

# MATT JACKSON

DESIGNER / FABRICATOR / TEACHER FOR THEATER, FILM, AND THE FINE ARTS



## CONTACT

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## PORTFOLIO

• Instagram: @mattjacksonstudios  
• Facebook: Matt Jackson Studios  
• Website: www.mattjacksonstudios.com

## STATEMENT:

Matt has 20 years of experience fabricating sculptures, specializing in puppets and masks for theatre and film industries. His work has lead him to careers in New York, London, and Amsterdam. Teaching is an integral part of his practice whether he is working for a university or hosting short professional courses. As a performing artist he has also participated in several collaborative artists' residencies and festivals.

## SKILLS:

- wood working
- wood carving
- model-building
- sculpting
- mould-making
- casting
- sketching

## MATERIALS:

- papers
- water-based clays
- oil-based clays
- organic glues
- thermal plastic
- silicones
- plasters

## EDUCATION:

2009: GOLDSMITHS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, United Kingdom  
**Masters of Arts** in 'Performance and Culture: Interdisciplinary Perspectives':  
Dissertation on *The Transformative Powers of Performing Objects*.

1998 – 2001: THE ART INSTITUTE OF PITTSBURGH, USA  
**Associates Degree** with **Honours** in Industrial Design Technology.  
Emphasis in Special Effects for Film. Was awarded partial scholarship grant upon entrance.

## TEACHING:

2024: 'THE LIVING MASK' hosted by the School of Puppets/ Haags Theaterhuis  
- 3-day course in mask-making exploring life casting, sculpting, and papier-mache with organic glues.

2023: 'BRINGING LIFE TO A PUPPET' Figurteatret i Nordland, Stamsund, Norway  
- 10-day masterclass for international artists in the fabrication and use of puppets made from non-toxic materials.

2022: 'Ambacht in Beeld Festival' NDSM Loods, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
- Short courses demonstrating the basics of using the thermoplastic Worbla to make masks.

2021: 'WILD (+2)' Theater Sonnevand, Zwolle, The Netherlands  
- Collaborated with director Noufri Bachdim and composer Setareh Nafisi to investigate the combination of puppetry and musical composition for an audience of +2. Research assistants were third-year students from ArtEZ Musical Theatre, Arnhem who worked under our guidance.

2020: 'THE RISING PUPPET' Workshop, NVP-UNIMA/ Matt Jackson Studios, Den Bosch, The Netherlands  
- 4-day course in fabricating puppets from various clays, wooden armature fabrication, and 'found-objects'.

2019: 'THE LIVING MASK' Workshop, Matt Jackson Studios, Den Bosch, The Netherlands  
- 15-hour course in mask-making exploring life casting, sculpting, and papier-mache with organic glues

2017: 'THE PUPPET: LOST-FOUND-MADE/REMADE' Le Centre de la Marionnette, Tournai, Belgium  
- 32-hour course in fabricating puppets from found objects and sculpted heads/hands

'THE OCTOPUS'S GARDEN' Ecole Superiure Nationale de la Marionnette(ESNAM), Charleville-Mézières, France  
- Worked with the students to explore materials for use in under-water puppetry. It was filmed and used for projection mapping in collaboration with photographer Christophe Loisseau.

2012: 'LONDON COLLEGE OF FASHION' United Kingdom  
- **Workshop technician** for the sculpture workshops of MA Artefacts, & MA Footwear.  
- Also taught mini-tutorials and hands-on demonstrations in precise methods of fabrication.

