

The Marionette Theatre of Australia

**Norman
Lindsay's**



**The Magic
Pudding**

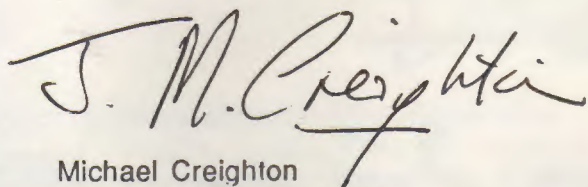
A NEW PRODUCTION FOR 1988

For 1988 The Marionette Theatre of Australia is staging a new production of Norman Lindsay's "The Magic Pudding". First published in 1918, "The Magic Pudding", with its simple episodic plot telling of the running battle between The Pudding Owners and The Pudding Thieves, immediately endeared itself to Australians everywhere. Seventy years later Lindsay's book is firmly established as one of the classics.

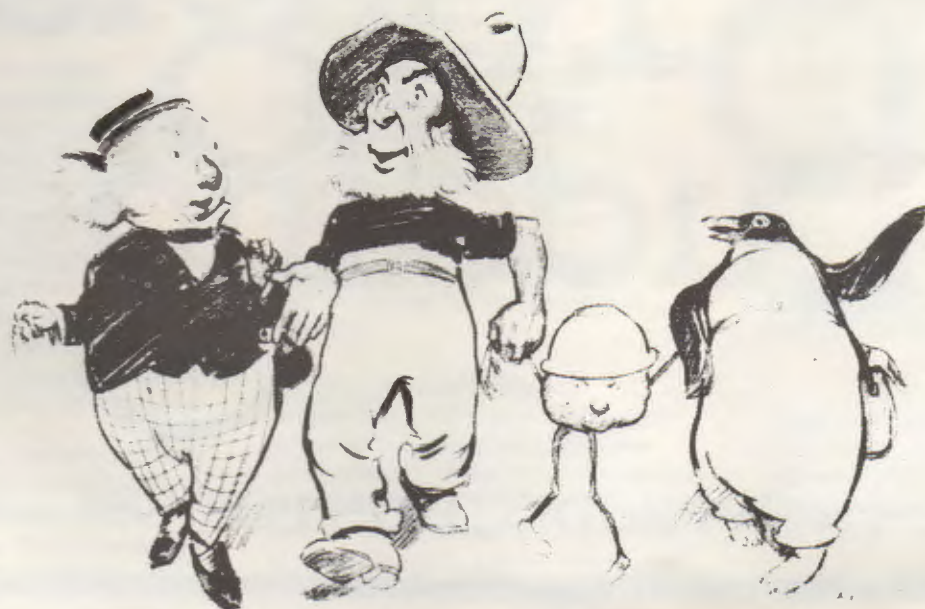
Fifty years after the publication of the Pudding, Lindsay wrote in a letter that "one night during the 1914 war I was sitting glumly in my studio. It was only a desperation expedient to avert my thoughts from a war of mind and blood ... that I started writing some nonsense about a bear named Bunyip Bluegum ... from that point on the little book wrote itself". That little book is full of gusto and an unselfconscious vitality, it is vigorous and warm. Lindsay's creative use of language in the freewheeling invective of his colourful characters is brilliant and uniquely Australian. Who else but Lindsay could have written ... "Of all the swivel-eyed, up-jumped, cross-grained sons of a cock-eyed tinker, if punching parrots on the beak wasn't too painful for pleasure, I'd land you a sockdolager on the muzzle that'd lay you out till Christmas"?

The first presentation of the "Pudding" on the puppet stage was a marionette version by Peter Scriven in 1958. Since that time the Marionette Theatre has kept the story in its repertoire, not only as a piece for marionettes, but also, in 1980, using rod-puppets. The 1988 production is strikingly different from previous versions, incorporating a variety of styles of puppetry. The puppet characters for this production are based on original designs by Lindsay himself. Lindsay is recognised as one of the finest caricaturists of his generation and his characters for "The Magic Pudding" allowed his inventive skills free rein. A feature of this new production is that Norman Lindsay is portrayed on stage as a participant in his own creation, adding another historical perspective to the already rich texture of the production.

Those who saw the first production some thirty years ago with their parents, can now return with their own children to re-live the joys of "chasing and fighting and Pudding-eating" in this new presentation. The style of puppetry has evolved, the staging is different and exciting, but Lindsay's vitality and verve is unchanged. Those who know and love the book can share it with a new generation ... and for those who have never tasted the Pudding, a uniquely Australian experience is in store for them.



Michael Creighton
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MTA



THE PUPPETEERS

OLIVIER LEJUS

Possum
Bandicoot
The Parrot

ANN McGUFFICKE

Albert the Magic Pudding
Father Flying Fox

TIMOTHY MIÉVILLE

Norman Lindsay
The Judge

ADAM NEWCOMBE

Bill Barnacle

SHELAGH ROSE

Sam Sawnoff

ANTOINETTE SLABACU

Wombat
Baby Flying Fox
Hedgehog

MADDY SLABACU

Bunyip Bluegum

Director
Script Adaptation

Michael Creighton
Eleanor Witcombe
from the book by
Norman Lindsay
Max Gillies
Chris Barker and
Michael Fitzgerald
Norman Lindsay's
original illustrations
Marea Fowler
James Ridewood
Jamie Henson
Sue Lewis

Voices
Puppetmakers

Puppet Design

Puppet Costumes
Design Co-ordinator
Lighting Design
Stage Manager



Copyright : Jane Glad

Recording Engineer
Featured Music Tracks
and Produced by
Piano
Soundtrack Editing
Set Construction

Max Harding
Louis McManus
Diana Manson
Leonie Hampton
Sue Lewis
Brown's Mill

With thanks to: Jo Buchhorn, Robyn Fahlstrom, Tossa Garrad, Vanessa Sheath,
Rob Tuckwell, Kate Wall, Lucy Wayland and Modern
Wildflowers, The Rocks.

