AGAIN GOES INTO HUDDLE WITH SKY PEOPLE. (I)

Fly, I don't trust him. Go listen.

FLY GOES OVER BEHIND SKY GROUP. (2)

These creatures are indeed great and powerful, our test was not enough for them. ..I am angry that we must give them light. If we must, I will make it hard for them. Get two boxes, one red and one black. In the red put light, in the black, darkness and then they must choose.

Affimative sounds.

FLY GOES BACK TO EARTH GROUP AND COMMUNICATES WITH MOUSE. (3)

I thought so! Another trick.

SPIDER DANCES WITH ANGER

Here are two boxes, one with light, one with darkness, Choose!

EARTH GROUP GOES INTO HUDDLE, PRETEND IT IS A HARD CHOICE. SUSPENSE (4).

1. Sky people follow after mouse, spider comes behind them. Chief whirls to $I$ and strides off UL. Fly buzzes around chief's head then cuts behind hut. Mouse has emerged from $C P$ of hut with sky people in pursuit. Spider makes lunge and cuts sky people off as they reach DSL, enabling mouse to escape. Spider backs sky people to DSR, then fly takes over the attack and spider exits UL. Fly slowly backs diagonally off UL, lunging occasionally to keep sky people frightened.
2. Lion makes entrance from CRof hut, feels his way to CL corner of hut, bumping into things as he goes.
3. Mouse enters $C R$, trips and falls sprawling to DC. Spider following walks over second puppeteer's body and stands by DSR stantion. Fly buzzes around, then perches on second puppeteer's shoulder as she rises into kneeling position.

Mouse:

King:

MOUSE gRabs BOX and Runs While fly buzzes AT CHIEF AND SPIDER WARDS OFF SKY PEOPLE.

King:
Give that back! Stop them!!!

CHASE SCENE ENSUES AND EARTH GROUP ESCAPES (1). LION COMES ONSTAGE AND BUMPS INTO SET. (2)

Lion:
Darkness! Nothing but darkness. Why do my people not return with light?

MOUSE ENTERS, TRIPPING AND FALLING INTO PLACE... SPIDER NALKS OVER HIM AND FLY SETTLES AT LAST. (3)

Lion:

Mouse:

Lion:

Mouse:

Lion:

Mouse:

Lion:
We choose the red one.

## No:! !

Who's that?

It's Mouse. We have returned.

Do you have light?

Yes. Twice the Sky King tried to trick us, but we succeeded. This box holds light:

Let me have the box.

Here, feel for it. I'm pushing it to you.

What's this? A beak, feathers, a comb...

A rooster?


May. 1978

Dear Performer:
I am pleased to inform you that you have been accepted for the International Children's Festival to be held Labor Day weekend, September 2, 3, and 4, 1978 at Wolf Trap Farm Park in Vienna, Virginia.

We are pleased that you will be donating your time and talent to this worthwhile event which serves as the main fundraiser for the Fairfax County Council of the Arts. At the same time we know you will enjoy the experience of working with a talented corps of individuals and groups in the nation's only park for the performing arts.

I will be in touch with you in the near future regarding specific dates and times for your performance. I look forward to working with you.

> Sincerely,


Fort Meyer Elementary
Kindergarden Class
Student Reaction: So fun: I forgot where I was! Was that really the same man?

Teacher Reaction: Enjoyed it completely.

First Grade
Student Reaction: "WoW"
Teacher Reaction: Matter while entertaining and beautifully executed was a little difficult for my first graders to understand.

Fourth Grade
Student Reaction: Good, interesting, way out.

Fifth/sixth Grade
Student Reaction: Terrific, weird, funny, unusual, good, liked it.

Teacher Reaction: The attention given to the show was best of all programs to date.

Ashlawn Elementary
First Grade
Student Reaction: This was"over the head" of the me tority of my class. Too much for most kindergarden to second grade

Teacher Reaction: The program was beautifully presented but more suitable for a fourth to sixth grade audience.

