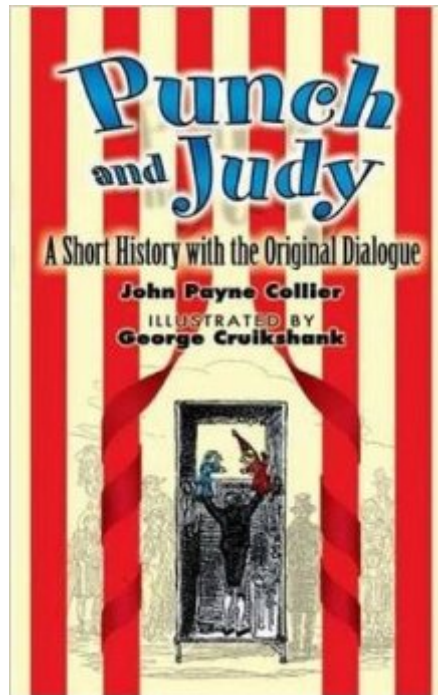


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Punch And Judy: A Short History With The Original Dialogue



Synopsis

Braggart and bully, the immortal Punch has delighted audiences for centuries. On street corners and at country fairs, crowds of English children cheer for this paragon of unrepentant wickedness, shouting encouragement and applauding his gleeful buffoonery. Punch struts and boasts, cracking jokes and heads, while the casualties mount: Judy, his shrieking wife; the interfering policeman; the hoodwinked hangman; and the devil himself, beaten to death. Scholarly yet entertaining, this chronicle traces the origins of puppetry's famous duo from Punch's birth in Italy to his travels across medieval Europe. Equally favored by commoners and nobility, Punch's horseplay proved as popular in France, Germany, and England as in his native country. In addition to examining the puppet show's moral and cultural significance, this book takes a look at the people behind the curtain. Thirty engaging illustrations by the great Victorian artist George Cruikshank — Dickens' illustrator of choice — complement the extensive excerpts of authentic Punch and Judy dialogue.

Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications (July 28, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486449033

ISBN-13: 978-0486449036

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.6 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,307,639 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Puppets & Puppetry #78 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies

& Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Puppets & Puppetry #2385 in Books > Literature & Fiction > British

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Customer Reviews

This short history of the Punch and Judy puppet play is a fascinating entry into the world of historical and traditional theater. I have no background in theater or puppetry, yet I found this book to be immensely interesting and read it straight through. After reading it, I immediately wished I could see a Punch and Judy show, and, if that was not possible, to put together a puppet theater and perform the show myself for my friends and neighbors. Anyone interested in theater history, puppet history, puppet plays, or the origin of Punch and Judy will find this book well worth reading.

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