

The PUPPET SMITHERY

EST.  2013

JHESS KNIGHT

thepuppetsmithery.com
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SKILLS OF NOTE

- Experienced puppet designer and fabricator. Traditional & modern marionettes, rod puppets, bunraku, traditional glove, lip sync, shadow, giant puppets (solo and ensemble).
- Innovative designer.
- Experienced puppeteer, styles as above.
- Intermediate carpentry skills.
- Basic mould making skills.
- Highly trained marionettist.
- Award winning sculptor.
- Experienced public speaker.

REFERENCES

Joe Blanck - A Blanck Canvas
PH: +61 410 654 601
EMAIL: ablanckcanvas@gmail.com

Luke Saffigna - Melbourne Zoo
PH: +61 476 162 989
EMAIL: lsaffigna@zoo.org.au



EDUCATION

London School of Puppetry 2013 - 2014

Masters Level Diploma - Professional Puppetry

RMIT 2014

Certificate IV - Small Business Management

Deakin University 2008 - 2010

Bachelors Degree - Creative Arts - Drama

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Puppetsmithery 2013 - present

Founder, Manager, Creative Director, Lead designer, builder, performer.

Commission builds and performances for clients such as: City of Melbourne, Make a Wish, Pixel, Art Play, White Rabbit Breweries, Geelong Ballet Centre, Snuff Puppets, Balloon Tree Productions, South Melbourne Market, Gasworks Arts Park, SIDS&kids, Zoos Victoria, Camp Quality and Chadstone SC. Marionettist and puppet choreographer for various music videos for Australian and international artists.

Trash Puppets 2015 - present

Co-founder, Creative Director.

Responsible for staff training and program development. Workshop facilitator (in school, festival and corporate environments), puppet maker. Managing a team of twenty artists.

Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio 2020-2021

A stop motion feature film by Wooden Boy Productions, Shadow Machine & Netflix.

Puppet fabricator. Working within the Puppetry Department across sculpt, mould, casting, armature and costume teams. Film due to be released in 2022.

Judy & Punch - 2018/19

Feature film by Blue Tongue Films & Vice Media. Key maker and performer.

Building six traditional marionettes and operating these puppets in the film, while managing the puppetry build and performance teams and liaising with various production teams.

Film premiered at Sundance and MIFF and was released in cinemas November 2019.

The Natural Confectionery Company commercials - 2018/19

Puppeteer for series of TV and web advertisements, operating dinosaur puppets created by the Henson Company. Working in a team of 6 puppeteers.

Gordi - Bitter End, Music Video 2017

Marionettist, and puppet choreography.

Winner of St Kilda Film Festival Audience Choice award.

A Blanck Canvas 2017 - present (various projects/ productions)

Puppeteer for various giant puppet productions, including the bugs at Melbourne Museums Bug Lab, White Night's The Messenger, Zoo's Victoria's Giant Corroboree Frog, and Neon Playground.

As well as working as part of the fabrication team in the studio, creating giant puppets for projects such as The United Arab Emirates National Day 47.

Zoo's Victoria 2015 - present

Custom puppets, design and creation, roving performances, engaging with the public around various conservation campaigns as well managing the build and performance teams.

The Little Prince - 2018

Presented by The Puppetsmithery, Australia's only long string marionette show.

Commissioned for the World on a String puppetry festival at Chadstone Shopping Centre.

Lead builder, marionettist, producer. Plus managing the build and performance teams.

Escape from Trash Mountain 2017 - present (various interstate and international tours)

A children's theatre production developed in partnership with Trash Puppets

Nominated for Best Kids Show in Melbourne Fringe 2017

Co-writer, co-producer, puppet maker, puppeteer.

TEDx UniMelb 2017 - Key Speaker

A conference run by Melbourne University with the theme "Mind Matters"

Peta and the Whale 2015/16

Puppeteer for a children's theatre production produced by Phillip Millar and Puppetvision

Nominated for Best Kids Show in Melbourne Fringe 2016

Where the Wild Things Sing 2015

An outdoor theatre experience produced by Black Hole Theatre

Performer and puppet-maker