

T. MATHEWS.
 PUPPET OR MARIONETTE SHOW.
 APPLICATION FILED JUNE 14, 1920.

1,403,514.

Patented Jan. 17, 1922.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

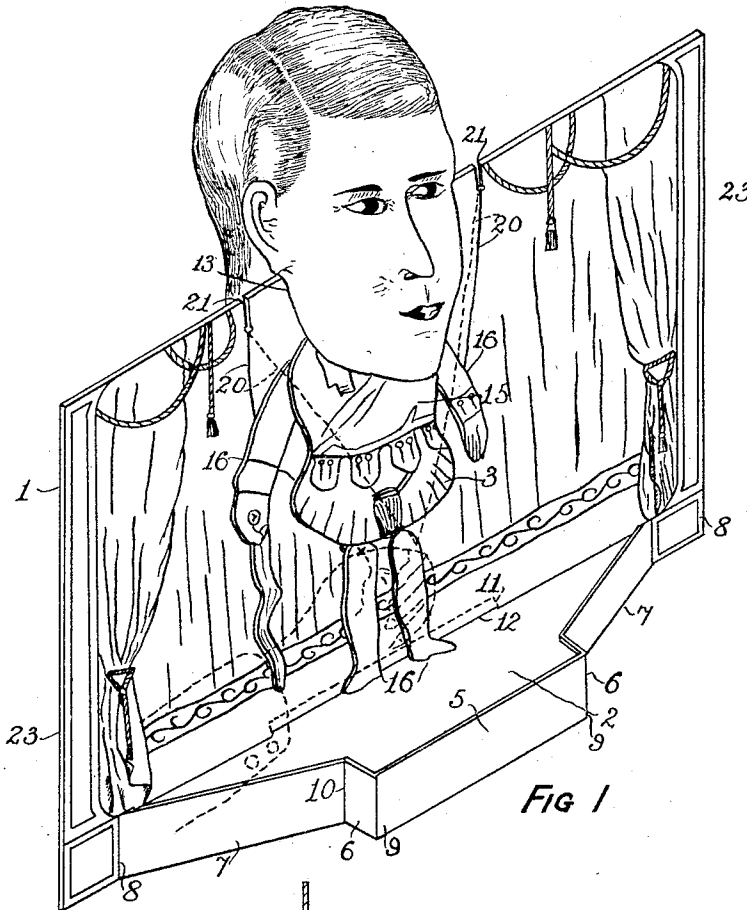


FIG 1

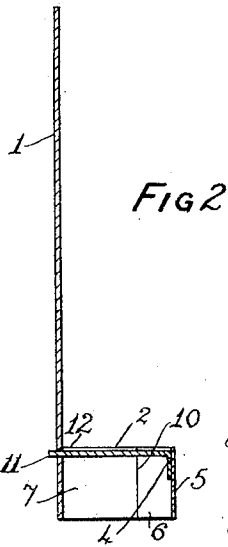


FIG 2

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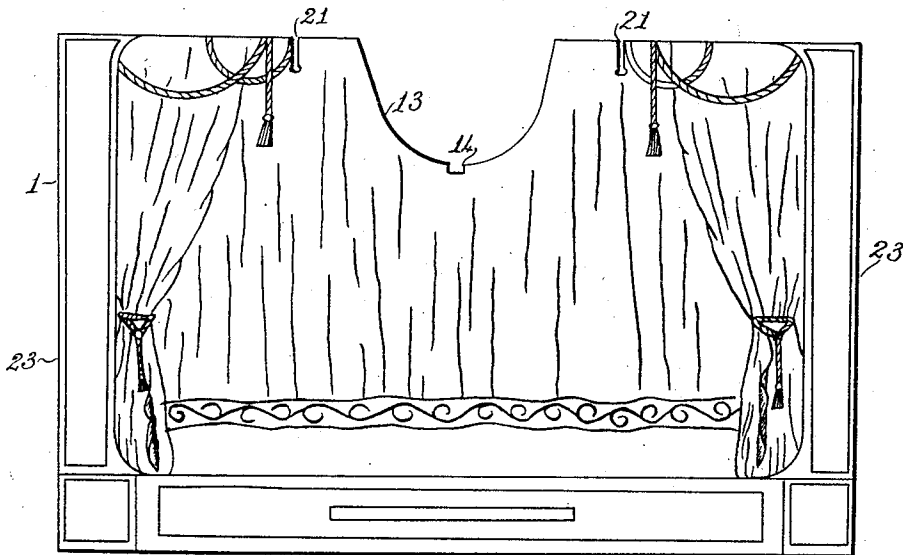


