

FANTASY PUPPET THEATER



Marshall Katzman received his M.A. in Television and Radio production from the University of Michigan and was a Fellow at Princeton University. He is a member of Union Internationale De La Marionette, Puppeteers of America, The Puppetry Guild of Greater New York, The Garden State Puppetry Guild and is listed in the 2nd edition of Who's Who in Entertainment. Katzman is an Emeritus Professor of Communications at Bergen Community College, in Paramus, New Jersey. In 1956, at the age of eight, Marshall Katzman and his puppets first appeared in Zurich, Switzerland with a backyard performance of "Sleeping Beauty". In the early sixties, while living in Closter, New Jersey, he was influenced by Russian puppeteer Sergei Obratsov as well as Frank Paris, creator of the original Howdy Doody and Larry Berthelson, creator of the Pickwick Puppet Theater. Katzman was mentored by Marcel Jovine, the award-winning toy designer, sculptor and designer of coins. Richard Hunt, the Muppeteer on Sesame Street, started his career in puppetry after purchasing a collection of puppets from Katzman. The New York World's Fair of 1965, saw Katzman perform a puppet production written by the world renown Sergei Obratsov.

In the summer of 1973 "**Fantasy Puppet Theater**" made its debut with Rock-A-



Day Johnny a Rock and Roll puppet, at The Ark in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The one man troupe then began a tour of the United States, which included performances for museums, nightclubs, libraries, camps, major armed forces installations like Fort Knox as well as recreation departments in Charleston, Columbus, Miami, Nashville, and San Francisco. In 1986 Marshall Katzman produced a television documentary, "Stars on Strings", a tribute to Frank Paris the creator of the first Howdy Doody. "Stars on Strings", "Not Just Puppets" and "An Evening of

Puppetry" have all been included in the Theater on Film and Tape Archives of the Billy Rose Theater Collection, Lincoln Center. The American Film Institute awarded his production of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" finalist for fiction in their 1990 Visions of U.S. video competition. On October 6th, 1990 Katzman performed Sergei Obratsov's short puppet play entitled, "Mortal Danger" at the Bruno Walter Theater, Lincoln Center. "Fantasy Puppet Theater" has received funding from the New York State Council on the Arts and Con Edison. The one man show has also made regular appearances at the nationally acclaimed Puppet Playhouse in New York City. Katzman's past puppet productions have included: "Around the World in 80 Days", "Jack and the Beanstalk", "Rip Van Winkle", "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", "The King's Stilts", "Little Red Riding Hood", "Aladdin's Lamp", "Hansel and Gretel", "The Frog Prince", "Rumpelstiltskin" and the "Shoemaker and the Elves". Fantasy Puppet Theater performed "Mortal Danger" as part of the "Rituals" production at the Laboratory Theater in Paramus, New Jersey.



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