

Amsterdam Marionette Theatre

The Amazing Journey of Doctor Faust

With music by Gounod, Marengo, Wagner and Offenbach



Charon

Mefisto & Doctor Faust

Auerhaan & Casperl

Wachter



master of ceremony

Duc de Dindon

Duchesse de Dindon

Fifi de la Rue

About 'DOCTOR FAUST'

All these dusty books... professor Faust is sick of reading and studying. He wants to discover the world all by himself. Maybe Magic can help him on his way?

Professor Faust would even sell his soul to the devil in order to experience all the amazing things that he otherwise would never see.

An exciting adventure full of magic and sorcery.

With music by famous composers such as Gounod, Wagner and Offenbach.

Doctor Faust was a real perso, who lived in about the year 1600. He was a professor and also a magician. Famous writers and composers have written books, drama and even opera's about this Doctor Faust. Through the ages also puppeteers have made their own version of Doctor Faust. The Amsterdam Marionette Theatre also made its own version. Music plays an important role in this piece. It fits the movement of the marionettes very well. If you listen carefully you can hear a grand piano, a harmonium (a sort of mini-organ) and percussion.

Look at the videos: www.marionettentheater.nl



On the next page: What is the story about

The story

Opening scene (prologue)

Charon, the ferryman who takes people to the underworld, grumbles that he has too few customers. Pluto, the God of the underworld promises him that soon there will arrive a very special customer, one who is worth more than a thousand others...

First act: the study of Doctor Faust (about the year 1600)

Doctor Faust has learned nothing with all his reading and dusty books. He desires more of life; he wants experience life to the full. Maybe magic can help him?

Then his assistant Wachter tells him that there are three students who want to offer Faust a mysterious book: The Book of Magic. Wachter also asks him if he may take on a servant to help him with his household duties.

We see Casperl arrive with his donkey. He sings a song with the message: 'don't worry and enjoy each day!' Wachter offers Casperl a job as a servant. Casperl is quite willing: if the food and (especially) the drink is plenty!

Faust reads the Book of Magic. Pluto, the god of the underworld, speaks. He tells Faust to call the devil Mephisto: he can fulfil all his wishes. Faust hesitates, but eventually he signs the contract with the devil with a little drop of blood...

Mefisto will serve Faust for 24 years, but in exchange, after those 24 years Mephisto will dispose of Faust's soul. At midnight their journey through time and around the world will begin.

Casperl leafs through that strange book. He tries to read it and strange things happen....

Faust still doubts Mefisto. Suddenly Mefisto appears and asks for his first assignment. Why not travel to Paris, three centuries ahead in the future? There the great World Fair takes place, and there the most miraculous things happen. This will be their first destination. Mefisto is happy: his mission to win Faust over seems to succeed. His master Pluto will be content.

A strange bird, the devil Auerhaan, appears. He will take Casperl to Paris, following his master. But for that Casperl has to promise him his soul. Casperl would be happy to do that, but alas!, he hasn't got a soul... Together they fly to Paris.

Interval

Second act: Paris during the Great World Fair (1889)

The guests of the World Fair are being announced. Among them are Doctor Faust and Mefisto.

The Duc de Dindon shows Faust the latest inventions: a steamboat, the first aeroplane and the Eiffel Tower.

Faust is impressed. He tells the Duc de Dindon all the things that are yet to come in the future.

Mefisto is angry: He was not allowed to tell that! They hastily leave Paris by plane.

Casperl stays behind and is very sad: He longs for his homeland, Germany. Auerhaan consoles him and takes him back to Wittenberg.

Third act: back in Wittenberg (1612)

Twelve years have passed. Faust has traveled much and seen many things and now he has returned to Wittenberg. But he hasn't found happiness or wisdom. He thinks he has another twelve years to escape Mefisto. He regrets to have sold his soul to the devil and prays in the cathedral.

Mefisto fears his prey will escape him yet. He promised Pluto to win Faust's soul, but he will not succeed if Faust seeks help with God. Mefisto calls Helena: the most beautiful woman in history! Faust is distracted from his prayer. Mefisto tells Faust his time is up. At midnight he will take him with him to hell...

Casperl, who has found a job as nightwatch-man calls the hour of midnight. The final moment of Faust has come...

Charon, the ferryman, waits for his passenger to be taken to hell. Will Faust come?

*The Amsterdam Marionette Theatre performs for **adults and children**.
For **schools** there are **workshops** 'make your own marionet' and special **school performances**.*

www.marionettentheater.nl

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