

A look at Switzerland

After last year's look at Japan, a country where, just like other Asian countries, puppets have a clearly traditional air, this year we return to Europe to take a look at Switzerland, a small modern country with four official languages and 120 puppet companies. Bearing in mind that it is a country with a population five times smaller than Spain yet three times bigger than the Basque Country, we need to recognise that proportionally, it has a much more intense puppetry activity than here.

Like everything major that we organise at Titiirijai, this look at Switzerland centres around a large exhibition organised by five companies with different puppetry styles (one specialising in children's puppets and the others aimed at both young and old audiences) in Aranburu Palace. In addition to this there will be a series of talks on the situation of puppetry in Switzerland and puppet companies' interests, projects and associations, etc.

The exhibition will take up nine rooms in Aranburu palace, providing a contemporary view of Swiss puppets from the beginning of the 20th century up to the present day; a hundred years corresponding to the most brilliant era of Swiss creators and the dawn of Swiss companies.

On this occasion, everything has been made possible thanks to the enthusiasm and determination of Pierre Alain Rolle and Paola Busca, who worked extremely hard, firstly to convince their colleagues at the Swiss Association for Puppet Theatres of the interest that our festival has in spreading puppet art, and afterwards to search for material and personal support to make the project work.

The Swiss Association for Puppet Theatres has over 300 members including professional puppeteers, amateurs, teachers, therapists, collectors and just puppet "friends".

We are convinced that we will be looking out over a beautiful landscape, as unique as all those that we have in Tolosa, and we would truly like to thank all our Swiss friends for making it possible for us to take a peek into the reality of their puppet world.

Exhibition

Venue: Aranburu Palace in Tolosa

Date: from 26 November to 4 December

Opening times: from 12:00 to 14:00 and from 17:00 to 20:00 on Saturdays and Bank Holidays, and from 17:00 to 20:00 on weekdays