



2011-2012 SEASON

THE MAN WHO PLANTED TREES



ABOUT THE PLAY

The Man Who Planted Trees is a multi-sensory theatrical delight based on **Jean Giono's** 1953 classic environmental short story. It takes place in a fictitious area of France, "on the high plains where the **Alps** extend," and spans a 30 year period that includes **World War I** and **World War II**. Through the use of puppetry and storytelling, the play introduces us to a shepherd named Elzéard Bouffier who plants one-hundred acorns a day with the assistance of his dog. The shepherd tirelessly transforms the countryside, revitalizes his community, and teaches us about hope, humanity, and our own ability to create change in the world!



ABOUT THE ACTORS

Richard Medrington has been a touring puppeteer since 1984. His one-man shows include *The Spider of Spindle Wood*, *The Christmas Cabbage*, *The Interrogation*, *The Adventures of Ivan the Slug* (now available on DVD) and AA Milne's *Winnie the Pooh*, which toured the UK for five years "to packed houses", ending with a sell-out run at the Royal National Theatre. He moved to Edinburgh in 1992 and is a veteran of 15 Edinburgh Fringes.

Rick Conte studied journalism at the University of Georgia and moved to Edinburgh in 1989. Since then he has toured with bands and worked with many of Scotland's top theatre companies, including National Theatre of Scotland, Wee Stories, The Edinburgh Puppet Company and Catherine Wheels.



ABOUT THE COMPANY

The Puppet State Theatre Company, based in Edinburgh, Scotland, was founded by Richard Medrington. After performing his one-man puppet shows for 20 years he joined forces with puppeteer Rick Conte and puppeteer and maker Ailie Cohen in 2006. Their show, *The Man Who Planted Trees*, has toured to schools, village halls, theatres and festivals across the UK and Ireland as well as in Malaysia, Bermuda, the Netherlands, USA, Canada and Australia including performances off Broadway at the New Victory Theatre and at the Sydney Opera House.



UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD OF THE PLAY

Jean Giono wrote *The Man Who Planted Trees* originally in French.

The translation is: *L'homme Qui Plantait des Arbres*

The story has also been known as:

The Story of Elzéard Bouffier

The Most Extraordinary Character I Ever Met

The Man Who Planted Hope and Reaped Happiness

If YOU could name this story, what would it be?



KNOWING YOUR HISTORY

World War I began on July 28th, 1914 and lasted until November 11th, 1918. It involved most of the nations of Europe along with Russia, the United States, the Middle East, and other regions. The war pitted the Central Powers—mainly Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey—against the Allies—mainly France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, Japan, and, from 1917, the United States. It ended with the defeat of the Central Powers. More than 9 million combatants were killed, largely because of great technological advances in firepower without corresponding advances in mobility.

World War II was under way by 1939 and ended in 1945. It involved a vast majority of the world's nations eventually forming two opposing military alliances: the Axis powers—Germany, Italy, and Japan—and the Allies—France, Great Britain, and the United States. Most countries placed their entire economic, industrial, and scientific capabilities at the service of the war effort. Marked by significant events involving the mass death of civilians, including the Holocaust and the only use of nuclear weapons in warfare, it resulted in 50 million to over 70 million fatalities. These deaths make the war the deadliest conflict in human history.

Jean Giono was one of France's greatest writers. Giono was also a pacifist, meaning he did not believe that conflict should be resolved through violence. He was twice imprisoned for speaking out at the outset and conclusion of World War II.

Jean Giono never made any money off of the writing of this story; it has always belonged to the public domain. He once said:

“I wrote this story to make people love trees, or more precisely, to make people love planting trees.”

How did this story make you feel?

Which “Alliance” was France a part of during WWI and WWII?

Why did the politician want to cut down the beautiful trees?

Why do you think Elzéard chose to plant trees during the wars?

PUPPET THEATRE

The Man Who Planted Trees uses many styles of puppetry to tell Elzéard's story!



Hand/Mouth Puppets: A puppet that covers the hand and has an open-able and moveable mouth. DOG is an example of a hand/mouth puppet.

Table-top Puppets: A puppet that performs on top of a table. ELZÉARD and the MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT are both examples of table-top puppets.

Marionette Puppets: A puppet controlled from above using wires or strings. ELZÉARD'S SHEEP is an example of marionette style puppetry.

Puppeteer: A person who manipulates an inanimate object and brings it to life. The puppeteer may be visible to or hidden from the audience. A puppeteer can operate a puppet indirectly by the use of strings, rods, wires, or directly by his or her own hands placed inside the puppet or holding it externally. Some puppet styles require puppeteers to work together as a team to create a single puppet character.

