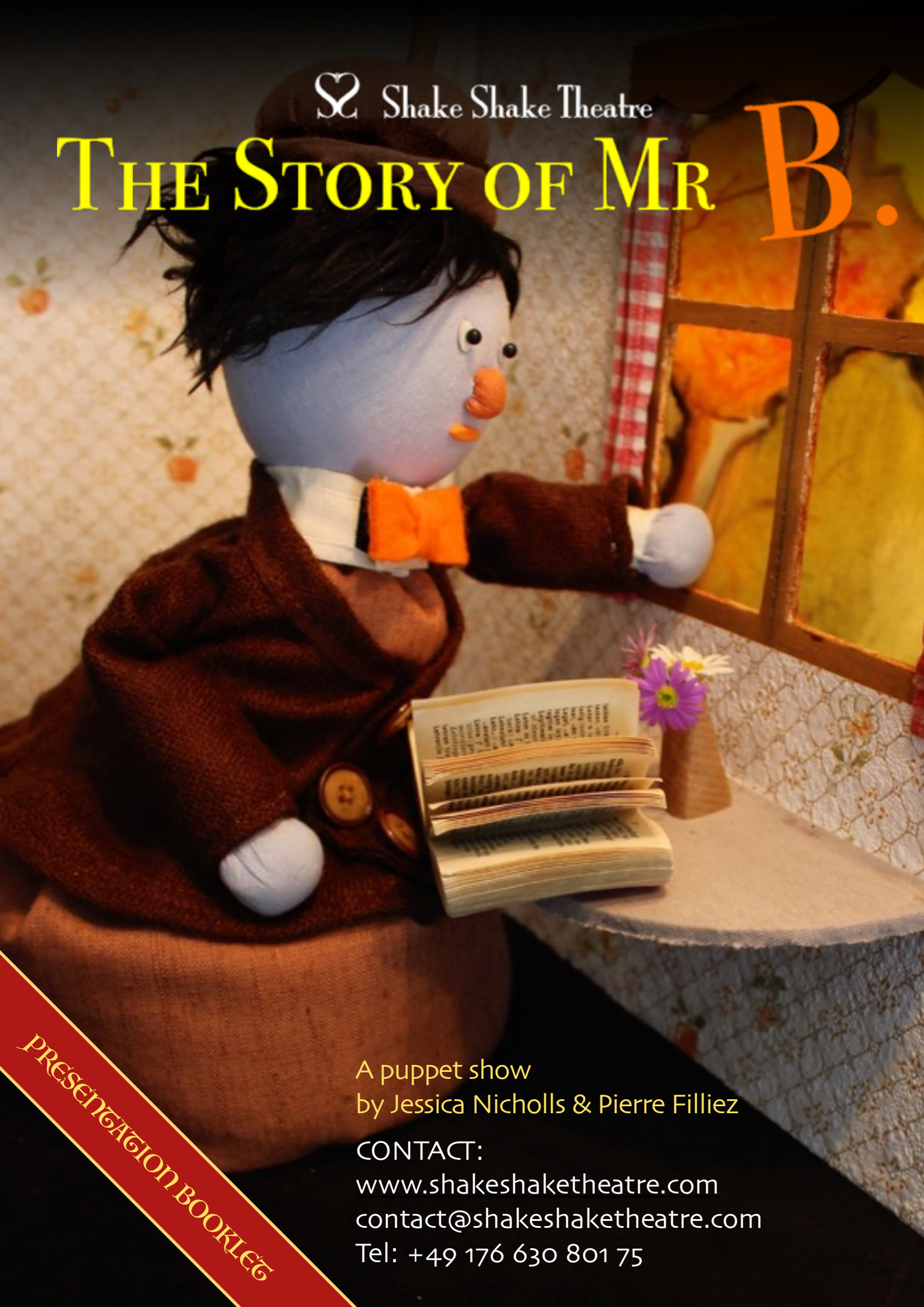


∞ Shake Shake Theatre

THE STORY OF MR B.



