

## Horse puppet dance

Horse puppet dance is one of the humorous dances where performers in horse puppet demonstrate the horse riding skills. This dance can be performed by a group of dancers and both men and women can dance this. The horse puppet dance is conducted under the frame drum music. The central element in the dance is a horse puppet. The most common is a horse puppet from a wood and decorated with shiny fabrics.

Each dancer in the dance tries to demonstrate his or her dancing skill. The famous horse puppet dancers in long years Tajik people and have also developed new movements enriching it by new impressionist's elements. Horse puppet dance can

be performed under all sorts of music and in the dance the puppeteer and horse marionette become single object – that is a horse. So, horse listens to the music first and after a short pause begins dancing.

In the group horse puppet dance the theme is identical to the *buzkashi* (goat-snatching); a girl appears and she throws her headscarf on the ground and the group of horse puppet dancers come and try to get it by imitating *buzakashi* competition.

Horse puppet dancer during the performance plays two roles; first the brave and skilled rider and than a clever horse who likes music and can dance. In horse puppet dance one can observe the elements of pantomime, lyrical themes and humor.