This play is unique because it combines human actors with puppetry. This means the actors have double jobs because they are also puppeteers.

Make Your Own “Dog” Puppet

You will need:

An old sock
Buttons
Markers
Fur fabric
Fabric glue
Needle and thread
Scissors
Felt
Optional:
Small box for body

Place a sock on your hand and mark with a pen where you would like the eyes.

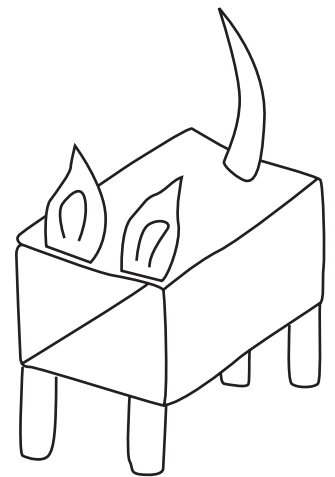
Take two buttons and glue or sew them to the sock to make the eyes.

Use a marker to draw the nose.

Glue or sew fur fabric to the sock's head for hair.

Cut out ears, arms, legs and a tail from felt and sew or glue to the sock to finish the dog.

If you want to create a larger body, you can decorate a small box with the fur and push the sock puppet through the hole.



Now that you've created your own puppet, give it a name! _____



OBJECT THEATRE AND MULTI-SENSORY THEATRE

The Man Who Planted Trees also tells Elzéard's story through the use of Object Theatre and Multi-Sensory Theatre.

Object Theatre: The art of taking normal, everyday objects and turning them into puppets and operating them on stage.

Multi-Sensory Theatre: The art of drawing on all of the senses (such as sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste) in order to help create an environment when telling a story on stage.

Think of all the ways this play involved your senses...list those moments here:



MAKE A PLAY

Using Object Theatre and Multi-Sensory Theatre techniques – Create a play!
Don't forget to include your puppet!

BRAINSTORM YOUR IDEAS!

What does the world look like, smell like, and feel like?

How does your puppet character interact with the environment?

What kinds of everyday objects can you turn into puppets or props?

TELLING STORIES

Jean Giono was inspired to write *The Man Who Planted Trees* when he was asked to write a piece called:

"The Most Extraordinary Character I Ever Met"

Through-out the years many readers have believed that Elzéard Bouffier was a genuine historical figure and that the narrator of the story was a young Jean Giono himself. Certainly, Giono lived during this time and while he was alive, Giono enjoyed allowing people to believe that the story was real. However, Giono himself explained in 1957: “Sorry to disappoint you, but Elzéard Bouffier is a fictional person.”

Who is The Most Extraordinary Character YOU Have Ever Met?

Write a story about a real person in your life who you think is EXTRAORDINARY.
Or take a cue from Jean Giono and create a story about someone
who makes a difference in the world.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Make sure to share this story with someone in your family the way Richard and Rick from The Puppet State Theatre have shared Elzéard's story with us!

TREES TELLING STORIES

Humans have shared stories since the beginning of time, but TREES are also storytellers and historians.

Trees keep track of history and tell stories. As they grow, trees record weather, physical events and the passage of time. Some species, such as the bristlecone pine, can live to be thousands of years old. You can tell the age of a tree by counting its annual rings.

A tree records “memories” within the structure of its trunk. Everything that impacts the tree throughout its life – from insects, wounds and disease to floods and fire – leaves its mark.

Sometimes the impact will result in rapid or slower growth, which is shown by different ring sizes in the cross-section of a tree. A growth ring usually appears each year in dry or cold weather - the outer rings being the most recent.

PARTS OF A TREE

(Label them on the diagram)

cambium—a single layer of living cells in the trunk that is located between the sapwood and the inner bark.

canopy of leaves—the upper parts of the tree, where the branches and leaves are located.

heartwood—the core of the trunk, which contains very strong, dead tissue that supports the tree.

inner bark (phloem)—the layer of the trunk through which the tree's food flows—it is located between the outer bark and the cambium. When this short-lived layer dies, it is called cork.