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## SELECTED COMMISSIONS:

- 2023: 'SPIJTMOEDERS' Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
-Designed, built, and performed the puppets portraying the actual mothers in a documentary film directed by Milou Gevers for VPRO.
- 2022: 'BOSCH PARADE'. Den Bosch, The Netherlands  
-Fabricated a floating manipulatable artwork, with a 6-metre long wooden boat as a base and other left over materials, inspired by the work of Jheronimus Bosch.
- 2021: 'LLOUISE' Performance by **Crea Theatre**, Tournai, Belgium  
-Fabricated life-size puppet in realistic likeness of the artist Louise Bourgeois. Methods included hand-carved wooden body; sculpted face and hands cast with papier-mache.
- 2020: 'DE BERG VAN DE ANGST' Performance by **Tim Hammer**, Arnhem, The Netherlands  
-Fabricated life-size puppet manipulated by three performers. Methods included hand-carved wooden body; sculpted face and hands cast with papier-mache.
- 2019: 'THE ART OF WALKING' Performance by **Tim Hammer**, Arnhem, The Netherlands  
-Carved six lower puppet-legs from abachi wood, and fabricated six upper legs from thermal plastic.
- 2018: 'DORIAN GRAY' Performance by **Ulrike Quade Company**, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
-Fabricated a human-sized puppet from laser-cut polyethylene foam. A machine/man puppet, it had electronic sensors embedded on it for creating live music (composer Akim Moiseenkov) plus 3D-printed face and hands.
- 'ZEVEN KLEINE CRIMINELEN' Dutch TV show by **Pupkin Pictures**, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
-Designed and built an animatronic robot puppet as an integral part of the series.
- 'INCANTATIONS' Performance by **Cie. Pseudonymo**, Reims, France  
-Created a silicone costume, and a stringed-marionnette that was played underwater.
- 2017: 'GO NORTH And See What Those Strangers Do' Performance by **Panama Pictures**, Den Bosch Netherlands  
-Designed and built a 7-metre whale as an interactive part of the scenography. Used a mixture of found materials such as an old boat, industrial fishing nets, and driftwood.
- 'DE WAND' Performance by **Ulrike Quade Company**, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.  
-Designed and built a dog, cat, cow, and baby bull puppets for production in theatres and on location in forest.
- 2016: 'QUALITY TIME' Film by **Pupkin Pictures**, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
-Fabricated a silicone hand puppet of a tumor and a wearable prosthesis for this award-winning film
- 'OSAKA PROJECT' Performance by **Ulrike Quade Company**, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.  
-designed and built five 'bunraku'-inspired puppets bodies and 20 interchangeable heads

## EXHIBITIONS & PERFORMANCES:

- '**THE VESSEL**' Solo exhibition of puppets, masks, sculptures, large photos, and film.
- 2024: **The Project(ion) Room, Brussels.** (JEM Festival of Puppetry).  
-8 days, with two live happenings featuring performer Ruben Mardulier and saxophonist Jean-Jacques Duerinckx
- 2023: **Hotel Arena, Amsterdam** (Queering Arts Puppet Festival).
- 2022: **Het Werkwarenhuis, Den Bosch**, The Netherlands. Supported by Gemeente 's-Hertogenbosch.  
-10 days, with two performances using the artwork amongst the exhibition featuring also a dancer and live music.
- '**ONNA MUSHA**' an on-going performance-project using puppetry, masks, objects, dance, and butoh.
- 2020: film made with dancer Kristien Sonnevijlle and film maker Teis Albers for international festival Pesta Boneka.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- 2021: **Bernd Ogrodnik**. Participant in 2-year online masters course in advanced **wood-working** for puppet making.
- 2019: **Miyako Kurotani**. Amsterdam, The Netherlands: Five-days working on the relationship of the puppet to the performer.
- 2016: **Udaka Michishige** Kyoto, Japan: Studied carving traditional Noh masks from the only professional actor & carver.
- Frank Soehle**. Paris: Two-weeks studying the *Contemporary Stringed Puppet*. Fabrication and manipulation
- Matsuura Hidehito (KANROKU)** Osaka, Japan: Studied the Sannin-zukai (three-person) manipulation of the Bunraku theatre
- 2014: **Watanabe Kazunori** Amsterdam, The Netherlands: Studied traditional and modern techniques to fabricate a puppet similar to the Japanese 'bunraku' tradition.