FIG 3

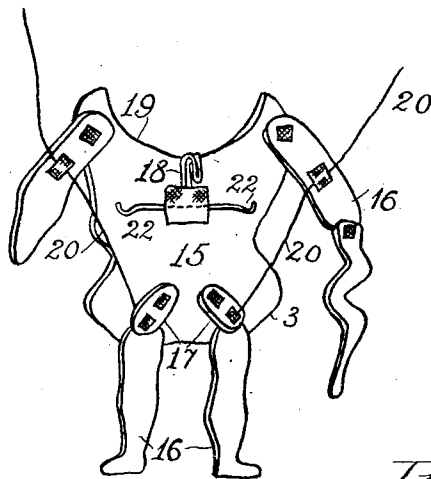


FIG 4

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PUPPET OR MARIONETTE SHOW.

1,403,514.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 17, 1922.

Application filed June 14, 1920. Serial No. 388,982.

(GRANTED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT OF MARCH 3, 1921, 41 STAT. L., 1313.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS MATHEWS, subject of the King of Great Britain, residing at Leicester, in the county of Leicester, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in or Relating to Puppet or Marionette Shows, (for which I have filed an application in England Nov. 13th, 1917, which has since become Patent No. 114,400,) of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing.

This invention relates to toys of the marionette or puppet type and consists of a construction and arrangement by which puppets of various types or characters may be interchangeably employed in connection with a scenic or other background adapted at the upper part for the performers or operator's head to be visibly projected thereover immediately above the body and legs of the puppet, the latter being caused by wires or strings to perform various movements or evolutions.

The invention is preferably made out of cardboard or the like and consists of an upright member or background with or without wings and which may be printed or painted in colours or otherwise to represent stage scenery of any suitable character. A proscenium, platform or stage may be hinged to the upright member so that it can be collapsed flat to same when not in use. Or the proscenium, platform or stage may be printed or painted on the upright member.

The upright member is fashioned along its upper edge so that the chin of the operator can rest therein with his face exposed over the said member, and connected detachably to the fashioned edge is the headless body of a puppet having jointed limbs.

The head of the operator appears to form the head of the puppet, and the limbs of the latter are actuated by cords, strings or wires which pass through slots in the top edge of the upright member.

In further describing the invention reference will be made to the accompanying drawing, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view representing, in use, a puppet show device constituting a concrete example of the invention.

Figure 2 is a central vertical section of the upright or background member and hinged platform.

Figure 3 is a front view of an upright member or background having a painted or printed platform.

Figure 4 is a rear view of the puppet shown in Figure 1.

In the convenient example shown in Figures 1 and 2, the toy comprises an upright member 1 which forms a general background and may consist of a piece of cardboard suitably printed or got up as indicated, a forwardly projecting platform or stage 2, and a puppet or figure 3.

The platform or stage is hingedly attached at 4 to a vertical front piece 5 which by means of short sides 6 is carried by the parts 7 these being vertically hinged at 8 on the back 1. The sides 6 are hingedly connected at 9 and 10 to the front piece 5 and parts 7 respectively so that when the platform is raised as indicated by the arrow in Figure 2, the structure consisting of the members 5, 6 and 7 will fold flat against the back by the hinged sides 6 and parts 7 turning in the manner indicated by arrows in Figure 1. The platform has on its rear edge a tongue 11 which fits into a slot 12 in the back 1 for the purpose of supporting the rear part of platform in the horizontal position when the device is opened for use. It will be understood that to collapse the device the platform is raised and with the folding of the front 5, 6, 7 as already described lies flat against the face of the member 1. To open the device for use the platform is pressed downwards until the tongue 11 enters the slot 12 the downward movement of the platform forcing forward the front 5. The platform may be arranged in any other convenient manner or may be omitted altogether as indicated in Figure 3 where the back member 1 consists of a flat board suitably printed or got up.

The upper edge of the back member 1 (Figures 1 and 3) has formed in it an opening 13 of suitable shape to admit of the insertion therein of the operator's chin in the manner shown in Figure 1. At the bottom of the opening 13 a notch 14 is formed for a purpose hereinafter appearing.

The puppet may be made of cardboard or

other sheet material suitably printed. It may comprise a headless body 15 Figures 1 and 4 to which the limbs 16, 17 are loosely jointed in some convenient manner. The body has attached to the rear thereof a simple hook 18 by which the puppet may be detachably connected to the upright member 1 by hanging it upon the edge of the opening 13, the hook being received in the aforesaid notch 14 which prevents sideways displacement while the operator's chin fitting into the opening prevents upward displacement of the puppet. The body part 15 has a shaped upper edge 19 to fit under the operator's chin.

