

Twitter Chat with Phillip Huber – April 14, 2011



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Phillip Huber, a world-renowned marionette artist, is best known for his marionette manipulation in BEING JOHN MALKOVICH. [#Huberchat](#)



[rushamy](#)

[#HuberChat](#) Phillip, how many takes did you do for that summersault in BJM? And, how did they find you for that gig?



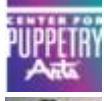
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Okay, we're about to get started! Phillip has arrived and we're getting settled in. [#HuberChat](#)



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First Question! RT [@rushamy](#) [#HuberChat](#) How many takes did you do for that summersault in BJM? [#HuberChat](#)



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Answer: It took 17 to get one that I was satisfied with. [#HuberChat](#)



[AtlantaPlant](#)

Live chat with puppeteer Phillip Huber happening now [@CtrPuppetryArts](#) [#HuberChat](#) <http://ow.ly/4ylbK>



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Follow Up-- Q: RT [@rushamy](#) And, how did they find you for that gig? [#HuberChat](#)



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Answer: The director and one of the producers visited my home and my workshop in Pasadena, CA. [#HuberChat](#)



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Q: Is there published the sketch of your basic control? Any reference book for marionette controls? [@Fildestrassa](#) [#HuberChat](#)



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A: One of the best sourcebooks is Luman Coad's Marionette Sourcebook. I use most often a variation of a simple paddle control. [#HuberChat](#)



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All of the puppets in BJM were simple paddle control, not the German style control seen in the film. [#HuberChat](#)



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The German style control was inappropriate for the rapid movements required. [#HuberChat](#)



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Q: How is puppeteering for film different from live stage performing? [#HuberChat](#)



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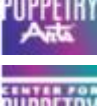
A: Film offers the opportunity for subtle and tiny movements that you would never be able to do on stage. [#HuberChat](#)



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The other thing about film is that you can re-string between takes. [#HuberChat](#)

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	CtrPuppetryArts	There was one stunt double marionette for the summersault and back-handspring in Being John Malkovich. #HuberChat
	CtrPuppetryArts	Q: What was your first booking as a performer? (via @EBL1981) #HuberChat
	rushamy	#HuberChat Can you tell us about Taffy and how this character was developed?
	CtrPuppetryArts	A: I created my own theme park in my backyard at age 7. Part of the entrance fee included a puppet show! #HuberChat
	CtrPuppetryArts	A: I did songs with hand puppets-- "How Much is that Doggie in the Window" and anything that The Chipmunks sang! #HuberChat
	larabron	@CtrPuppetryArts Q: What do you love most about your job? #HuberChat
	CtrPuppetryArts	Q: I saw your show in Spain. It seems that the intros in your show r recorded. How many different langs do you have? @pepenoto #HuberChat
	CtrPuppetryArts	French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, and English. I am currently trying to get Portuguese. I often perform in Brazil. #HuberChat
	CtrPuppetryArts	Q: Can you tell us about Taffy and how this character was developed? #HuberChat
	CtrPuppetryArts	A: I did a series of tv commercial for Coleco toys "Wrinkles the Dog". I related to the dog character so well. . . #HuberChat
	CtrPuppetryArts	that I decided that I need to make a dog marionette. #HuberChat
	CtrPuppetryArts	Taffy was born in 1988. #HuberChat
	CtrPuppetryArts	Q: What do you love most about your job? (via @larabron) #HuberChat
	CtrPuppetryArts	A: I love the total creativity of this art form. It includes acting, dancing, and sculpture. #HuberChat
	CtrPuppetryArts	Q: Where do you find the inspiration for the new puppets? (via @pepenoto) #HuberChat

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[mekidd5](#)

[@CtrPuppetryArts](#) Do you have a favorite character/marionette from your performance career? [#huberchat](#)



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A: Inspiration often comes from music and people watching. [#HuberChat](#)



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Q: [@CtrPuppetryArts](#) Do you have a favorite character/marionette from your performance career? (via [@mekidd5](#)) [#HuberChat](#)



[Alyson_Kate](#)

So cool! Twitterinterview with Phillip Huber, puppet artist featured in “Being John Malkovich” - going on now at [@CtrPuppetryArts](#). Use [#HuberChat](#)



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A: My jazz singer, Shirley U'Jest. Inspired by Nell Carter. This piece is in Suspended Animation this weekend here at the Center. [#HuberChat](#)



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Q: Where are you hoping the art form of puppetry is evolving to? [#HuberChat](#)



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A: I hope that puppetry will always have a place in theater arts & in film & t.v. It lends itself to be married w/ CG animation. [#HuberChat](#)



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But nothing can take the place of the heart that a puppeteer instills in direct performance of a puppet [#HuberChat](#)



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Q: You’ve curated a number of puppet exhibits for PofA Festivals. What do you look for when putting together a puppet exhibit? [#HuberChat](#)



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A: The most important part of mounting each piece is so that it appears in the moment of life, or in the middle of an action. [#HuberChat](#)



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Puppetry is a kinetic art. So when displayed in static position it must give the illusion of action. [#HuberChat](#)



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Q: Why marionettes specifically? [#HuberChat](#)



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A: I was trained as a dancer from age 6. I wanted a full body puppet that I could operate solo. I also like the technical aspect [#HuberChat](#)



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I like the separation between puppeteer & puppet w/ the only connection being the length of strings. It makes them more magical. [#HuberChat](#)



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Q: Were you mentored by anyone, or are you completely self-taught? [#HuberChat](#)

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A: When I started I was self-taught, learning from library books. Later I was mentored by Tony Urbano. [#HuberChat](#)



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Q: What is your favorite aspect of your career? Developing new acts? Building? Performing? Travelling? [#HuberChat](#)



[AttentionSystem](#)

@[CtrPuppetryArts](#) Did you see Beauty and the Beast? What did you think of the Czech and found-object execution? [#HuberChat](#)



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A: Performing is easily my favorite aspect because of that incredible connection between audience and performer. [#HuberChat](#)



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We have time for 1 or 2 more questions. . . [#HuberChat](#)



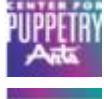
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Q: What are your puppeteers of reference? [#HuberChat](#)



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A: Frank Paris, Bob Bromley, Rufus and Margo Rose, Bil Baird, Albrecht Roser. [#HuberChat](#)



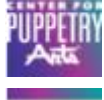
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Thank you, Phillip! Is there anything else you'd like to say about Suspended Animation or to our followers? [#HuberChat](#)



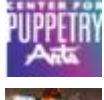
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A: I hope that anyone interested in the Atlanta area will come and see the show! [#HuberChat](#)



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It is a series of variety vignettes that transcend language and age barriers. It plays tomorrow & Saturday (8pm) & Sunday (5pm). [#HuberChat](#)



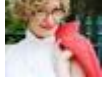
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Thank you to all our followers! I hope you enjoyed this chat. More information about the show at www.puppet.org. [#HuberChat](#)



[rushamy](#)

[#HuberChat](#) Thanks, Phillip, for your time! Everyone should really see him perform ... he's amazing!



[Alyson_Kate](#)

[#HuberChat](#) Great chat, Phillip! Can't wait to see the show <http://www.puppet.org/perform/animation.shtml>