

1. Actors, directors, set designers

This kind of a simple puppet is best animated on a table by three persons. One actor operates the head and one arm, the second takes care of another arm and holds the body and the third is responsible for moving feet. A simplified animation with two actors is also possible.

All the participants had a chance to practice their skills as both actors and directors. Each person first introduced the others to her/his own story and explained how it should be presented on stage to convey a clear message. Then the rest of the group was animating the puppet and props, following the directions given by the creator of the piece seated in the audience. The participants were also encouraged to find suitable sound for their scenes. They used their own voices and music (laptop and Internet connection were available).

2. Analyzing individual scenes

An important part of this phase of the process were discussions after rehearsing each piece. They were crucial for understanding what really works on the puppet stage and what is not the best choice of means of expression. Through a detailed analysis of actions proposed by the director, the whole group had a chance to explore the subject of meaning in theatre. They could see themselves how every single movement of the puppet, as well as each element of the staging influence the sense and meaning of their stories.

3. Working on the final structure of each piece

The last stage of rehearsing was dedicated to polishing all scenes, taking into consideration all findings and conclusions of the previous discussion. It is very important for the actors to know the structure and logic of their actions and to practice them and repeat several times. Thus they achieve precision and freedom of acting.

Learning outcomes/results

The participants gained confidence in their actions on stage and a better understanding of visual narration rules. It was also a valuable team work experience for them.

As a result of the implementation of this module, the participants learned: - how to bring their ideas for a visual story to life – how to put them on stage,

- how to use and arrange space for a specific theatre presentation,
- how to closely cooperate on stage to achieve the best theatrical effect.