Cords, strings or wires 20 attached to the limbs 16, 17 of the puppet pass upwardly from the puppet in front of the member as shown in Figure 1 and are carried in open ended slots 21 or passages, afterwards passing down behind the member 1 where they may, as indicated by the dotted lines, be manipulated by the hand of the operator to move the limbs of the puppet. To provide freedom of movement for the limbs, the body of the figure or puppet is held away from the face of the upright member 1 by small projecting loops 22 of wire (Figure 4) which conveniently may be formed with the hook 18.

The hook 18 constitutes a convenient means for supporting or suspending the puppet upon the member 1 as it admits of the figures being already changed. The open ended slots 21 also allow the cords, strings or wires to be easily inserted and removed when the figures are changed. Other means may however, be used for supporting the puppet.

Puppets or figures of various types and characters having movable limbs may be interchangeably used with the main part 1, and when the figure is the representation of any animal, bird or other similar character, a detachable mask of corresponding facial likeness may be worn by the operator.

The upright member or background 1 may have wings hingedly connected to its sides 23. These may fold flat upon the said member or be opened to angle relatively thereto to assist in supporting it for use.

What I claim then is:—

1. A toy of the marionette type preferably made of cardboard and comprising an upright background member suitably printed, and a figure adapted to be detachably supported from the upright member, said figure having loosely jointed limbs operable by strings, and the background member being adapted at the upper part for the operator's head to be visibly projected thereover immediately above the figure.

2. A toy of the marionette type preferably made of cardboard and comprising an upright background member suitably printed,

a figure consisting of a body and loosely jointed limbs the latter being operable by strings, and means to support said figure on the front of the background member, the latter being fashioned along its upper edge so that the chin of the operator can rest therein above the figure.

3. A toy of the marionette type preferably made of cardboard and comprising an upright background member suitably printed and having an opening in its upper edge to receive the operator's chin, a figure consisting of a body and loosely connected and jointed limbs operable by strings, and a hook on the back of said figure for attachment to the opening in the background member to support the figure underneath the operator's chin.

4. A toy of the marionette type preferably made of cardboard and comprising an upright background member suitably printed and having an opening in its upper edge to receive the operator's chin, a figure consisting of a body shaped at the top to fit under the operator's chin and having loosely jointed limbs movably connected thereto, strings for operating said limbs, and a hook on the back of the body adapted to engage the opening in the background to carry the figure in the front thereof, the strings from the limbs of the figure being carried in open ended slots in the background member so as to be operable behind the latter for moving the limbs.

5. A toy of the marionette type preferably made of cardboard and comprising an upright background member suitably printed and having a shaped opening in its upper edge to receive the operator's chin, a platform hinged to said member so that it can be collapsed to a flat condition when not in use, a figure consisting of a body and loosely jointed and connected limbs operable by strings from behind the upright member, and means to detachably carry said figure on the front of the upright member.

6. A toy of the marionette type preferably made of cardboard and comprising an upright background member suitably printed and a having a shaped opening in its upper edge to receive the operator's chin, a folding front piece hingedly attached to the background member, a platform hingedly attached to the front piece and adapted to engage the background member when in use, said front piece and platform collapsing to a flat condition when not in use, a figure consisting of a body and loosely jointed and connected limbs operable by strings from behind the upright member, and means to detachably carry said figure on the front of the upright member.

7. A toy of the marionette type comprising a flat upright background member of sheet cardboard, printed to represent a pro-

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scenium and stage and having a shaped opening in its upper edge to receive the operator's chin, a flat cut out figure of printed cardboard consisting of a headless body having a shaped opening at the top to correspond with that in the background member and fit under the operator's chin, loosely jointed limbs pivotally connected to said body and operable by means of strings pressed through open ended slots in the upper edge of the background member so as to be operable behind the latter, a wire hook rigidly attached to the back of the figure body and adapted to engage with a notch in the shaped opening of the background member to support the figure on the front of the latter.

8. A toy of the marionette type comprising a flat upright background member of sheet cardboard printed to represent a proscenium and stage and having a shaped opening in its upper edge to receive the operator's chin, a flat cut out figure of printed

cardboard consisting of a headless body having a shaped opening at the top to correspond with that in the background member and fit under the operator's chin, loosely jointed limbs pivotally connected to said body and operable by means of strings pressed through open ended slots in the upper edge of the background member so as to be operable behind the latter, a wire hook rigidly attached to the back of the figure body and adapted to engage with a notch in the shaped opening of the background member to support the figure on the front of the latter, and projecting loops of wire on the rear of the figure to hold the latter away from the face of the background member to provide freedom of movement of the limbs.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS MATHEWS.

Witnesses:

R. W. C. TAYLOR,
GEORGE LESTER.