

The background of the slide is a vibrant, abstract pattern of thick, wavy, and curved lines in various colors including red, orange, yellow, green, blue, pink, and black. Some shapes are solid, while others are outlines. The overall effect is dynamic and modern.

# DIGITAL THEATRE

Chapter 6 - The “Other” Actor

Katie & Coco

# Forms of Digital Theatre

**01** Digital Puppets

**02** Video Actors

**03** Mechanical Actors

# Do You Know Them?



# Do You Know Them?





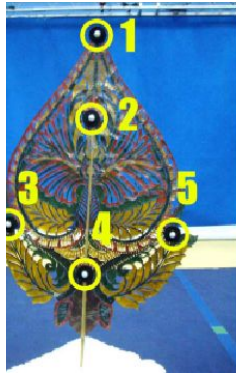
# What Is A Puppet?

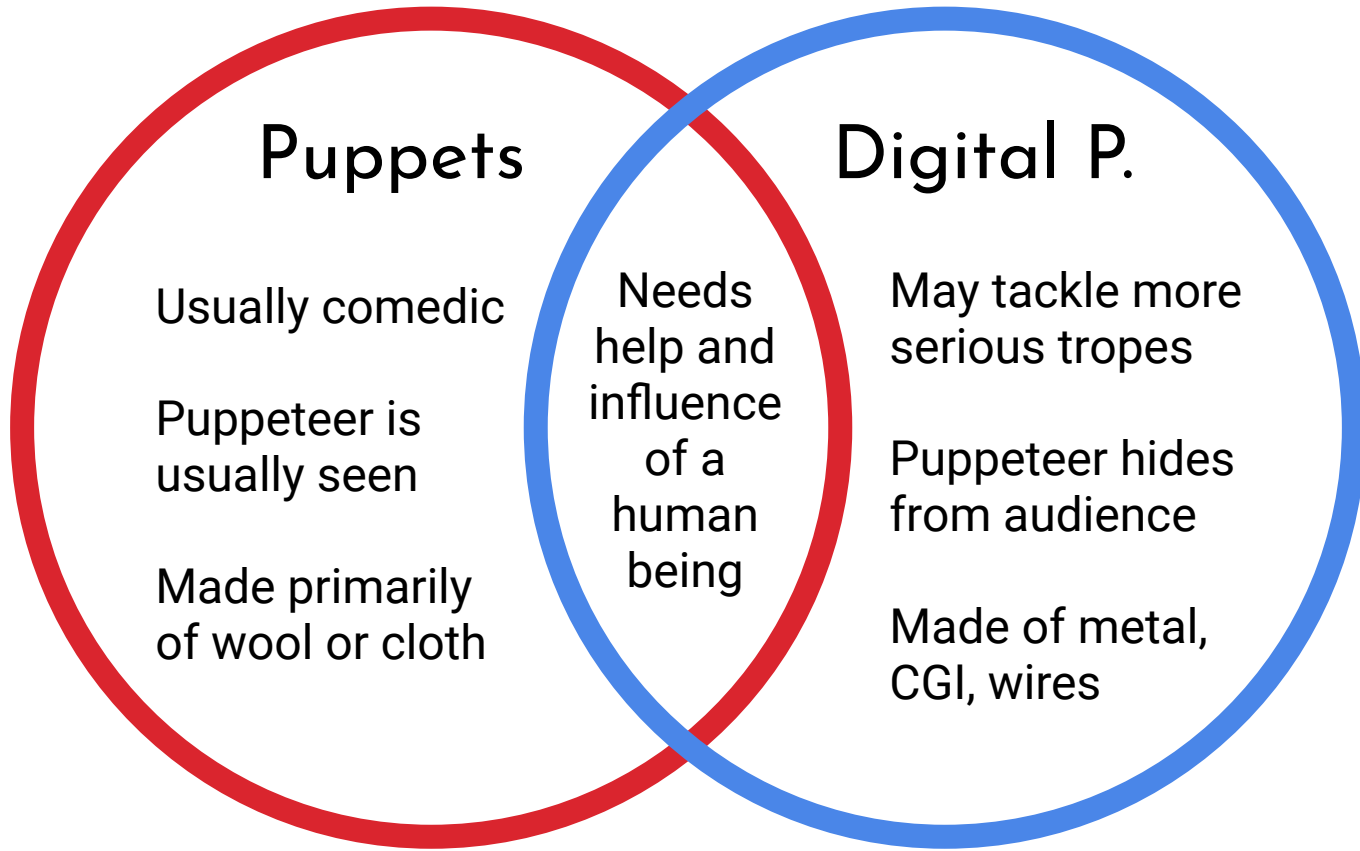
*A movable model that is used in entertainment and is typically moved either by strings controlled from above or by a hand inside it.*



# How About A DIGITAL Puppet?

*The manipulation and performance of digitally animated figures in a virtual environment that are rendered in real time by computers.*





# 01 Digital Puppets

Yacov Sharir

“After animating choreography into his cyber-figures, he then taught living human dancers to emulate these physically impossible motions.”