A puppet show
by Jessica Nicholls & Pierre Filliez

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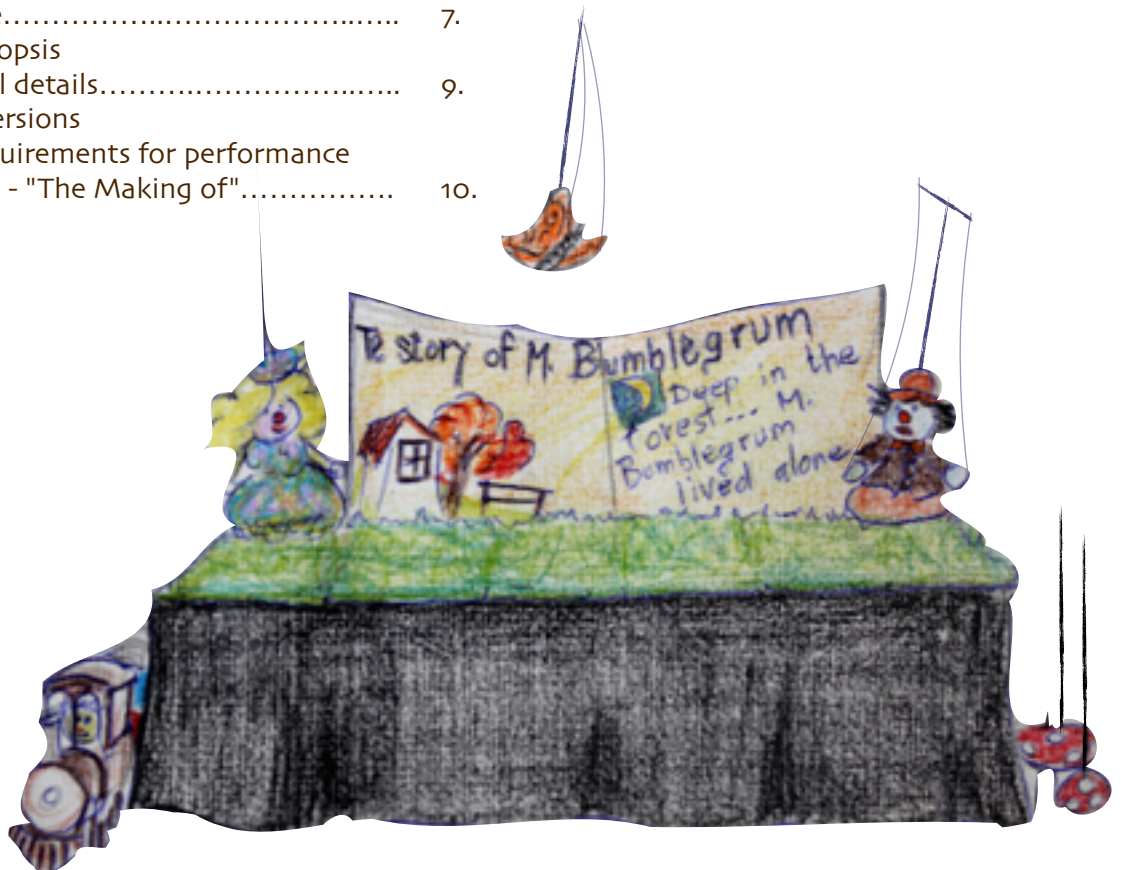
PRESENTATION BOOKLET

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OVERVIEW

The Story of Mr B is an enchanting and original show based amongst the four seasons. Mr Bumblegrum is our lead character who, after losing his love, wants to live alone in the forest. The nature, the birds and the trees try to be his friend and remind him to smile once more.

This philosophical tale, presented for the first time in October 2014 for DFJW - Deutsch-Französisches Jugendwerk - in Berlin, is aimed at both children and adults. It is a puppet theater piece, told with humor and tenderness. The story shows one man's journey through love and loss, contrasting anger against hope and growing from sadness to joy.

* Bumblegrum is an invented word mixing "bumbling" and "grumpy".

Based on a story written by Jessica Nicholls & Pierre Filliez, the two designed and created the puppets and the set. They perform this piece together with attention to detail and care.