THE MARIONETTE THEATRE OF AUSTRALIA LTD.

Artistic Director
Michael Creighton

Production Manager
Jamie Henson

F.O.H. Manager/Box Office

Secretary

Puppetmakers

Administrator
Richard Howard

Assistant Administrator/
Special Projects Manager
Deborah Miéville

Anne Benjamin

Judy Burgess

Chris Barker and
Michael Fitzgerald

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rodon King (Chairman)

Juris Ozols

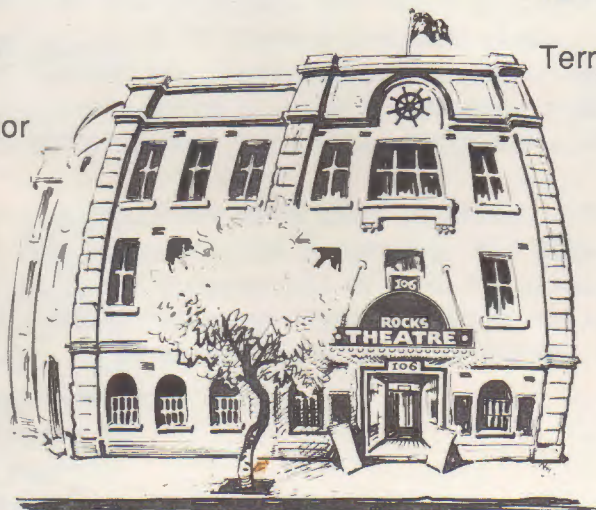
Lloyd Waddy

John Chancellor

Ian Hardy

Janice Fox

Terry Read



About the Marionette Theatre of Australia

1956 Peter Scriven creates "The Tintookies" and introduces a generation to the magical world of puppetry, with this uniquely Australian marionette production.

1965 Scriven's company becomes a division of The Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust, along with The Australian Opera and The Australian Ballet and is now named The Marionette Theatre of Australia.

1979 Under the direction of world-renowned puppeteer, Richard Bradshaw, The Marionette Theatre of Australia becomes an autonomous company, supported by the Commonwealth and NSW Governments.

1983 After extensive renovation of an historic building in The Rocks, Sydney, the company at last has its own permanent home, incorporating a theatre and workshop facilities.

TODAY The Marionette Theatre of Australia has one simple goal - the provision of fine theatrical productions for children. The company performs regularly at The Rocks Theatre in Sydney and tours nationally. The Marionette Theatre of Australia is developing a repertoire of productions based on the classics of children's literature, introducing a new generation to this rich heritage of imagination and discovery, education and exploration through the magical world of puppetry.

And an Answer to an often-asked question

In English the word "marionette" describes a style of puppet operated by strings. In its current productions The Marionette Theatre of Australia makes use of many different styles of puppetry, however we retain the name "Marionette" in recognition of the origins of our company over 30 years ago and of the

efforts of the hundreds of puppeteers, puppet-makers, designers, writers, musicians, actors, administrators and directors who have worked over the years to make the Marionette Theatre of Australia such a part of the Australian tradition.



The Marionette Theatre of Australia Ltd. is assisted by the Australia Council, the Federal Government's arts funding and advisory body; and the New South Wales Government, through the office of the Minister for the Arts.

The Marionette Theatre of Australia Ltd
106 George Street, The Rocks.
Sydney 2000.
Telephone administration 241 1391
or box office 27 3274

1988 CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

At The Rocks Theatre, 106 George Street, The Rocks, Sydney 2000.

January 23

to April 9

"THE MAGIC PUDDING"

A wonderful new adaptation of Norman Lindsay's Australian classic.

April 16

to May 14

"THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS"

Kenneth Grahame's endearing masterpiece.

May 28

to June 24

"KAKADU"

Aboriginal Dreamtime stories from Northern Australia.

June 27

to July 31

"THE MAGIC PUDDING"

The Australian classic returns.

August 6

to September 10

"SYDNEY COVES (or "Honour Saved by a Dirty Rat")

A Musical Melodrama based on the colourful history of The Rocks
Commissioned by The NSW Bicentennial Authority for 1988.

September 17

to October 22

"PINOCCHIO"

The Italian children's classic. A story that everybody noses

October 25

to November 12

"THE MAGIC PUDDING"

Final season of this Australian classic for the Bicentennial year

Opening in late 1988

Rudyard Kipling's **"THE JUNGLE BOOKS"**

Check The Sydney Morning Herald Theatre Directory
for performance times throughout the Bicentennial year or

**TELEPHONE (02) 27.3274
FOR BOOKING DETAILS**