



Puppets at Binic - Marionette'Ic

Valerie It happens at Binic, on the, the town all around Binic, so '*Binic, Étables-sur-Mer, Saint-Quay-Portrieux, Plourhan, Lantic, Pordic*'. Binic, Lantic, Pordic that's why Marionette'Ic.

Rob I wondered about the title. Marionnette is puppet in English so it's a puppet festival.

Valerie Not only, sometimes we've got a concert this year, sometimes a theatre and a dance for very young children.

Rob So it's a mixture, but why puppets, is that something that you are interested in particularly or.....?

Valerie Uh, I am sure I am but puppets, because it's a puppeteer, Philippe Saumont, Théâtre des Tarabates, that's the name of his company. He founded the festival twenty years ago. It's a....., it's a birthday this year. It's a twenty anniversaries.

Rob I looked at the programme and it's very full, there are many different shows from all over.

Valerie Yes, each year it's important for us to to propose several techniques of puppets. A hand puppet, string puppets, also shadows theatre and several other techniques. It's very important several techniques on several ages. It's very important for us to, to, to show that, um, puppets are not only for the children, not only. Everything, many, many, many things, extraordinary if that's correct

Rob You think particularly that puppets are a strong form of expression ?

Valerie Ah yes, I think so. Several years ago, I worked with puppeteer, Philippe Saumont, that's the way I discovered the puppets and I, I used them with the people who had difficulties to speak. It was very difficult for, for them to, to explain what they wanted to say and I used, um, puppet.....

Rob In your professional capacity because you're a psychiatrist I understand in your professional life and a puppeteer in your private life.

Valerie Um, before I in professional life, I'm now in my own life, it's very, very big place.

Rob Let's go back to the festival. It's a very ambitious programme with groups of puppeteers coming from all over Europe can you tell me about some of them?
There's one from Budapest I think.

Valerie Yes, string puppets from Budapest. Every year there is several countries from Europe and not only.....

Rob And people come just from Brittany for the festival or do they come from further away?



Valerie The most important audience, of course, from the Département but not only. They come from all over France.

Rob And I assume that because a lot of puppet work is silent that it's easy for people who don't necessarily speak much French.

Valerie It's, it's never a problem. I've seen many many shows in other language. In, in Japanese. I, I understand nothing, absolutely nothing but I understand the show, no problem for that because it's very visual.

Rob We're talking about what kind of size festival how many people came last year for example?

Valérie Oh, um, about two thousand children from schools and about seven thousand, is that correct, seven thousand on.. all the week.

Rob Valerie Guérin, the President of Marionette'Ic , the association that is organising this festival, thank you very much indeed for coming all this way to talk to us.

Valerie Thank you, thanks to you. Is that OK?