



## **Katkatha Puppet Arts Trust**

### **Mentorship program**

### **Call for a Master Puppeteer**

### **from Canada**

#### **About the Host Organization**

The Katkatha Puppet Arts Trust is a Delhi based puppet theatre company which began in 1998 founded by Anurupa Roy. The key area of work is travelling to festivals across India and the world. Katkatha collaborates with many international puppet theatre companies and festivals on projects and co-productions. A key priority is creating a rigorous training system for professional puppeteers through intensive short courses and workshops in puppet techniques and



supporting interns who learn by following the work of the company. The focus is to train the next generation of professional puppeteers, create a discourse around puppetry and also build a network of puppeteers.

Anurupa Roy is a puppeteer, puppet designer and director of the puppet theatre. She is the Founder and Managing Trustee of The Katkatha Puppet Arts Trust since 1998. She is a recipient of the Ustad Bismillah Khan YuvaPuraskar in Puppetry (2006), the Sangeet Kala Kiran Puraskar and the Shankar Nag Theatre Award.

Anurupa works as a consultant for advocacy in health, peacebuilding and education projects in village and city communities including schools, juvenile homes and has worked in conflict zones like Kashmir, Sri Lanka and Manipur. She is currently working on a project commissioned by Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes for 2021

Website : <https://katkatha.org/>

## Focus of the Residency



Katkatha's previous residencies have focused on work for toddlers and very young audiences to fill a lacuna here in India. The last mentorship birthed eight new shows of which five continued to perform and tour until the lockdown. Three festivals in India either changed their programming to include this work or created a special children focused festival to showcase this work.

Katkatha would like to focus this residency on children's theatre, for children aged 6 -16 with some of the shows specially focusing on adolescents and young adults. This is also an age group that is often missed by the performing arts community and yet this is a very significant age to create an interest in the performing arts and critical to audience development in India. So, Katkatha would like

a Puppet Master who has some experience in creating for adolescents and young adults.

## Structure of the Residency

Since we inhabit an uncertain world currently, Katkatha proposes that we begin with a digital residency as Phase 1 and then move into a physical residency in Phase 2 & Phase 3, after things are safe and international travel resumes. The models that have been proposed are based on previous mentorship programs organised by the Katkatha Puppet Arts Trust in India. Katkatha mentorship model is Master or Expert lead and focuses on a concrete end product. In most cases it results in performances that artists in India continue to perform and tour long after the master has left. Katkatha looks at these collaborations as continuous ongoing conversations between Indian practitioners and international facilitators. The mentorship has been a very successful model for reinvention of forms in India, training of the next generation and the carrying on of legacies of the masters outside their own country.

## **Time Period – Between January 2022 to December 2022**

### **Phase 1 - Digital Residency**

*January 2022 – 3 Weekends (Fri, Sat, Sun)*

*Fri – 2 hrs | Sat & Sun - 4 hrs*

*Open to all with a limit to the number of participants*

In Phase 1, Katkatha focuses on the Master puppeteer's own practice and journey, combined with some skill development for the participants as these are easier to impart online and will have many takers too. Katkatha proposes that the classes be run as a combination of video lectures, live video demonstrations, video tutorials, as well as live interactive sessions where the master puppeteer can solve problems and participants can ask questions. The video tutorials could have a step by step creation format and the live



interactive session will take place after two video tutorials and will essentially solve problems of the students and their development. The master can decide how many video tutorials and live sessions it will take to complete the course. Participants in India will be from the entire arts community but specifically puppeteers, visual artists, sculptors, art teachers etc. This phase could be for a larger number of students.

### **Phase 2 - Mussoorie Residency, India**

*September 2022*

*12 to 15 days over two weeks (To be decided with the Master Puppeteer)*

*10 – 12 artists with a preference to artists from Phase 1*

The Master Puppeteer would travel to India for this phase and would focus on the final performances. Participants from the first phase, along with established artists would be shortlisted for creating their own projects/performances on the basis of the proposals they make. These proposals will be made after the first phase and the master puppeteer may choose from these and work with 5-8 projects depending on their capacity. This phase will be based entirely on choice of script, dramaturgy and building skills for the final proposed projects. Here the master puppeteer mentors the artists to create their own performances with puppets. The outcome of this phase will be the early stage of preparation for their final shows.

*\*This phase could be digital due to circumstances like COVID restrictions or funds not being received from funding bodies.*

### **Phase 3 – New Delhi Residency, India**

*November - December 2022*

*2 weeks including premiere in New Delhi*

In Phase 3 the Master Puppeteer would travel to India again to lead a final workshop. This will be the stage leading to the premiere of the work done during the earlier phases. The performances will premiere with 2 to 3 performances and there will be presenters and festival directors invited for the performances. All such performances have usually ended up being part of festivals, events and venue programs across India post the premiere.

### **Previous Residency projects**

Barbara Kolling - Director, Helios Theatre, Hamm, Germany

Eight shows were created during this Residency Masterclass and Mentorship Project.

Sylvie Baillon's Mentorship was cut short by the lockdown but despite that it gave birth to two shows. One of the shows will travel to the Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes, Charleville- Mézières in France.



To watch the trailer of the final shows click [here](#).

### **Who Should Apply?**

- We are looking for a puppet theatre practitioner with experience in puppet building and puppet animating
- We are especially interested in someone with experience in directing or/and mentoring puppet performances
- Puppet theatre may include the form in its widest sense from the traditional glove, rod, shadow and string techniques but also table top, object theatre, paper theatre and toy theatre, humanettes etc
- The key focus areas in the mentoring program will be children's theatre and theatre for young adults. Any experience in the field will be an added advantage for the application.
- Adaptability is key for the master puppeteer as participants will come from all walks of life and varied arts practices.

## Important Dates and Notes

**- The deadline for the application ends on 15th August 2021.**

- The Artistic Director of Katkatha Puppet Arts Trust will have a zoom call with shortlisted applicants before making a final decision between 6th to 15th September 2021.
- The selected Master Puppeteer will be informed by 20th September 2021.
- The Master Puppeteer will be meet with the AD of Katkatha between 25th September and 10th October 2021 to finalise the structure of the residency.
- The structure of the residency could change due to funds not being received. The Master Puppeteer will be intimated in advance about this and any changes will be discussed with them.
- If needed, Katkatha Puppet Arts Trust will help with any documents required.
- International tickets, visas, insurance, and any fees have to be looked after by the artist through the Arts Councils of Canada or the Canadian Embassy in India. All other costs will be looked after by Katkatha Puppet Arts Trust.
- Once the Master Puppeteer has been selected by Katkatha the details of the residency will be finalised in consultation with the artist.
- The Master Puppeteer will also be involved with selecting the participants for the residency.
- The Master Puppeteer should speak English fluently.
- The entire process will be documented. Please click [here](#) to check previous residency documentation.

**APPLICATION FORM : [CLICK HERE](#)**

**If you have any question, please contact:**

**Anurupa Roy, Artistic Director**

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