

HTWE OO MYANMAR

TRADITIONAL PUPPET THEATRE

YANGON – MYANMAR

“Curriculum Vitae”

Company Name HTWE OO MYANMAR Traditional Puppet Theatre, Yangon-Myanmar

Address No.(12), Yama Street, South Saw Yan Paing Quarter,
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Yangon, Myanmar

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Date established 15th November 2006

Director Mr. Khin Maung Htwe

Manager Ms. Tin Tin Oo

Puppeteers

Permanent
Mr. Tun Kyi @ Daung Yin
Mr. Maung Kyi
Ms. Tin Nan Myint
Ms. Cho Cho San

Part Time
Mr. Aung Than Tun
Ms. Khin Mya Thwe
Ms. Yin Shwe

Aims and Objects

- a) To revive, preserve, upgrade and propagate the Myanmar puppet theatre which is one of the important cultural heritages of our country.
- b) To entertain the public and foreign tourists with Myanmar indigenous puppetry.
- c) To organize old veteran puppeteers to pass their art to the younger generation.
- d) To give financial, medical and moral support to old and poor puppeteers.
- e) To create job opportunities for young puppeteers graduated from the two universities of culture in Yangon and Mandalay.
- f) To organize young puppeteers to study foreign puppet techniques in order to upgrade the Myanmar Traditional Puppet Theatre.
- g) To organize young people firstly to appreciate and then like the Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts and lastly to become connoisseurs of traditional and theatrical arts.
- h) To strive for the creation of UNIMA National Centre in Myanmar.
- i) To organize Myanmar puppeteers and puppet lovers to become as members of the UNIMA.

Bio-notes of Troupe Members



Name: *Khin Maung Htwe* **Rank:** **Director**
Date of Birth: 20-10-1963
Age: 47
Father: *U San Maung*
Mother: *Daw San Kyi*
Education: 3rd yr(Mechanical), 2nd Mate(Foreign Going)
Race: Burmese
Religion: Buddhist
Native: *Thegon / Bago* Division

When he was very young, he followed theatre-goer of his mother to theatrical performances and became a theatre-lover. He saw all night theatrical shows at the pagoda festivals sometimes for about five successive nights with his mother. He was also greatly interested in dancing, acting, stage-craft and stage lighting. He, being a mechanical minded boy, projected the silhouette picture which he drew on a piece of celluloid on a white screen using a small watch repairer's magnifying lens of his father. Sometimes, he directed the sunlight on the celluloid by means of mirrors. Sometimes, he used a flash light when sunlight was unavailable.

Although a self-taught artist, he won many prizes in painting and sketching at the township level all schools painting and drawing competitions. His knowledge of painting and sketching proved very helpful in his later hobbies such as photography, video-recording, video editing and graphic designing etc...

He was also good at his studies and always passed his examinations with flying colours. His favourite subject was Myanmar Literature. He read all kinds of books and always got distinction in the Subject of Myanmar not only at high school but also at university.

Although he wished to become a doctor, he decided to study mechanical engineering in order for him to attend the Institute of Marine Technology. After his graduation from the Marine Institute, he joined the government-owned Myanmar Five Star Shipping Line as a Deck Officer of foreign going ships for about ten years. He then joined several foreign shipping companies for ten more years. As a seaman, he earned a lot but after he realized that the seeking money is never ending story he planned to switch to another career for his children, his family and his mother country. Before ending his seafaring days he and his wife visited neighbouring countries and studied many cultural shows. After retirement from seaman-life he bought a micro bus and managed a transportation service for foreign tourists collaborated with a number of travels and tours companies and studied tourism business for 3 years, driving the car himself. He studied cultural shows and entertainments at hotels and restaurants especially puppet shows in Bagan, Mandalay and Yangon before setting up the HTWE OO MYANMAR Traditional Puppet Theatre, Yangon-Myanmar in 2006.

His main aim is to fill a gap in tourism industry in terms of entertainment and also rehabilitation of the Myanmar Traditional Puppet Theatre and he hopes to achieve that objective in near future whatever the difficulties he might experience.

His another aim is to show the Myanmar string puppetry and through it the Myanmar culture to the world. In other words he wishes to make Myanmar country and Myanmar people known to the world.



