

# Shadow Puppet - Togalu Gombeyatta, Tholu Bommalata and Ravanachhaya

LESSON 7 OF 16



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# PUPPET FORMS OF INDIA

Presented by:  
RAHUL KUMAR MEENA

# ABOUT ME



- ▶ B.Tech. Mechanical Engg. (IIT BHU)
- ▶ Appeared in CSE Mains 2016.
- ▶ Love travelling, photography and exploring new places.
- ▶ I also have interest in athletics like running and javelin throw.
- ▶ Follow me: <https://unacademy.com/user/rahul.kmeena.mec10>
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- A puppet is one of the most remarkable and ingenious inventions of the man. It has been said that a puppet has to be more than his live counterpart for it is definitely the suggestive element that is more captivating and enduring in a puppet.
- ● **String Puppets**
- ● **Shadow Puppets**
- ● **Rod Puppets**
- ● **Glove Puppets**

# Shadow Puppets

- India has the richest variety of types and styles of shadow puppets. Shadow puppets are flat figures.
- They are cut out of leather, which has been treated to make it translucent.
- Shadow puppets are pressed against the screen with a strong source of light behind it.
- The manipulation between the light and the screen make silhouettes or colourful shadows, as the case may be, for the viewers who sit in front of the screen.
- This tradition of shadow puppets survives in Orissa, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

# Togalu Gombeyatta, Karnataka

- The shadow theatre of Karnataka is known as Togalu Gombeyatta.
- These puppets are mostly small in size.
- The puppets however differ in size according to their social status, for instance, large size for kings and religious characters and smaller size for common people or servants.



# Tholu Bommatala, Andhra Pradesh

- Tholu Bommatala, Andhra Pradesh's shadow theatre has the richest and strongest tradition.
- The puppets are large in size and have jointed waist, shoulders, elbows and knees.
- They are coloured on both sides. Hence, these puppets throw coloured shadows on the screen.
- The music is dominantly influenced by the classical music of the region and the theme of the puppet plays are drawn from the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Puranas.



# Ravanachhaya, Orissa

- The most theatrically exciting is the Ravanachhaya of Orissa. The puppets are in one piece and have no joints.
- They are not coloured, hence throw opaque shadows on the screen. The manipulation requires great dexterity, since there are no joints.
- The puppets are made of deer skin and are conceived in bold dramatic poses. Apart from human and animal characters, many props such as trees, mountains, chariots, etc. are also used.
- Although, Ravanachhaya puppets are smaller in size-the largest not more than two feet have no jointed limbs, they create very sensitive and lyrical shadows.



# Rate, Review and Recommend.



THANK YOU!