

Museum der
Kulturen Basel

23 August
2019
– 2 August
2020



Bima, Mr Punch, and Demon

mkb.ch

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The puppet theatre captivates young and old across the world. Spellbound, audiences follow the epic battle between good and evil and witness how heroes such as Bima and the clever Mr Punch come to life, as do their demon adversaries.

In this exhibition, the leading parts are played by a host of rod puppets, shadow play figures, hand puppets, and marionettes. The selection focuses on amazing exhibits from Asia and Europe, most of them from our own collections.

In six theatrical productions, visitors get the chance to admire the main characters as they contend with the challenges facing them in the epic stories so often recounted in puppetry. The strongly typified characters allow puppeteers not only to entertain their audiences but also to depict the world and society we live in.

And what's the moral of the story? Jesters play the role of critics who hold up a mirror to the people. This also is why they feature on stage, along with scores of scary but beautiful demons.

For information on guided tours and events go to www.mkb.ch