



ARTIST PORTFOLIO

MARLENA KOŁODZIEJ

ACTRESS

CONTACT

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(for English)

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of birth: 1978
Nationality: Polish
City: Bielsko-Biała

PROFILE

- Actress.
- In the past she participated in the Occupational Therapy Workshop "You are needed!" in Bielsko-Biała <http://jestespotrzebny.pl/>.
- She has no artistic education, but since 2004 has participated in various creative initiatives organised by the Grodzki Theatre Association www.teatrgrodzki.pl.
- She has also completed a dance course at a community centre and worked as a volunteer in a kindergarten in Bielsko-Biała.

COMPETENCES, SKILLS, EXPERIENCE

- Particularly talented in puppet animation, she has created many interesting stage creations, bringing puppet characters and objects to life. Predisposed to character roles. She has experience of working with a film camera and many of the rehearsals and performances she has participated in have been recorded. She also creates puppets herself, using mainly paper and fabric.
- She has performed in various venues in Poland, including Bielsko-Biała, Krakow, Warsaw, Poznan, as well as abroad: in Slovakia (**ERROR International Theatre Festival** in Bratislava), the UK (**acta Community Theatre** in Bristol), Germany (**The Kreuzberg Community Arts Festival** in Berlin), the Netherlands (**ICAF - International Community Arts Festival** in Rotterdam), Slovenia (**Festival INTEGRA** in Kranj), as well as in the Czech Republic and Lithuania.
- Personality strengths: consistency and discipline, theatrical intuition, ability to focus on the task at hand, courage to take on new challenges and readiness to act and continually develop, endowed with an outstanding acting temperament, comfortable with stage movement and group scenes, also enjoying playing solo scenes.

ARTISTIC PROJECTS

D.I.V.A - Diversity, inclusion and accessibility in the arts (2023-2024)
FUNDED BY THE EU - CREATIVE EUROPE PROGRAMME

The project involves three arts organisations from Greece, Poland and Portugal, collaborating for two years to promote creative activities involving people with disabilities. The project is thematically linked to the Greek tragedy 'The Trojan Women' by Euripides and involves the creation of three live performances and one digital performance. They are played by professional and non-professional actors - people with and without disabilities. MARLENA KOŁODZIEJ is a member of the acting troupe in this project and plays a number of roles in all stagings of 'The Trojan Women'. She performs in a mask and skilfully animates a huge puppet character of the goddess Athena together with two other animators.

<https://youtu.be/GRZkUKbVPyY>

<https://diva-creative.eu/>



THEATRICAL TRIBUTE TO UKRAINE (2022-2024)

The main outcome of the project was a puppet show 'The End of the World' created by an inclusive theatre group under the care of the Grodzki Theatre Association as a tribute to struggling Ukraine. The performance was presented in Bielsko-Biała and Poznań and in Bratislava (Slovakia). MARLENA KOŁODZIEJ is a member of the acting troupe in this project and skilfully animates two puppet characters. She is also the creator of the puppets of the two characters in the performance.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s6Y2iLLSpSR3GzDy7yTI02FTGXc_s9u4/view?usp=sharing

RAPPORT - Art for the social integration of foreigners (2019-2022) FUNDED BY THE EU - CREATIVE EUROPE PROGRAMME

This was an international initiative to support and promote the integration of immigrants into the community of the country in which they reside, implemented in four countries: Poland, the UK, Spain and Sweden. The project involved running creative activities for integration groups and creating a theatre show in each partner country, followed by a joint performance ('BABEL') combining elements of all four shows in each country - theatre, dance, film, puppetry and multimedia. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, most of the project's activities were carried out online. MARLENA KOŁODZIEJ was a participant in the workshop and created an artistic etude on her own, using paper puppets built according to her own idea.

GERDA SEEKS KAYA (2018-2019) FUNDED BY THE MAGOVOX FOUNDATION

The main objective of this initiative was to empower girls and women on their path to independence, self-reliance, self-confidence and activity in various fields. The result was the creation of a visual performance based on Andersen's The Snow Queen. The performance was presented in Bielsko-Biała and Bratislava (Slovakia). MARLENA KOŁODZIEJ was a member of the acting troupe in this project and brought several puppet characters to life, using various animation techniques.

MEDART - Theatre educational methods for working with adults from disadvantaged groups (2015-2017) FUNDED BY THE EU - CULTURE PROGRAMME

The project focused on collecting and describing effective working methods using theatre arts and drama therapy in the education of disadvantaged adults. Among other things, it resulted in the creation of a puppet show entitled "Somewhere over the rainbow...", which was presented in Bielsko-Biała and Bratislava (Slovakia). MARLENA KOŁODZIEJ was a member of the acting team in this project and animated several puppet characters of different sizes.

GREY MATTERS (2013-2015)
FUNDED BY THE EU - LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME

The project aimed to support older people in six different countries by engaging them in creative activities and intergenerational artistic exchange. It resulted in the creation of two puppet shows: "Two-headed Dragons" and "Birds of Passage", which were presented in Poland, Germany and Slovakia. MARLENA KOŁODZIEJ was a member of the acting troupe in this project and demonstrated her proficiency in animating various puppets and objects in both performances.

<http://www.teatrgrodzki.pl/book/teatralne-spotkania-pokolen/>
(the performance "Birds of Passage" starts at 16 minutes 50 seconds)

COAST. ART - COMMUNITY - TRANSFORMATION (2011-2013)
FUNDED BY THE EU - CREATIVE EUROPE PROGRAMME

The project explored the dynamics of 'neighbourhoods and borders' that arise through migration, and celebrated the creative energy that arises at the intersection of community encounter and incoming migrants. The result was the performance 'Our Dream Journey', which was presented several times in Poland, as well as in the UK, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. MARLENA KOŁODZIEJ was a member of the acting troupe in this project and skilfully animated, together with two other actresses, a human-sized puppet.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m38Ftiple3w>

ARTERIA - ART, EDUCATION, THERAPY (2010-2012)
FUNDED BY THE EU - LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME

The project focused on presenting the best methods of working with vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, the homeless, refugees and anyone in need of support. It also resulted in the development and staging of the visual performance 'The Magic Mountain and some facts from the life of M', which has been presented several times in Poland, as well as in Slovakia and the Netherlands. MARLENA KOŁODZIEJ was an important figure in the cast of this show as an actress and puppeteer.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2vc53-wJbo>