- Versions of the show

The Story of Mr B can be performed in English, French or German.

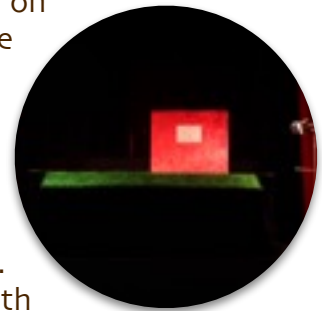
The show lasts 45 Minutes: It is appropriate for an audience of 5 years and older, including an adult audience.

The Story of Mr B.



- The puppets are known as « Sack-Puppets » (not a very flattering name, but they do not lack any charm!) They are created with a small sand filled bag, they have a ball as a head, and are controlled from above with a long stick. Some puppets have strings to allow for arm movement. The puppets are around 25 - 30 cm in height.

- The Set is comprised of a giant pop-up book, standing on specifically designed table. At the beginning of the show the book is closed, the audience sees only the cover with the title of the show written across it. Then the book is opened. The first double page contains a picture and the opening paragraph of the story. On the following pages the text disappears to reveal images that are used the backdrop of the stage. The puppets play in the foreground. At the end of the show the book is once again closed. With pop-up 3D elements, such as a house, a tree and a grave, the set comes to life and allows for more dynamic action on stage. The overall structure consists mainly of wood and stands on the table of 180 cm length, 65 cm width and a height of 60 cm. This table has unseen cut out elements to allow trees to grow from the ground and move along the set.



- The Shadow Theatre. Four scenes are played out with shadow puppets on miniature windows. These images tell a key moment of the story. With underlying music and no text the audience follows a love story between Mr Bumblegrum and Lucy. (Scene 1. First kiss - Scene 2. Romantic date in Restaurant - Scene 3. Disco dancing - Scene 4. Scuba diving)

- The Storyteller leads the audience through the story in various parts. His name is Bobby and he is a giant Mushroom, played with live acting! After he luckily finds his glasses he is able to speak directly with the puppets and also interact with the audience, asking them questions and enabling them to help with the action of the show.

- The Music. The premier of the complete show was performed with live musicians, Pianist Cornelia Venetz and Violinist Vincent Pitteloud. Five classical music pieces were selected to frame the scenes and also had a space of their own during the piece. Since this first performance the music selection has varied to include modern club music, live and recorded ukulele performance and live singing. Music plays an important role during this show, being at times minimalist and at others plentiful.



Shake Shake Theatre

*«Creating and sharing unique artistic work,
made by hand and from the heart.»*

Shake Shake Theatre is the name of the duo of Jessica Nicholls and Pierre Filliez. Shake Shake Theatre produces puppet theatre, masked theatre, workshops and also creates masks and puppets for other organisations. Their first performance of "Du bist Mein Sonnenschein" - a Commedia dell'arte piece (traditional Italian masked theatre style), was presented at Schloss Merode (Germany) for the Spring Festival 2014. The Story of Mr B is their second project together.

Their last collaboration was as puppeteers in "Der kleine Prinz" presented by Drehbühne Berlin in December 2015 und January 2016 in Admiralspalast in Berlin and Capitol Theater Düsseldorf.

Info: www.shakeshaketheatre.com
www.facebook.com/shakeshaketheatre

- Jessica Nicholls is Australian and studied theatre at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, and in Italy at Antonio Fava's International School of Theatre. Professionally Jessica has toured as a puppeteer in Australia, the UK, Ireland, Germany and Switzerland with various puppet companies as well as her own works. She also created miniature shadow theatre „Chookas Theater“ and plays this in Berlin. She is currently working with Shake Shake Theatre and Drehbühne Berlin www.facebook.com/ChookasTheatre



- Pierre Filliez is Swiss and completed his diploma in Physical Theatre at the International Theater School of Jaques Lecoq in Paris. In Switzerland he produced and played in various theatre and puppet shows. He teaches masked theatre and puppetry for La Ménagerie, the French theatre platform in Berlin. He also conducts workshops in Schools and is currently performing his own productions in Berlin, as well as collaborating with Shake Shake Theatre, Drehbühne Berlin and producing commissioned art works internationally. Website: www.pierrefilliez.com

We are:



Shake Shake Theatre

contact@shakeshaketheatre.com
www.shakeshaketheatre.com

We make...