Second/third Frade Class
Student Reaction: I liked the lion Mask. I thought it was a very good show. "Nice Show." "Very Nice" "Liked Santiago." I liked the U.S. part. I liked all the time and efforts made in making the puppets.

Fifth/sixth Grade
Student Reaction: Boring, unprofessional compared to Bob Brown, stupid, not very good.
Teacher Reaction: I felt it was unappropriate for fifth and sixth

Abingdon Elementary
Second／third Grade
Student Reaction：Neat，pretty nice，fun．
Teacher Reaction：Those who enjoyed ballet or have artistic talent loved Those no ballet background voted poor，felt it too abstract．

Third／fifth Grade
Student Reaction：Enjoy，entertain，different．
Teacher Recation：Students and I enjoyed program．Highly creat－ ive and very worldly．

Sixth Grade
Student Reaction：Good，OK，too long，great．
Teacher Reaction：Enjoyable，different，original，interesting．

Fifth／sixth Grade
Student Reaction：Neat，funny，crazy，enjoyable
Teacher Reaction：Program will organized and presented with great imagination．Glad we were given ppportunity to see it．
Special Education Class
Student Reaction：It was bad，it was great，I liked it，I liked that big man．
Teacher Reaction：Outstanding！
First Grade
Student Reaction：Really good，liked it，fun．
Teacher Reaction：Excellent，one of best I have seen．Workshop after was First class．

Custis Elementary
Sixth Grade（substitute teacher was with class）
Stulent Reaction：Dull，unsophisticated，immature，poor， stupid．
Teacher Reaction：The class，overall seemed to have a very neg－ ative response to the program．

Other grades
Student reaction：surprised，enjoved it，liked masks，really good， liked the costumes，liked the music，liked the lion because he was strons，liked the tall man in Africa，the spider was neat－ it was made from an umbrella．
Teacher reaction：Well done！（2nd， 3 rd ， 4 th grade）
The performance was above averare in content，creativi and adaptability．（Ist made）
(3)
rather than the Chinese one Some really reed space puppets wowed have been fum.

Qaie tho down a great ion of com timing masks, puppets, music, novenuxt it sine in se show.


$$
\begin{aligned}
& 320^{-4} 415 \\
& \text { Puppet Division Chairman }
\end{aligned}
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Adventure Theatre

Puppets - Pleat use of fabrics and other mediums. ting a variety of kinds made the show more ixteristing. Each was handled quite wheel and provided d exciting movenext. Loved the spider! The puppetters handled the voices will S Liked the freedom of novenxext rath Than a use of a "poppet stage" for This particular show.

Ines - The mexican and african tales were good choice - Lots of taction and a variety of pacing. One of the orly negative thing Shave to say is about the Chinese tale. I think a quiet price was appropriate at that print the? Feel the pacing was to stagnant. The Problem his in the music -too long and move actual dance would have helped the dead spots rather than just novencent.

The transitions hetwrex each piece were terrific they really set the mood. The last sony was great. I would have exjayed a tale about outer space

Vagal hond Puppets
Fantasia
a gigantic gold star to Bail Cusuns for rating a traveling show that is truly a traveling oo ix every sense of the wad. . was very pressed with the motility of the set and ops and The versitility of the costumes. There as nothing extra; every thing had a use.
cellent! She also managed to acquire actor and tresses with the same mobility and versitility. The real feeling was one of smoothness enthusiasm Let me be more specific on after points: nd ease.
it - The boxes were great -light and cologul. Additions of props or masts added to the cols.
Husua - The various suggestions were just enough to add a flare yet allow for ease of travel.
larks - Q liked the use of masks for the larger animals and "brings."
fund - good choice of music -i flowed well.

