

The Old Trout Puppet Workshop
presents
Famous Puppet Death Scenes



January 31 – February 4, 2006



University
of Victoria

FEBRUARY 9, 11, 16, 18, 2006

8pm at the Royal Theatre

In English with English surtitles

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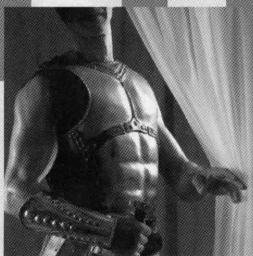
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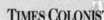
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PUBLIC FUNDING



Spotlight on *Alumni*

This season, the Department of Theatre shines its annual "Spotlight on Alumni" on The Old Trout Puppet Workshop. Co-founded in 1999 by a graduate of our department, Peter Balkwill ('97), the Calgary-based troupe has made a huge impact on Canada's arts scene with its wildly inventive and visually stunning puppet theatre. We are delighted to welcome Pete and the Old Trouts back to the Phoenix to present their newest show, *Famous Puppet Death Scenes*.

About The Old Trout Puppet Workshop

The Old Trout Puppet Workshop is a group of old comrades dedicated to creating art, in one form or another, together. The first workshop, founded back in the strange winter of '99, was on a ranch in southern Alberta. We collected eggs and fed the pigs for rent, and premiered our first show to a bunkhouse full of cowboys and Hutterites, the shadows of horses snorting steam in the vast darkness outside.

After a certain point, the wilds made us shaggy of spirit, and we felt it necessary to transfer operations to a warehouse by the train yards in Calgary, where we still lurk to this day. The workshop's happy planks and beams have witnessed the creation of two short films, five books, a forty-five foot tall mechanical puppet sculpture for Big Rock Brewery, and six mainstage puppet shows: *The Unlikely Birth of Istvan*, *The Tooth Fairy*, *Beowulf*, *The Last Supper of Antonin Carême*, *Pinocchio* and now *Famous Puppet Death Scenes*. The old shop has heard its share of music, too; there are two house bands and, occasionally, a real ripper of a party.



The walls are festooned with puppets, mounted on their racks or hanging from the rafters. At night, they clamber clacking onto the floor and then out the door, snickering and whispering like a horde of malevolent hobgoblins.

www.theoldtrouts.org

VICTORIA *Arts*
MARKETING

Programme Advertising, Design and Production

(250) 382-6188 • Publisher: **Philomena Hanson** • Design/Production: **Lyn Quan**

Famous Puppet Death Scenes

Created by

**Peter Balkwill, Don Brinsmead, Bobby Hall,
Pityu Kenderes, Judd Palmer & Stephen Pearce**

Starring

**Peter Balkwill, Don Brinsmead
Pityu Kenderes and Judd Palmer**

Directed by

Tim Sutherland

Technical Direction by

Bobby Hall

Costumes by

Jen Gareau and Sarah Malik

Lighting Design by

Cimmeron Meyer

Sound Design by

Mike Rinaldi

Trout Administrator

Donna Kwan

Additional Production by

**Marilyn Palmer, Dawn Bryan,
Georgia Houston, Jimmy Davidge
and Karen Walker**

Produced by

Grant Burns

There will be no intermission.

The Old Trout Puppet Workshop would like to thank:
Dave Lane, Marilyn Palmer, Mercedes Batiz-Benet, Vanessa Porteous,
James Davidge, The Green Fools and Grant Burns.

Department of Theatre *Student Production Team*

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Lighting Board Operator

Lee Cookson

Marketing and

Kholby Wardell and Kaitlin Williams

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Assistant to the Audience

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Leah Donlevy

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Synopsis

The show is a collection of short pieces which represent the collected death scenes from a (fictional) canon of famous puppet shows through history; each one is presented as if it is a scene from a real show, radically expurgated, so that we are seeing only the last moment of a main or sub-character. The broader plot of the shows from which they have been derived is left up to the imagination of the audience; the effect, we hope, is like viewing a painting in a gallery, finding an old photograph, or being parachuted into a four hour long opera, just at the climactic bit.

Sample scenes include: an existential brutalization in a German children's television show; a tragic murder in a Black Forest fairy tale; a Neo-realist play about the Irish working class; a Science Fiction investigation into immortality; a funeral ritual from some forgotten Japanese island; a segment from a seven hour long Norwegian production in which nothing happens ("theatre of the insufferable"); and many others.

The Master of Ceremonies, who has collected these scenes, is himself a puppet. He has foraged through junk stores and garage sales to gather the actual puppets used by the original performers, and aims for historical accuracy and geographical breadth. He himself has been a puppet for many years, and senses his impending mortality; he has honed his craft, hoping to someday join the ranks of the hallowed. He will attempt the Greatest Death Scene Ever Performed at the end of the show. As it turns out, Death Himself lurks in the wings, and our host will not complete the scene he hopes will earn him immortality.

APRIL 11 – MAY 7, 2006

A Number by Caryl Churchill

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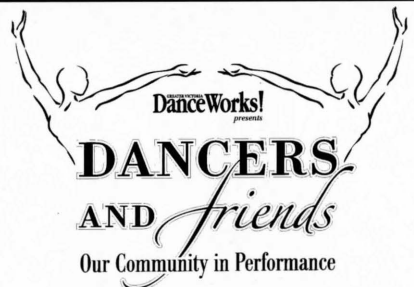


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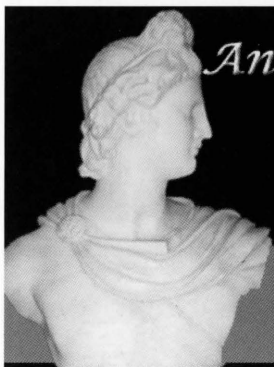
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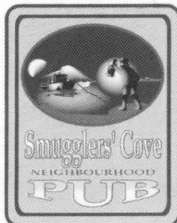
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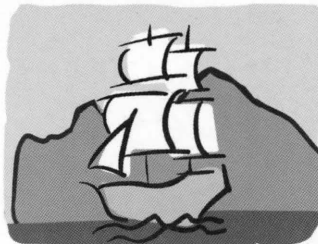
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