PUPPETS

Yes!

Like me

or like me!



leather MASKS



or paper mache



And SHOWS !!

We come from

Switzerland

Pierre Filliez

...is an actor, artist and teacher. He attended the International Theatre School and Laboratory of Movement (LEM) of Jacques Lecoq, Paris (2008 - 2010). Pierre has since created and performed his puppet shows "Autour de Prévert", "Die Nachtigall des Königs" and has toured with his Commedia Dell' arte company Halapienita throughout Germany and Switzerland. He has also been teaching puppetry and masked theatre in Berlin and has sold his paintings around the world. www.pierrefilliez.com

Jessica Nicholls

...studied theatre at Charles Sturt University, Australia. In Italy she studied Commedia dell' arte, comic acting and mask making from Antonio Fava. Jessica toured puppet shows around Australia, with School Performance Tours, and the UK & Ireland with Vision Mechanics. She has worked as an EISF Science Communicator & an ADSF Team Leader. Jessica created Chookas Theatre and has performed and taught puppetry in Germany, Switzerland and Australia with Shake Shake Theatre. www.facebook.com/ChookasTheatre

Australia

and



We aim to create and share unique artistic work made by hand and from the heart.

We like travelling



IGOR IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

We also provide WORKSHOPS



STORYLINE

Scene breakdown

Scene 1	:	Spring, in Mr. Bumblegrum's house
Scene 2	:	Summer, in the train, Mr. B meets Lucy
Scene 3	:	Shadow theatre
Scene 4	:	Storm, Lucy's death
Scene 5	:	Graveyard
Scene 6	:	Autumn, in the forest with bird, trees & sun
Scene 7	:	Winter, trees disappear, snowstorm
Scene 8	:	Spring, nature blossoms again
End		

Synopsis

Summer - Mr. Bumblegrum works as a bar keeper in the restaurant carriage of a train. He is friendly, polite and liked by all those around him. One day he meets Lucy, a singer who is on her way to give a concert in the next city. She orders a tea at the bar and from here their love story begins, told with song, laughter and shadow theatre scenes. Hereafter Lucy, alone in the forest, gets caught in a terrible storm and does not survive. With her death comes a time of mourning for Mr. Bumblegrum.



Autumn - He becomes angry and grumpy and flees to the forest, to escape civilisation and people. His new job is to count the trees. Here the funny birds, the playful trees and the loud singing sun all come to Mr Bumblegrum. They ask to be his friend, they invite him to play and they hope to remind him of happiness and joy. But he says no to everyone. He wants to be alone. Eventually everything disappears, warning him not to be alone on the storm.



Winter - The forest is all gone, but for one lone tree in front of his house. It becomes cold and begins to snow. Suddenly a snowstorm begins and Mr Bumblegrum becomes scared. He cries out for help and the tree comes to life, showing him that he is alone, and then the tree also says goodbye. Now lonely, sad and regretful he apologises and wishes for friendship again. He goes home.



Spring - As spring arrives the snow begins to melt, along with the ice in Mr Bumblegrum's heart. Bobby the Mushroom, with the audience's help, blows away the dark clouds to reveal a blue sky. They call Mr Bumblegrum to show him the hope that comes with Spring. He is joyful again and begins to grow flowers and help nature to grow back once more. He discovers joy again.



- [Video trailer](#)

We invite you to watch the video trailer for this show on our website:

<http://shakeshaketheatre.com/shows/the-story-of-mr-bumblegrum/>



TECHNICAL DETAILS

Duration: 45 Minuten. Audience age: 5 years +.

