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23rd EDITION: A HUGE SUCCESS!

This 23rd edition of the World Puppet Theatre Festival (FMTM), organised for the first time by the Pôle International de la Marionnette – Jacques Félix, was exceptional. Attendance reached a record 95%, with more than 150,000 festival-goers in the city over the 10 days of festivities. Among the 86 artistic teams invited from 23 different countries, 39 were there for the first time. They presented 91 shows, for a total of 430 performances (including 112 free performances in public areas).

If we add the Off indoor shows, the Off street shows and what is known here as the “Off du off”, the total number of puppet shows on offer exceeded 200 per day. An unmissable event for the profession, the FMTM welcomed 450 professionals and programme managers from 47 countries.

A major player in its region, the FMTM took over the Ardennes Regional Nature Park, scheduling four performances of a show at the Maison de la Forêt and, for the first time, organising the “Barionnettes de la Voie Verte” (puppets in bars), which was a huge success with the public: three shows (for a total of 12 performances) were hosted in nine bars in the Ardennes.

The FMTM is aimed at as wide an audience as possible: 21 puppet design/making workshops were organised, including 4 for schools and 17 for the general public. 473 participants from associations, schools and social centres took part in the 10 workshops needed to create Olivier Grossetête’s Monumental Construction (a reproduction of the Rimbaud Museum, 15 metres high, 9 metres at ground level, 1,300 cardboard boxes, 30 km of tape, 1.5 tonnes) installed in Place Ducale for the last four days of the festival.

Another major initiative was two performances at the ESNAM’s theatre of a show co-written, co-directed and performed by inmates of the Charleville-Mézières prison.

The event was covered by major national media outlets, including Le Monde, Libération, Le Figaro, Les Échos, Arte, France 2, France Inter, France Culture, France Info, RFI and RTL. Local media also provided daily coverage of the event, with regular reports in L’Ardennais and on the midday and evening news programmes of Ici Radio TV Champagne Ardenne.



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The FMTM has 500 volunteers and 61 hosts (homes welcoming artists), 98 partners and patrons, and 127 employees during the festival period.

It is organised by the Pôle International de la Marionnette – Jacques Félix, subsidised by the Ministry of Culture, the Grand Est Region, the Ardennes Department, Ardenne Métropole and Charleville-Mézières City council.

The next edition of the **FMTM** will be held from **17 to 26 September 2027**.

And before that: see you at **Temps d'M** from **16 to 20 September 2026**.



Programming

- 86 artistic teams from 23 countries
- 481 artists
- 91 shows
- 430 performances
- 8 world premieres
- 18 French premieres
- 11 co-productions
- 4 creations / re-creations
- 21 artistic workshops
- 8 conversations with artists / 245 participants
- 27 performance venues
- 27 employees (including 97 technicians)

Monumental construction by Olivier Grossetête

- 473 workshop participants
- 15 associations / 6 schools
- 1,300 cardboard boxes
- 1,500 kg
- 30 km of tape