Audience Reaction

## (cont'd) 545

Third and fourth puppeteer then pick up platform, first puppeteer follows, second and fifth puppeteer pick up pod boxes and all exitUL as explosion sounds and lights flash.

lst Person:<br>Next stop?<br>2nd Person:<br>U.S.A.!!<br>MUSIC SLOWLY CHANGES TO JAZZ BEAT..3RD PUPPETEER GETS BEAT AND STARTS TO DANCE TO IT, THE OTHERS FOLLOW IN TURN. WHOLE TROUPE ENDS UP DANCING ON STAGE. THERE IS THE SOUND OF AN EXPLOSION AID MIME FOLLOWS. THEN THE ROCKET IS BUILT. ALL THE PUPPETE己RS ARE NON SINGING AND DANCING. THEY BINALLY CHOO-CHOO AROUND SPACE SHIP, AND FINISH IN TABLEAU. THE ROCKET TAKES OFF AMD THE OTHERS FOLLOW IT OFF STAGE.

FINIS

1. First puppeteer begins with shoulder jerk moving into arms. It is done as if parts of the body is spontaneously making off on its own. Fifth puppeteer hands start. Second puppeteer left leg starts to mave. Fourth puppeteer's right/starts his movement. Third puppeteer begins with head. Sixth puppeteer's arms snap up toward sky in altermating rhythm. Fifth puppeteer hands start clapping rhythm.and second puppeteer joins in. As explosion occurs everyone goes into slow motion and makes eye contact with others. Fifth and second puppeteers tum from places at stantion and move in slow motion to set where they grab top two boxes. First puppeteer has danced over to DSR stantion. As rhythm changes and song begins they dance forward with boxes and set them down on music cue. They then dance back to DS stantions as third and fourth puppeteers dance to set, remove mountain, lay it aside and go to DSR stantion and bring platform out and set it on boxes. Second and fifth puppeteers then dance back to set and grab hold of top end boxes and tilt them in altermating rhythmforward and sideways. At a music cue they dance DS as sixth puppeteer enters $C$ and grabs center stack of boxes, third puppeteer grabs R stack and fourth puppeteer grabs I stack. They move them up and down in rhythm, with $C$ being up when $L$ and $R$ are down and then the reverse. At a music cue the patterm shifts and the I stack slides under C stack when up, slides back as it comes down, then A stack does same. In words "Shake it around," second and fifth puppeteer step forward and shake boxes, then spin them on "upside down." At same time stacked boxes are set on platform. Second and fifth puppeteer then dance to set and place boxes in position. Sixth puppeteer exits UC. Third and fourth puppeteer dance $C R$ to get top, raise it up and set it centered on top of boxes. Meanwhile, second, first and fifth puppeteers start chain dance which moves DSL and curves behind rocket as third and fourth puppeteer join in. Everyone goes around one more time, with first puppeteer dropping out as gets behind set and fourth puppeteer stopping to CL comer of rocket. Second puppeteer continues on to DSI, fifth to DSR, third to CR comer of set, and first puppeteor slides under platform from behind set. Everyone does "up do down mound and round" and then strikes tableau pose for song's end.

Pan $K u$ stops at $C$, stands erect with arms spread high above him and to his sides to indicate power. As the two puppeteers circle him with a dance involvine the blue cloth and the red hammock, Pan Ku lowers his arms and then reises them up above his head quickly, to again emphasize his power. On music cue, 2nd puppeteer dances in front of Pan Ku to DSR, while 5th puppeteer is dancing behind to DSL. Net is swirled over head and puppeteers then X again in dance step. 5th puppeteer is holdinc net in front like cape and swirlinr it. Ghen reach DSR, another overhead movement is made. 2nd puppeteer is at DSI once more. Then both puppeteers raise hands hich and then tum toward Fan Ku and co down into kneelinc position. Pan Ku lowers his arms and folds the... at shoulder level held away from his chest and bows to the puppeteers at stace left and then to the puppeteer at stase risht. Then he turns to his richt and clenches his fists at his sides as he did when he first entered. With the slow commandina steps in which one ler is weighted as the other drans a circle he moves past the temple to upstaxe right and out of simht.
9. Emperor tums to $S I$ and steps to $C$, then tums and usins same step moves diaconally offstare UR.
10. Wwo puppeteers then rise, narrator $X$ to DSC and moves back to $C$, two puppeteers bow and remove robe and hat. 2nd puppeteer places robe behind DSI stantion. Sth puppeteer places hat at D3R' stantion. They drop scarf and net on music cue and then step formard and turn toward each other.
lighten our dark world.
pan ku turns around to face audience (1)

Narrator (Pan Ku):

Narrator:

Narrator (Pan Ku):

Narrator (Pan Ku):

Narrator (Pan Ku):

It shall be done!
EMPEROR BOWS LOW AND EXITS. (2)
The Emperor retired to the Palace and waited for the miracle to happen.

