“Sandglass Theater’s Punschi, performed by Shoshana Bass and Jana Zeller, is a delightful and compelling puppet show performed with great zest, skill, and humor by two eminently talented puppeteers. Jana Zeller’s performance of Kasper and the Cow is a masterful and whimsical re-interpretation of the traditional German puppet character as a comic hero whose efforts to go off on a trip with his red suitcase are flustered by a comic cow, and aided by a friendly giant. Shoshana Bass’s Fritzi’s Flea Circus is an astounding spectacle of miniature proportions following its tiny hero through an adventurous day of performing incredible circus feats by means of brilliant theatrical tricks. These shows enthralled our audience of children and adults.”

Dr. John Bell, Director, Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry

“This is one of the finest, if not the finest, theater-related program for young children we have seen.”

The Vermont Arts Council

“If one observes how the young ones identify with the happenings on the stage, one would like to be young oneself once more.”

Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany

Punschi is pure joy! This performance combines the exuberance and flair of European street theater with the sanctity of a family tradition passed down through generations. Live music, multiple styles of puppetry, clowning, and physical theater support hilarious lines delivered in German, English, Gibberish, and Kazoo. Audiences of all ages will leave laughing and cheering for Kasper, Fritzi, Tschokolino and the amazing sisters who bring their stories to life!

Roxie Myhrum, Puppet Showplace Theater
Brookline, MA
Punshi is an enchanting tradition of imaginative puppetry and entertainment! Originally created by Sandglass’ Co-Founder, Ines Zeller Bass, now performed by her daughters, Jana Zeller and Shoshana Bass.

Featuring hand puppets, a miniature circus, general buffoonery and music, these second generation performers present their children's entertainment program for your pleasure.

**THE PERFORMANCE** can be presented in a complete 50 minute program including the Flea Circus and Kasper and the Cow, or customized by individual presentation of any of the acts.

**FRITZI’S FLEA CIRCUS**

*20 minutes*

Join the mighty Fritzi, a tiny flea with a big personality, as he dazzles audiences with his talents as strongman, tightrope walker, and even get’s fired from a cannon.

---

**FRITZI’S GRAND TOUR**

*20 minutes*

Our favorite flea goes on an adventure around the globe, sampling the delights and flavors of many lands. Traveling by hot air balloon, blimp and submarine, he will astound and astonish with his tiny antics.

---

**KASPER AND THE COW**

*20 minutes*

Iconic German children’s hero, Kasper, and his best friend, the endearing giant Augustin, go on a rollicking chase to reclaim Kasper’s suitcase... Stolen by the cow!

---

**THE SURPRISE**

*20 minutes*

When the giant Augustin wins a tiny airplane, his buddy Kasper accidentally flies off with it. Kids delight in this dizzying, call-and-response adventure!
WORKSHOPS
A two hour session in which we construct a simple puppet that is appropriate for the age group we are working with and show basic manipulation techniques. Each participant gets to take their hand-made puppet home.

RESIDENCIES
Create a puppet show from conception to performance with our one or two week residencies. Participants will each create a puppet; and together they’ll create their set, rehearse and finally perform their own show. Alongside the building of the show, we use theater games to learn how to manipulate a puppet, develop performance skills, and build individual and group confidence.

*We can customize the story to support the curriculum being studied in the classroom.*
HISTORY, INSPIRATION AND LEGACY

This collection of shows is derived from the old fairground traditions of German puppet theater, and was originally created by Ines Zeller Bass in Munich, Germany. Kasper became a children’s entertainment hero in the 1980s and the flea circus holds its roots in the traditional entertainment of European courts, and can still be enjoyed at the October Fest in Munich. Ines grew up surrounded by these cultural staples and was captured by the magical innocence of this form. Punschi made its first appearance in the early 1980s at a puppet festival in Munich, where Ines improvised her stage by stringing a rope and covering it with a dirty tarp. She used the traditional characters and created original stories. From there she played in markets and parks, political rallies, kindergartens and her children’s birthday parties under her huge sun umbrella. The piece began touring internationally in 1983.

Kasper has always held a rapport with his audiences all over the world and the interactive nature of the tradition includes jokes for both children and adults, and plenty of opportunity to call out to the characters on stage, and help move the story forward.

Ines’ daughters, Jana and Shoshana, grew up traveling around with these shows, helping to set up, and playing with the puppets backstage. In 2013 Ines retired from performing her family shows and handed the pieces, sets and the puppets over to her two daughters. Jana and Shoshana have combined the shows and filled them with musical interludes, snappy banter and a blessing honoring their mother and the living on of a tradition.
PUNSCHI

JANA ZELLER & SHOSHANA BASS

Sandglass Theater
PO Box 970
Putney, VT 05346

office: 802-387-4051
cell: 802-683-4526
info@sandglasstheater.org

sandglasstheater.org