

By Tony Jackman

GARY FRIEDMAN, local puppeteer and director of the Royal Puppet Company, is one of 15 puppeteers from around the world chosen to attend an intensive course dedicated to the string puppet in Charleville Mézieres, France.

He has also been awarded a scholarship by the French Government to complete the course, which will be held by the Institut International de la Marionette at Charleville Mézieres, 120 km north-east of Paris, on the border of Belgium.

The course begins on August 27 and runs until the end of November. All members of Unima (Union International de la Marionette), the world's biggest puppetry organisation, were invited by letter to apply for the course.

French award for city puppeteer

All of the world's master puppeteers, says Friedman, will be coming together for the course. These include Obrakzof from Russia, who is the world president of Unima; Sweden's Michael Meschke; Dr Henryk Jurkowski from Poland, who is the world vice-president of Unima; Margarita Nicolesco from Bucharest, Rumania; Albrecht Rose from West Germany; and Jan Dvorak from Czechoslovakia.



Puppeteer Gary Friedman, is wished bon voyage and a safe trip to France by his puppets.