PAN KU MOVES WITH DRAMATIC STRIDES (IN CHINESE THEATRE MANVER) TO RIJER EANK. HE DRAWS SIGN OF SUN ON HIS LEFT HAND AND ON PALM OF RIGHT HAND HE DRAWS MOON. HE THEN STRETCHES HIS HAMDS TOWARD THE SEA. (3)

Sun and Moon, I bid you come forth:

MOVEMENT FROM SEA, BUT NO APPEARANCE OF SUN OR MOON.

Sun and Hoon, I bid you come forth!! (5)
Still No appeazance of sun and Moon. (6)
Sun and Moon, Obey your summons!!!! (1)
AS THE PUPPETEERS DANCE WITH THE DRAGON THEY DETACH THE SUN AND MOON SO THAT THEY MAY be placed in position and the dragon 3ODY IS LEFT TO BE A PART OF THE CELEERATION DANCE. PAN KU LEADS DANCE. PAN KU EXITS (8) FOILOWED BY THE EMPEROR (9) NARRATOR JOIVS OTher puppeteers to be disrosed. (10)

1. After emperor comes out and beckons him, Pan Ku turns to his left and faces the audience sweepine his hands hich up into the air to indicate power.
2. Dmperor clasps hands together, fincers pointinx upmard, bows low and moves bacimard to $C R$ of temple gate.
3. EnKu moves with dramatic crisscrossino steps and sweeping hand gestures toward town stare left. He stops at domstage center quickly bends down, shakes scarf and rises again, with spread arms as he beckons the sun and moon upward.
4. They refuse, masks shakino and scarf ripplino.
5. Pan Ku continues to move with his crisscrossing step toward down stace left until he nears the narrator, at this point he stops and repeats the bendins, scarf shakins and risins motion with outspread arms, to another beckoning of the sun and moon.
6. On music and voice cue sun and moon refuse arain as before.
7. Pan Ku coves with his crisscrossine step toward domstace ri~ht, stops at downstaqe center, bends and rises his arms out dramatically high into the air as he beckons one last time. Then he moves over to downstare risht with crisscrossinz step as his left hand sigmals them to c me forth.
8. Sun and noon rise up with circular motions and travel to DSR. Pan Ku holds his rands out in front of his body as the moon is handed to him. He grabs the moon and places it on a hook on the top of the downstare riaht stanion. Then he begins movinc toward upstace left with his sweeping crisscrossing step and hand zestures until he he reaches stage center.

Neanwhile, the 5 th puppeteer has unhooked blwe scarf from DSA stantion, and both puppeteers are now movinc in time with the music toward the DSL stantion, where $2 n \mathrm{a}$ puppeteer unhooks scarf. She take scarf and 5 th puppeteer. takes net, mevins behind Fan Zu to Cn. 2nd puppeteer is now DSL and emperor has stepped forward to DS3 stantion.
3. 5th puppeteer moves sun and moon back and forth in ancry manner and then $x$ to $C$ with step. At $C$ 2nd puppeteer takes sun and net from left arm and moves DSL While 5 puppeteer unwinds and moves DSA. shaking masks in rotatine manner, thev kneel behind sea, vith heads bowed behind masks and one hand holding net.
4. Emperor enters UI. He noves with hands holdins cumberbund and one foot Forward and bent at knee describing an arc before being set on floor. Weizht then shifts and other foot describes arc. This step continues until he is DSI.
5. He then leans forvard and hands extend to make pulling resture as body leans back and he steps back.
6. Sun and moon shake heads ""o" on a music cue, rustinn the scarf as if waves are beino made.
7. Emperor repeats his advance forward and pulline sesture.
8. Jun and moon repeat refusal. Emperor then tums and on music cue, moves with cramatic step to US?, where takes stance of respect with head bowed.

