

## CONSTITUTION:

The name shall be: The Punch and Judy College of Professors

1. AIMS: The College is founded as a professional association to promote and encourage the highest standards in the performance and presentation of traditional Punch and Judy, to nurture and develop the UK tradition and to promote links with similar folk puppet traditions world wide. The College shall do this by means of mounting public performances, exhibitions, festivals, publications, special events, visits overseas, by seeking to co-operate with like-minded organisations and by any other means approved by its council as relevant to the society's aims.
2. MEMBERSHIP: Election to the College is intended as a mark of the professional esteem in which a Professor is held by his, or her, College colleagues. Membership shall be by unanimous approbation of the existing council members and may be offered to any experienced 'Prof' who has demonstrated an ability to perform traditional Punch and Judy at an appropriate level of excellence as set out in the Membership Policy Statement.
3. OFFICERS: College organisation shall be in the hands of a Secretary, Treasurer and Chairperson who shall be assisted by a Council drawn from the membership. All terms of office shall be for one year with office holders able to stand for re-election at the AGM. The number of Council members for the forthcoming year shall also be determined at each AGM. All College business must be transacted with due regard for Mr. Punch's irreverent and mischievous nature.
4. MEETINGS: There shall be an AGM each year held within twelve months of the preceding one. The quorum for

such a meeting shall be one quarter of the membership. Proxy attendance and voting shall be permitted at the discretion of the current Officers and Council. Unlimited additional meetings may be arranged by the Officers and Council in consultation with the membership. The quorum for these shall be one fifth of the membership. Proxy attendance and voting shall be again permitted at the discretion of the current Officers and Council.

5. AGM: The Secretary shall notify all concerned of the date of the meeting not less than twenty-eight days in advance of the date chosen. The date shall have been chosen in consultation with the Council. At the AGM the Officers and Council will report upon their work and present a statement of accounts. Election of officers and Council for the forthcoming year shall take place and subscriptions fall due. Discussion of, and voting on, any other resolutions shall take place. Swazzles shall be used when 'yay' or 'nay' votes are required to be heard.

6. DISSOLUTION: Should the organisation be dissolved at any future date by the wishes of the Officers, Council and members as expressed by resolution at an AGM (and carried by a three quarters majority of those entitled to vote) any assets of the College shall be transferred to another recognised organisation which supports puppetry as decided by the AGM in question.

**Membership Policy** In drawing up this policy the College has taken advice from its members who are also members of the Inner Magic Circle - a society which similarly sets demanding entry standards whilst remaining open to all aspirants.

College Profs must be able to demonstrate a particularly high level of proficiency and flair in all the performance and presentation skills of traditional Punch and Judy. The performance must also clearly be one shaped individually by the performer: a first rate copy of another Prof's show will not qualify.

Innovations within the spirit of the tradition will be welcomed

as will an ability to act as an ambassador for the unruly Mr. Punch to those who would seek to sanitise his anarchic pedigree.

College Council members shall be responsible for both actively seeking new members from within the ranks of existing performers and for considering applications from any Prof who wishes to put him or herself forward for consideration. Any unsuccessful candidate for membership must be given the reasons for this in writing. Unsuccessful candidates may reapply at such times as they feel they have met any objections previously raised.

The College may choose to award 'Honorary Membership' (following the academic precedent of awarding Honorary Degrees) to such persons as it deems suitable but who are barred from full membership by reason of not being performers of Punch and Judy. Such persons might, for example, include non-UK nationals who are adepts of their own national folk puppet tradition.

**Management Policy.** In managing the affairs of the College the Officers and Council shall take due note (except where explicitly contradicted by the Constitution) of the principles set out in the original College Manifesto given below.

**College Manifesto.** It was decided to found the College (a term chosen as the appropriate collective description for a gathering of 'Professors') at a meeting in the Punch Tavern in Fleet St. on Oct 7th. 1985. It was formally launched on Dec 18th. with an announcement in The Times "wishing His Impudence Mr. Punch a continuation of the popularity he has hitherto enjoyed throughout the reign of sixteen monarchs". The College crest, adapted from the design for the Joker found in an old pack of playing cards, has been variously interpreted as Mr. Punch with the world at his feet, or as Mr. Punch giving the world a kick in the seat of its pants. The choice is in the eye of the beholder.

The five Founding Articles of the College are:

Article 1. The College has been founded as a professional association to promote and encourage the highest standards in the performance and presentation of traditional Punch and Judy without opposing anyone's inalienable right to put their hand up Mr. Punch for love or money - or both!

Article 2. Membership of the College is by invitation only. Election to the College is intended as a mark of the professional esteem in which a Professor is held by his, or her, College colleagues.

Article 3. The College considers that Mr. Punch should speak with his authentic voice and that the use of the "unknown tongue" is what distinguishes a 'Punch and Judy Show' from a glove puppet play featuring Mr. Punch.

Article 4. In carrying out these, and any subsequent, Articles the College shall act as the Professors shall from time to time decide. All College business must be transacted with due regard for Mr. Punch's irreverent and mischievous nature.

Article 5. Concerning the question of Mr. Punch's morality the College subscribes to the view of Charles Dickens that the Punch and Judy Show is "an outrageous joke which no one in existence would think of regarding as an incentive to any course of action , or as a model for any kind of conduct". The College directs persons persistently critical of Mr. Punch's behaviour to debate the matter further with Mr. Dickens himself.

Subsequently added: Article 6. In deference to Mr. Punch's joviality membership of the College shall not be open to anyone deemed in the eyes of its existing members to be "a miserable old git".