Indian Puppetry

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## Origins in India

* + Excavation sites at Harappa and Mohenjodaro shown puppets with sockets attached to them
  + Oldest written reference to puppetry found in Tamil classic Silappadikaram

## Types

* + String Puppets/**Marionettes**



* + Shadow Puppets



* + Glove puppets/sleeve/hand/palm puppets



* + Rod puppets



* + Overview

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| **String puppet** |  |  |
| Kathputli | Rajasthan | Wood doll, Absence of legs is unique feature |
| Kundhei | Odisha | More joints and strings attached to triangular property |
| Gombeyatta | Karnataka | More than one puppeteer |
| Bommalattam | TN | Largest and heaviest, String attached to iron ring which is worn by puppeteer on his head |
| **Shadow puppet** |  |  |
| Tholu Bommalata | AP |  |
| Ravanchhaya | Odisha | Deer skin and bold, dramatic postures  (NOTE: Ravan Chaya caves also present in Odisha) |
| Togalu Gombeyatta | Karnataka | Variation of puppet size based on social status |
| **Glove puppet** |  |  |
| Pavakoothu | Kerala | Heavy influence of Kathakali |
| **Rod puppets** |  |  |
| Yampuri | Bihar |  |
| Putul Nachh | Bengal-Odisha-Assam |  |