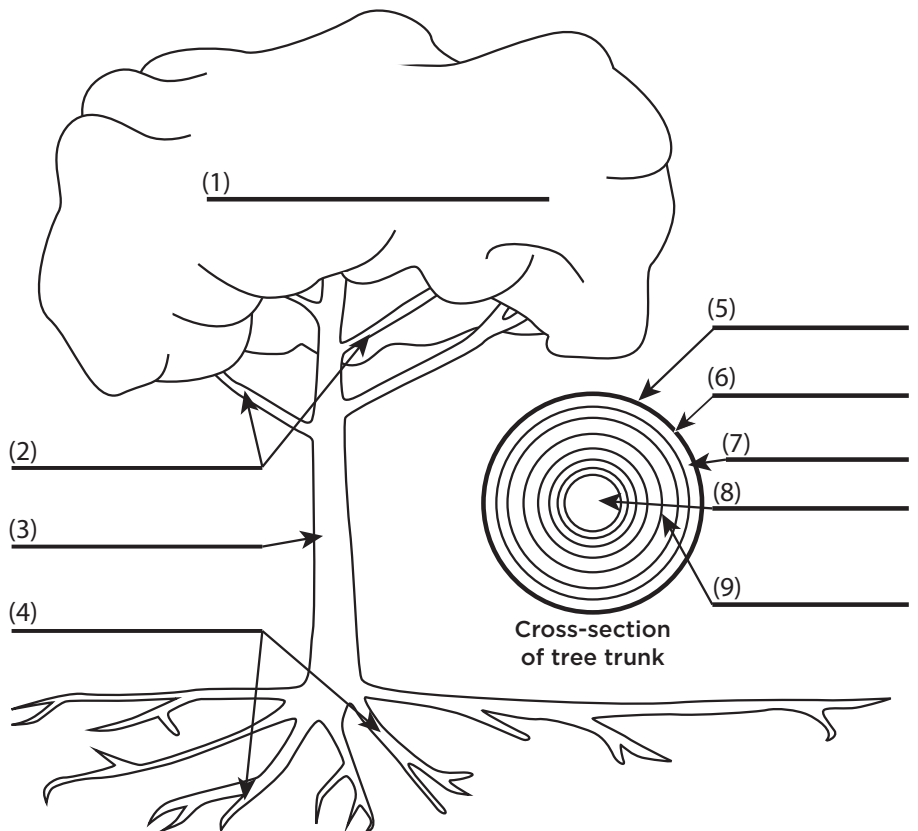
outer bark—the protective outer layer of the trunk.

roots—structures that obtain food and water from the soil, store energy, and provide support for the plant.

sapwood—the layers of wood just outside the heartwood. Each year a new layer of wood is formed creating an annual ring. Sap (containing water and some nutrients) is transported in this layer. Older, inner rings of sapwood eventually become heartwood.

branches—woody parts of the tree that grow from the trunk.

trunk—the main support of the tree.



How can YOU help “Make Things Right” the way Elzéard did? PLANT A TREE!

With the droughts and fires impacting central Texas over the past year, it is important for us all to do our part! The Texas Forest Service gives us:

HOW TO PROPERLY PLANT A TREE THE 12-STEP PROGRAM

1) Select the right tree for your location.

Use a regional tree that will grow well in your part of the state and make sure it has plenty of room

2) Dig the hole at least twice as wide as the root ball.

Dig a square hole no deeper than the root ball. This keeps the roots from settling too deep

3) Fill the empty hole with water and check the drainage.

If it takes longer than 24 hours to drain, select another site. A tree will die if its roots are underwater for too long.

4) Prune the tree sparingly and only if necessary.

Remove only dead, broken and diseased branches and roots that are crushed and girdling, or growing around the main stem. Removing

even a small portion of healthy canopy actually slows root growth and delays establishment.

5) Set the tree in the hole with the root collar (just above the roots) flush or slightly above natural grade.

Planting too deep is a leading cause of mortality in newly planted trees.

6) Remove all foreign materials from the root ball.

This includes wires, twine, cords, containers and non-biodegradable bags. If planting a tree with roots wrapped in burlap, remove as much of the burlap as possible.

7) Gently fill the hole with the same soil that came out of the hole.

Do not add soil amendments. Settle the soil with water. Packing the soil damages and breaks fine roots.

8) Stake the tree only if necessary.

Consult a professional if staking is required. Stakes should not be left in place more than one year.

9) Mulch around the tree at least out to the drip line, two to three inches deep, and up to but not touching the trunk.

Wood chips, pine bark, leaf litter and hay are great mulches.

10) Water the tree for at least the first two years, but don't over water.

A newly planted tree requires six to eight gallons of water for every diameter inch of trunk — per week.

11) Protect the tree from animals and humans.

12) Do not fertilize the tree during the first growing season.

Learn more at www.txforests.tamu.edu

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