# enter the sun and the noon dancing. (i) 

Narrator:
He called forth the Waters.

ENTER WATERS. DANCE (2)

Narrator:
But Pan Ku nerlected to set the Sun and the Moon in the sky. Angrily they took themselves in their dracon chariot and hid beneath the Sea.

SUN AND MOON DISAPpEAR BENEATH DIAFHANOUS SEA. 3)

Narrator:
The Emperor of the First People came to the shore and tried to summon them from their hiding place.

ENTER EMPEROR WITH DRAMATIC STAGE MOVEMENIS. (4)

Narrator (Imperor):

Narrator (Emperor):

Narrator (Emperor):

We come to the shores of the Sea, Honorable Sun and Moon, to beg an end to our darkness. (5)

THE SCARF MOVES AND SOMETHING IS SEEN BELOW, BUT DOES NOT APDEAR.(6)

Be good enourh, I pray you, Aonorable Sun, to ask of the Sky Dragon that he draw your Chariot up into Space so we may have light. (7)

SEA AGAIN RUSTLES BUT WITH NO RESULT. ENPEROR TURNS SADLV AND THEN MOVES TO SUMMON PAN KU. (8)

Oh, Shinine Creator, Honorable Pan Ku, I raise my unworthy voice to ask that you
pointins, head is facing toward audience. Pan Ku continues toward domstage left with crisscrossinc steps and sweeping hand sestures until he gets just to the stare rizht sice of the narrator. At that point he changes direction with hands sweepine from hich in the air to the body, as if he is pulling somethine intanzible out of space. Weizht shifts to the right lea as Pan Kh. sweeps back. He continues the crisscrossinc step with sweeping hend gestures as he moves toward down stare right to the narration. When he neaches do:m staze center he stops and does the same resture he did when he was crossinc from up staze rioht to down stare left near the edse of the temple. After a moment of this pointins sesture, he continues his crisscrossing step movement until he reaches तownstare richt. Se atops and stands erect with folded arms held away from the chest at shoulder level.
5. Santiaco enters UL, everyone freezes, then vendor backs up, devil backs up and drops sun down and conquistador risesand bows. Santiaco at CL points to devil to place sun back in position on stantion. Devil shakes head "MO." Santiago steps toward him and stamps foot. Devil slowly $X$ to stantion, hanas sun and then steos forward and stands sulkine. Santiago simals conquistador to capture him and conquistador X behind him, catches him in net and stands truimphantly DSI. Santiaco bows to him to leave, and he dances off drazrina devil behind. Jendor then is simnaled and leaves angrily, doing to DSR stantion unhookine blue scarf and taking it with her as she exits C. Santiago exits UR as lst puppeteer enters UI.
6. 5th puppeteer enters UZ. They bow to each other then work as a team to chance set, movinc in very formal manner. Then lst puppeteer zoes to DSI stantion and 5th puppeteer attends to costuming her in Chinese robe and hat, they bow and 5 th puppeteer exits backmard UI. Pan Du enters SR to the oriental music with a slow, sweepinc walk. His hands are clencher in fists and held out a foot at each side of his hips. Bach sweeping step is done with an open stance, weicht on the left les as the risint lec dravs a larse imaminary circle in the air (pointed toe), " 'then the weight shifting to the right ler as the left ler draws a circle. Pen Ku moves formard with these graceful yet comending steps until he reaches the side of the Chinese temple. At this point he breaks out of the rhythm and roes into free form movement. Pan fu continues to move towerd down stare left past thetemple, one les orisecrossing in front of the other with lone sweeping hand gestures as if he is sweepine through the entire cosmos: Then he stops for a second with leas spread apart (sliphtly crouched) body facinc stame left, and hands spread apart, one facinx stace leitt, one facins stase richt. Each hand is clenched in a fist but the index and middle fincers on each are

CONQUISTADORE DRANS SWORD AND FIGHT ENSUES. VENDOR TRIES TO AID DEVIL BY HANDING HIM Hammock (1)
Vendor:
Psst, Diablo.