Name: *Tun Kyi @ Daung Yin* **Rank:** **Puppet Master**
Date of Birth: 23-05-1937
Age: 73
Father: *Tun Yin @ Theingi* (Puppet Comedian)
Mother: *Daw Mei Yu @ Bala Tin* (Puppet Prince)
Education: Monastery
Race: Burmese
Religion: Buddhist
Native: *Thayawaddy / Bago* Division

He started the career in puppetry since childhood at “*U Pan*” puppet troupe where his father and mother served. He served several puppet theatres named “*Htidan Khin San*”, “*Ponnabyan U Kyaw Aye*” and “*Dagon Aung*” till age of 40 and he spent about 20 years of his life as a farmer in his native, Thayawaddy, about 150km far from *Yangon*.

He resumed puppeteer life about a month in every year only when Myanmar Traditional and Cultural Performing Arts Competition were held by State Government annually and won many Gold Medals. Now, he is a member of HTWE OO MYANMAR Traditional Puppet Troupe since 2009.



Name: *Maung Kyi* **Rank:** **Puppet Master**
Date of Birth: 16-12-1944
Age: 66
Father: *U Myit*
Mother: *Daw Aye May*
Education: 5th Standard
Race: Burmese
Religion: Buddhist
Native: *Waw / Bago* Division

He began to serve the Cultural Ministry, Dance and Drama Ensemble as a dancer in 1962. He learnt puppet manipulation in 1982 and served as a puppeteer too. He performed as RAMA in the RAMAYANA Drama. As a member of the Cultural Ministry, Dance and Drama Ensemble, he had been to a number of foreign countries. He won gold, silver and bronze medals for his participation in puppet drama competitions in the annually held Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions.

He retired from the Cultural Ministry, Dance and Drama Ensemble in 2006.

He is also performing at Karaweik Hall dinner and entertainment programme for foreign tourists since 1997.



Aung Than Tun

(Puppet Maker)

Part Time Puppeteer



Name: *Tin Nan Myint @ Nan Tin* **Rank:** **Puppeteer**
Date of Birth: 19-10-1974
Age: 36
Father: *Kyin Hla @ Sein Kyin Hla* (Puppet Prince)
Mother: *Daw Hla Yi @ Bahosi Sein Hla Yi* (Puppet Princess)
Education: Monastery
Race: Burmese
Religion: Buddhist
Native: *Yangon*

She started the career in puppetry since childhood at “*Sein Par Ti*” puppet troupe which was founded by his father and mother. She can manipulate any kind of puppet-characters and can sing and narrate too.

She participated in Myanmar Traditional and Cultural Performing Arts Competition held by State Government annually and won many Gold Medals.



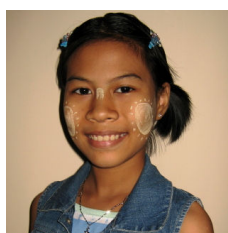
Name: *Cho Cho San* **Rank:** **Puppeteer**
Date of Birth: 9-11-1981
Age: 29
Father: *U Tun Kyi @ Sein Tun Kyi* (Puppet Master)
Mother: *Daw Kyi Lay* (Dancer)
Education: 7th Standard
Race: Burmese
Religion: Buddhist
Native: *Yangon / Yangon Division*

Daughter of the puppet master *SeinTun Kyi*. She learnt the puppet manipulation and embroidery from her father.

She annually takes part in the Yangon Division Puppet Individual Competition of the Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts.



Name: *Tin Tin Oo*
Rank: **Manager/Puppeteer**
Date of Birth: 27-09-1969
Age: 41
Education: B.A. (Eco)
Race: Burmese
Religion: Buddhist
Native: *Yangon*



Name: *Thet Thet Htwe Oo*
 (Apprentice Puppeteer)
Date of Birth: 06-06-1997
Age: 13
Education: Grade (9) (8th Standard)
School: B.E.M.S. (1), Dagon
Race: Burmese
Religion: Buddhist
Native: *Yangon*



Thet Paing Htwe Oo
 (Future Dancer)
 26-03-2004
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 Grade (2) (1st Standard)
 B.E.M.S. (1), Dagon
 Burmese
 Buddhist
 Yangon



Daw Yin Shwe *Khin Mya Thwe*
Part Time Puppeteer

