

## **Puppeteer 1912–2012:**

### **100 Years of World's Oldest Periodical Focused on Puppetry**

*Rigorous Thesis*

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#### **Abstract**

The thesis focuses on the history of *Czech Puppeteer (Český loutkář)*, the world's oldest continuously published periodical about puppetry. The first three chapters deal with its transformations between 1912 and 1950, the two following chapters describe in detail its existence from 1951 until 2012. The resource material consisting primarily of all volumes of the magazine served as the basis for historical analysis. The text also puts the history of the magazine into context with the development of Czech puppetry and it includes references to relevant literature. The magazine was founded by Jindřich Veselý in 1912 in Prague. After a short break between 1914 and 1916, it continued as *Puppeteer (Loutkář)*, publishing articles about all aspects of puppetry. In 1940, it was replaced by *Puppet Theatre (Loutková scéna)*. But *Puppet Theatre* was soon cancelled as well. After the war, the renewed *Puppet Theatre (1945–1950)* had to adapt to the new ideological demands and so it emphasized the role of puppets in education. From 1951 on, *Czechoslovak Puppeteer (Československý loutkář, 1951–1992)* focused fully on ideological issues, but it managed to maintain its professional qualities. Since 1993, the magazine has been coming out as *Puppeteer (Loutkář)*. In 2012, it is published every two months, still promoting puppetry and its qualities among theatrical professionals and amateurs. It has become a credible chronicle of Czech puppetry.