CONQUISTADORE INTERCEPTS AND TURNS SCENE INTO A BULLFIGHT? STARTS AS A GAME, THEN BECOMES SERIOUS. TENDOR WARNS DEJIL OF SW SNORD HIDDEN IN CAPE (HAMMOCK).(3)

Vendor:

Conquistadore:

Narrator:
And now across the seas to China.
enter another puppeteer in chinase maner. THEY CHANGE SET TO CHINESE LANDSCAPE. NARRATOR IS PREPARED AND COSTUMED FOR THE NEXT SCENE. (6)

Narrator:
Here is a tale about the mighty Pan Ku. Once long, long aฐo there was no world until Pan Ku finished making it.

ENTER PAN KU. DOES CREATIVE DANCE. (7)
Narrator:
,He created the Sun and the Moon.

1. Conquistador rises from $C L$ and draws sword. Sminrs travelins to $C$, devil zoinf to CL as he misses, repeat in other direction, third time the conquistadore swings under and devil leaps over, 4 th pass is over arain and conquistador winds up DSL and devil CBA. Conquistador holds sword up to test its blade, vendor mrabs net and leans to Eive it to devil.
2. Conquistador spots move, sheathes sword and tup of war ensues. Devil tires to rrab hole but misses, on third tus vendor loses riy end falls over. Conquistador then plays with net in truimph and gets idea to tum it into a cape.
3. Conquistador stamps feetor, holds out cape and devil charges from DS.. He ends up CI and another pass is made. Each time they sice step $L$, then 2 , then $L$ before moving. A third pass is made, then conquistador at DSA draws sword and hides it in cace. Vendor spots him and leans toward devil at CI to wam him. Conquistador stamps impatiently hut $C$ refuses to charce.
4. Vendor points to sun, devil looks at him and to sun, moves DSL, removes it from stantion and advances on conquistador usino it as a weapon. Conquistador reacts to heat, moves away shielding eves and roes in retreat behind hut and $X$ diamonally back to DSR stantion where he collapses. Devil is standinc behind him movinc sun forward and back in undulating movement.


Mouse:

Rooster:

Mouse:

Lion:

A rooster isn't light! The Sky King tricked us after all...

MOUSE TURNS BACK AND CRIES. ZOOSTER RISES UP IN BOX AND STEPS OUT, TH2ONS BACK HEAD and CROWS. REPEATS SOUND AND SUN RISES. FLY BUZZES TO GET MOUSE'S ATMENTION. MOUSE LOOKS AND SEES SUN(1)

Cock-a-doodle-doo! (etc)

Oh, it's light! The rooster has called up the sun.

And from now on, he'll call it up every morning.

ROOSTER LEADS SUN IN A PROCESSION OFF STAGE, FOLLOWED BY LION AND OTHERS. (2) TWO
lst Person: Puerto Rico: puppetgers go around set and remain to 2nd \& 3rd Person: Fiesta!CFANGE SCENE. SUN GETS SET IN SKY. THEY LEAVE AS VENDOR MAKES ENTRANCE. (3) VENDOR SETS WARES DOWN AND PREPARES FOR DAY(4)CONQUISTADORE ENTERS IN POMPOUS MANNER AND STRUTS ACROSS STAGE. (5) TENDOR CATCHES HIS EYE, THEY NEGOTIATE A SALE: THE DEYIL ENTERS AND STEALS ITEM AS CONQUISTADORE IS MAKING PAYMENT. .)CONQUISTADORE SEARCHES AND DEVIL RETURNS IT TO VENDOR. CONQUISTADORE SPOTS IT AMONG NARES AND IS ANGRy. HE GRABS VENDOR AND DEVIL KICES HIM. (7)
Vendor:

Conquistadore: The Devil:

