

**CONFERENCE**  
**KOLK 17 Puppet Theatre & Museum Lübeck Germany**  
**UNIMA Heritage Commission**

**April 25 and 26, 2025**

Dear Sir or Madam,  
Dear friends of puppet theatre,

We warmly invite you to take part in our international conference:

**“Puppets, a Heritage in Danger? How Can We Face Critical Situations?”.**

The event will take place on Friday, April 25, 2025, at KOLK 17 Puppet Theatre & Museum in Lübeck, Germany. On Saturday, April 26, 2025, we will offer a two-hour workshop on the topic of emergency planning, prevention, emergency plans, and equipment. Participation in the workshop is limited to 20 people.

The conference is organized by KOLK 17 in cooperation with the UNIMA Heritage Commission. Its goal is to discuss key issues related to the protection of puppetry (and puppet theatre) heritage in times of crisis. International institutions such as UNESCO and the UN have taken up the cause of protecting cultural heritage and implemented important measures.

But is the heritage of puppetry and puppet theatre truly protected? Our experience shows: No – and it is often not even recognized by the public as cultural heritage worth protecting.

We therefore believe it is urgently necessary to hold a seminar that sheds light on what happens to the heritage of puppetry in countries affected by disasters such as wars, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, or volcanic eruptions.

How can such situations be managed? Can preventive measures be taken? What can be done after a disaster – and how can support be provided?

The official invitation with full details about the conference is attached. Please feel free to share it. The event is open to all interested parties and will be held in English, and French.

**Due to limited capacity, advance registration is required. Unfortunately, participation is not possible without registration and confirmation by KOLK 17. The workshop requires a separate ticket.**

You can register here: <https://gstoo.de/kolk17-heritage-conference>



**KOLK 17 gGmbH**  
**Figurentheater & Museum**  
Kolk 14  
23552 Lübeck  
+49 451 70060  
[info@kolk17.de](mailto:info@kolk17.de)

**Amtsgericht Lübeck HRB 6189 HL**

**Geschäftsführende Direktorin:**  
Dr. Antonia Napp

**Figurentheaterdirektor:**  
Stephan Schlafke



**Heritage, Museums and  
Documentation Centers Commission**  
**Commission de Patrimoine, Musées  
et Centres de Documentation**  
**Comisión de Patrimonio, Museos y  
Centros de Documentación**

If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to contact us at [museum@kolk17.de](mailto:museum@kolk17.de)

We look forward to welcoming you in Lübeck and working together to protect this important cultural heritage.

#### **Program:**

**Date: Friday, April 25, 2025**

**Start: from 8.45 a.m.**

#### **Opening and welcoming the participants**

##### **Presentations: Dadi D. Pudumjee (Indien)**

Puppets form at risk of disappearance, the follow up, successors... The point of view of a practicing puppeteer's journey of the last 60 years

##### **Antonia Napp (Germany)**

Documentation of puppet theater: What role do museums play in preserving the international puppet theater heritage?

##### **Pia Gutierrez (Chile)**

As an act of Togetherness: The experience of three Chilean Women Puppeteers with the Archive

##### **Alissa Mello (USA)**

Puppetry in times of war

##### **Kathy Foley (USA)**

Volcano, revolutions, wars, winds, waves: preserving Asian intangible cultural puppet heritage in times of trauma

##### **Liliana Pérez Recio (Cuba/Brazil)**

Puppeteers of Rio Grande do Sul, 2024: What can be saved after the flood?

##### **Eric Deniaud (France/Libanon)**

Recognizing Puppetry as Heritage: A First Step Towards Its Protection and Conservation

##### **Case Studies: Mamby Mawine (Senegal)**

La situation du Centre Djarama



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**Lorena Comin & Margarida Castellano (Spain)**

Once upon a flood: the night Valencian puppetry found a second life

**Date: April 26, 2025**

**Start: from 9 a.m.**

**Workshop:** Emergency planning, prevention, emergency plans, and equipment

**Visit to the Depot of KOLK 17, Herrenholz 6, 23556 Lübeck**



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