Special Requirements for the performance

We have our own sound and lighting equipment. We require the following materials:

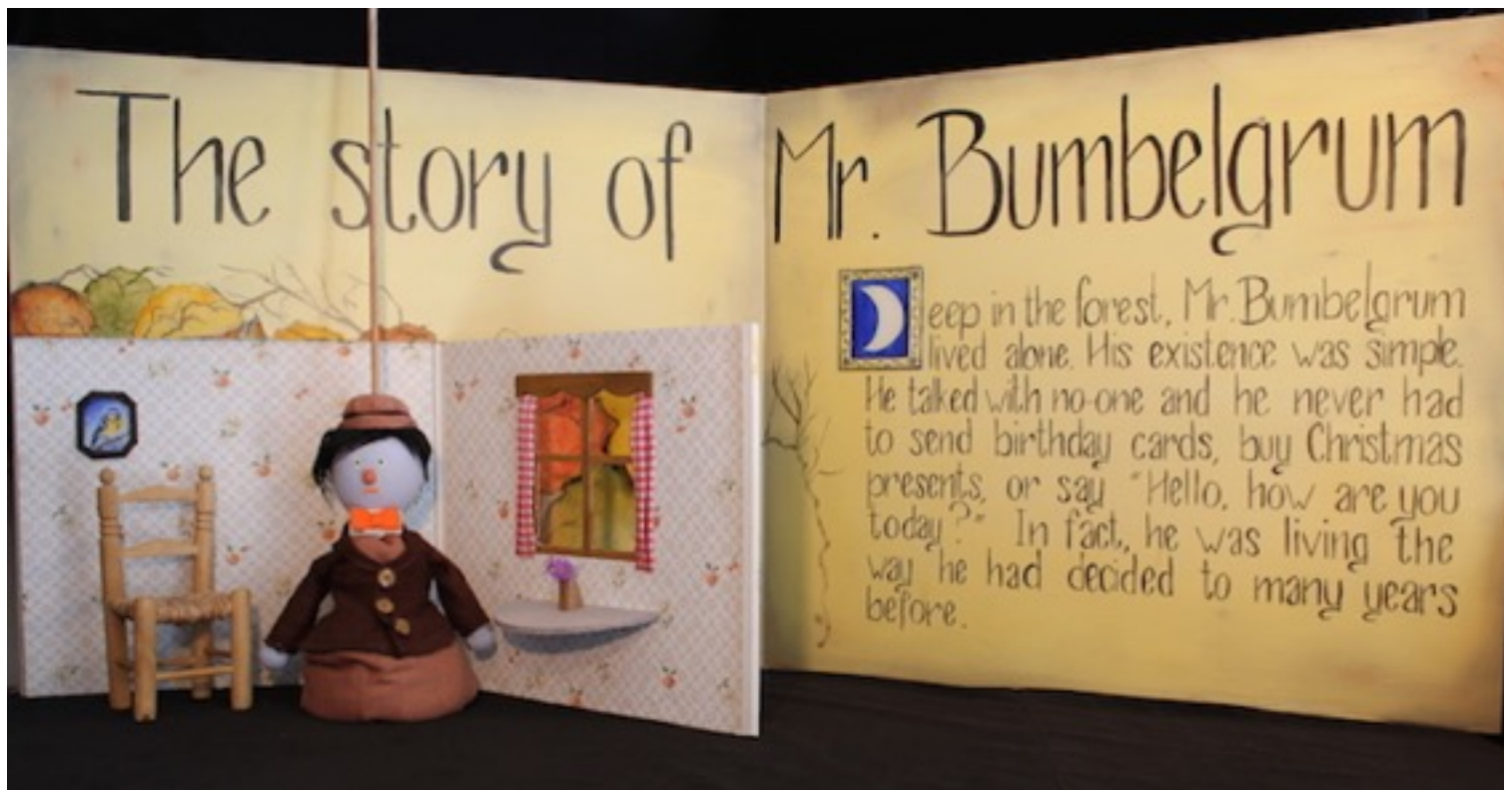
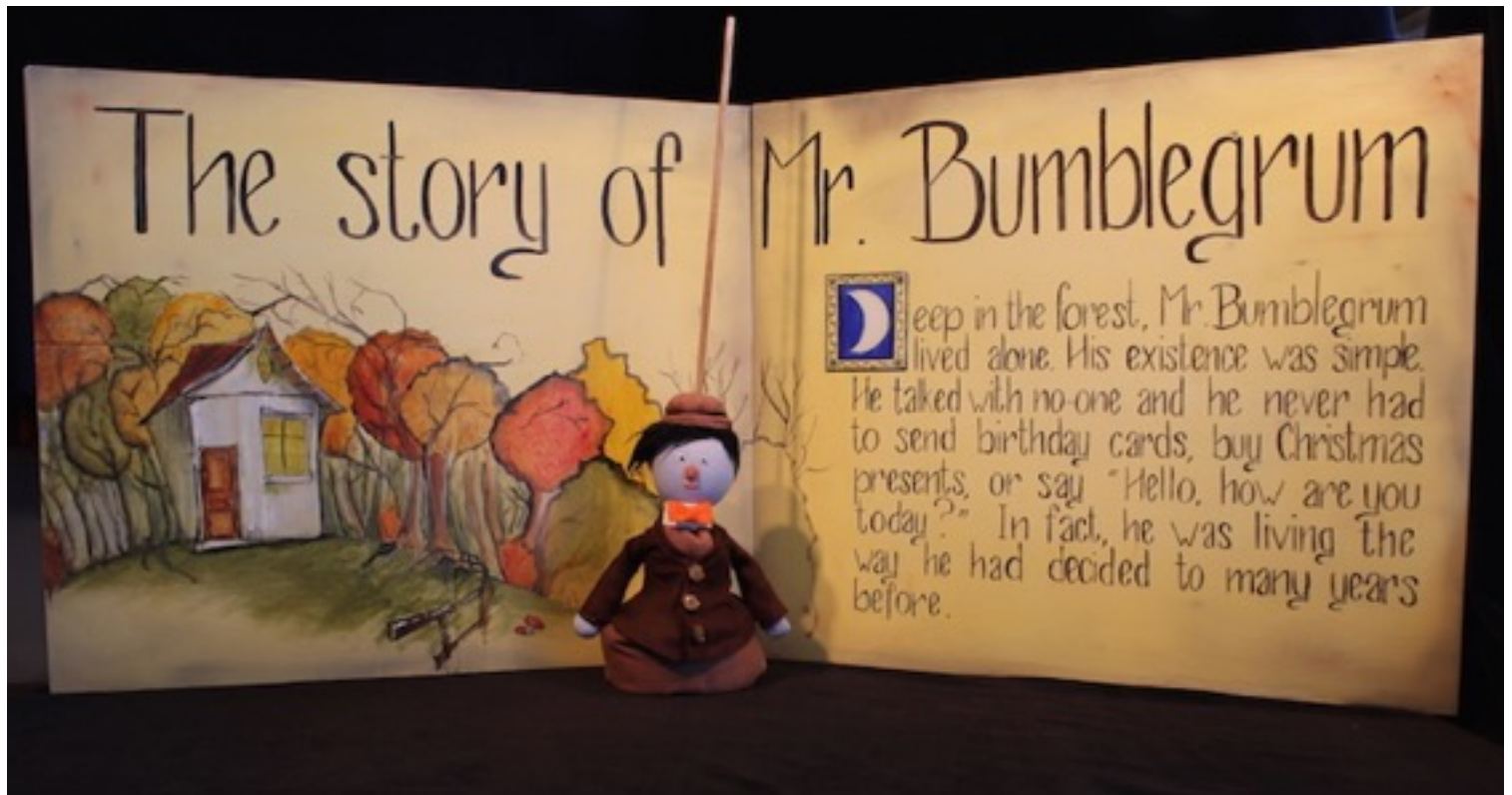
- Electrical outlet 220V.
- Masking / Draping fabric (preferably in black) for the background of the set.
- 5 chairs, to hold and mask our accessories during the performance.
- Possibility for blackout, for the shadow puppet scene.

Depending on the location:

- Podium stage approx. 50 to 80 cm high. Minimum width and depth: 3 m x 3 m (depending on the number and seating of the audience)
- 3 lights with 500W or 1000W with the possibility for the performers to turn off from one location.



PORTFOLIO











Shake Shake Theatre

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