# 01 Digital Puppets

**Q:** What are the ways in which machine and human performers learn from one another? Is it an equal balance of give and take, or is there still this teacher-student mentality when dealing with machine actors?

***Struggling to answer? Pick a side first!***



***I would say it's pretty equal!***



***There's definitely a power imbalance.***



# 01 Digital Puppets

## *Blue Bloodshot Flowers*



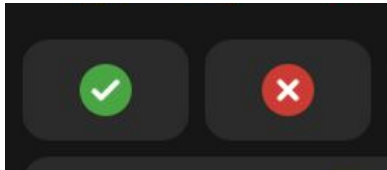
“The audience reactions show general curiosity and perhaps indicates a larger cultural response to artificial beings.”



# 01 Digital Puppets

**Q:** Should we have a separate section at award shows for machine actors, or should they be added in the same category as human performances?

*Can't answer? Pick a side!*



**Yes!**

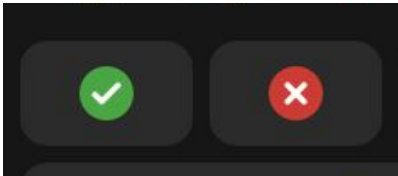
**No!**



# 01 Digital Puppets

***Dinosaurus by  
Mark Reany***

***Can't answer?  
Pick a side!***



**Q:** Does puppeteers acting with their machine subjects ruin the illusion & enchantment of digital puppets?



## 02 Video Actors

### *Continuous Cities*



## 02 Video Actors



Continuous Cities



Virtual Reality Show 2020  
(same as RealAD)

Q: How does the performer on stage help to make the theatre more attractive/impressive?



## 03 Mechanical Actors

More accessible

More acceptable

Less threatening

**Baxter:** performer from the production line!



YOU n.0 Performance with Baxter (2014)

# 03 Mechanical Actors

**“Interaction is key to performances between human and nonhuman actors” (Masura 142)**

Q: What’s your opinion on the interaction between the human actors and Baxter in YOU n.0? Is it accessible/acceptable? Do you feel Baxter controls performers?

**“But there is no natural human aspect to Baxter” (Baxter’s Programmer 147)**

D: This is a performance made jointly by artists and engineers.

**Interesting: Artists tend to [anthropomorphize] robots.**

Engineers explore how to make robots acceptable in mechanistic movement. For AI, Siri and AlphaGo do not even have a physical body!

Q: What are artists exploring by **anthropomorphizing**?

Is the uncanny valley actually protecting us from being replaced by robots?





# 03 Mechanical Actors

Limited expressive capabilities

Embrace the limitations

Explore the mechanics of how movement evokes emotional responses



Comedia Robotica (2013)



## 03 Mechanical Actors

Robots in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*!

Flying robots as fairies!

Used for rescue control, require trustworthy robot!



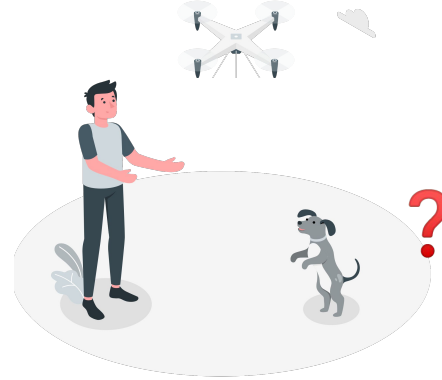
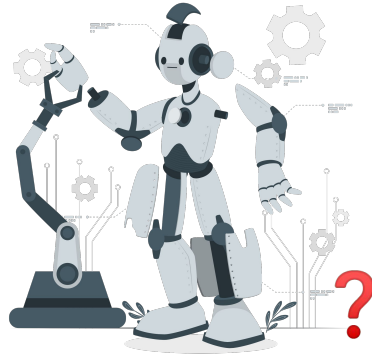
A Midsummer Night's Dream (2009)

# 03 Mechanical Actors

Two ways to explore human robot interaction:

- Built on well-defined human standard such as Comedian behaviours
- Built on new standard that audience do not have expectations

Which one do you think will be more popular in the future?



# THANK YOU!

Does anyone have any other questions?

---

CREDITS: This presentation template was created by **Slidesgo**, including icons by **Flaticon**, infographics & images by **Freepik**.

