

## "Cut with the yellow scum"

( a play on water purification )

and

## "The defeat of the Storm Genie"

( a play on typhoon resistant building )

Written, directed and performed by : **The Central House of Puppetry, Hanoi**

Based on ideas by : **Gullillaume Chantry and John Norton**

Produced and financed by : **Development Workshop, France and GRET, France**

With the kind support of

- \* UNDP, Hanoi
- \* The Australian Embassy, Hanoi
- \* UNCHS-Habitat, Nairobi

**Hanoi, Vietnam, January 1992**

*These plays have been prepared for presentation in villages, aimed at raising awareness of what to do about problems they face. The plays are to be performed in the context of development programmes in rural areas, where more practical assistance supports the message given by the puppets.*

### Programme

1. Dance with the masks
2. Cham dance
3. Unicorn dance
4. Swan lake
5. Wrestling

#### Short plays

1. **Cut with the yellow scum**  
Playwright : Dam Thanh  
Director : Tuan Khanh  
Painter : Anh Nga  
Musician : Thanh Hai

2. **The defeat of the Storm Genie**  
Playwright : Hai Luu  
Director : Van My  
Painter : Duy Bien  
Musician : Huynh Loan

# "The defeat of the Storm Genie"

## CHARACTERS

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1. The Storm Genie : in black cloak ( person wearing mask )
2. Old Toad : Wearing beard and glasses ( stick puppet )
3. Young Cock ( - )
4. Clumsy Cock ( - )
5. White Rabbit ( - )
6. Ant Emperor ( - )
7. Swarm of ants ( - )

## ACT I

Empty space . A summer morning , the Storm Genie appears, roaring . The Storm Genie : I'm the Storm Genie , a terror for all . I bring

death to fields , trees and houses ( laughing cruelly ) .  
Now where are my children , where are my windstorms ?

Piercing screams .

Very well, ha...ha... Today , I only need winds of 7,8,9 and 10 grades . We'll go and see where protection is not good , and who think little of me, and you will ...

Yes, we'll destroy all, smash all (laughing haughtily).

Four head appear , blowing gusts and screaming . The horrible laughter of the Storm Genie and his children echo far and wide.

## ACT II

Ahill, with trees and flowers . The green rice - fields stretch away into the distance . On the hill are houses , the home of Old toad, Ant Emperor , cocks and White Rabbit . Young Cock flies out of his house and perches on the fence , crowing.

Young Cock : Cock - e - doodle - doo : Oh , decrepit Mr Old Toad !

Old Toad : ( Hopping out of his house , coughing ) What's up, Young Cock ?

Young Cock : Why don't you grind your teeth to ask your 'Uncle Heaven' to pour rain down ( laughing scornfully ) .

Old Toad : Oh, it's going to rain hard . No need to call Heaven . Ant Emperor crawls down a tree .

Ant Emperor : I think Mr Old Toad's right . I feel sickening all through .

Old Toad : Yes , that' s right : At this time of year we must watch out for the Storm Genie , I think .

Ant Emperor : Hurry up, my people . Bring food , clothes and medicines to higher places . Hurry up, a storm's coming .

'Yes' , says the swarm of ants .

The ants , one after another , carry their things up, working very hard . Old Toad is repairing his roof . Only Young cock is still crowing . White Rabbit scuttles out .

White Rabbit : The sky is high and clear . Who says a storm is coming ? How silly . Hello Mr Young Cock .

Young Cock : Hello Mrs White Rabbit . You see, there are a lot of silly people on this hill . My house staas nailed to the ground . I don't have to worry , I'm going to have a good time .

White Rabbit : You're right . And my house is as solid as a brick . Even storms of grade 12 will only cry at it . (Laughing heartily ) . Well you know Clumsy Cock wants to challenge you to a fight . Let me call him out for you to smash .

Young Cock : Dare - devil : Well, bring him here . I'll give him a good kick .

White Rabbit : Hey , Mr Clumsy Cock :

Clumsy Cock steps out, answering in an affected voice .

Clumsy Cock : Don't be too wordy . I'll give you a slap .

Young Cock : Ah ha, why don't you greet your honourable teacher . Watch out for my blows .

Two cocks are fighting fiercely, while White Rabbit is beating the drum and shouting .

White Rabbit : Hooray ! That's a good hit . Bravo ! Wonderful double kick .

Old Toad : Oh dear . A storm's coming and you're fighting . Why don't you take care of your shelters .

The fight stops for a while ,

Young Cock : Well, silly Old Toad . Let us worry about our own business .

They go on fighting , taking no notice of Old Toad's words .

Old Toad : Be careful , people . A storm's coming .

### ACT III

The Storm Genie appears

The Storm Genie : Ah ha... ( Laughing spiterully ).  
Look . They're so bubbling over wigh spirits . Well . This is for your kicks . This is for your kicks . This is for your blows .

The impetuous winds buffet the two cocks dizzily .

The Storm Genie : Where is my 7 - grade wind , and where is my 8 - grade wind ?

7 - and 8 - grade winds : Here we are !

The Storm Genie : Where is my 9 - grade wind and where is my 10 - grade wind ?

9 - and 10 - grade winds : Here we are !

The Storm Genie : Blow off their , break up pillars and rafters , and bring down walls .

9 - and 10 - grade winds : Yes we'll do that right away.

They glower and puff out cheeks ready to blow . Trees are falling down , the roofs of cocks' and white Rabbit's houses are blowing off and pillars are tottering . The hurricane is destroying the hill in the haughty laughters of the Storm Genie and his children . Only the houses of Old Toad and the ants are intact .

### ACT IV

CALM

Old Toad : ( Beating drums ) Hey , the storm's gone . Anybody affected ?

White Rabbit : ( Crying ) Mr Old Toad ; my house has been destroyed by the storm . My children and I have no dwelling now ( Crying loudly )

Old Toad : It's because you didn't watch out for storms . If only you had taken good care of your house like me ...  
( Looking around ) Anybody else affected ?

Young Cock : ( Groaning ) Yes , me . Look , Mr Old Toad . My house has collapsed . I've got no place to live now .

Clumsy Cock : And me , I've got sprained legs and a crooked neck . Good Heavens ! So miserable I am . Dear Mr Old Toad , have you got any medicines to ease my pain ? (Bursting out crying ) .

Old Toad : I told you not to fight . See what you've got : bleeding head , sprained legs and a crooked neck . Poor things . Now come over here, I'll give you some saliva to relieve your pain . ( Rubbing the two cocks with his saliva). Do you feel better ?

Two cocks : ( Shouting with relief ) Oh , wonderful Mr Old Toad. Your saliva is fantastic . Thank you very much .

Ant Emperor : ( Scurrying out ) Oh , White Rabbit . Oh, cocks. What's the matter with you ? we took good care of our houses, so the storm couldn't do anything to harm ours .

Old Toad : That's good . That's very good .

White Rabbit : Oh, Ant Emperor, look . How miserable we are (crying).

We'll have to be on the road day and night (crying humil-  
atingly ) .

Ant Emperor : You shouldn't think so lightly of storms .  
Let me see if I can do anything to help you .

Old Toad : I think , now we should unite and help each other.  
Do you all agree ?

All : Yes , yes .

Old Toad : Well , let's start rebuilding and restoring these  
collapsed houses now .

all : ( Shouting for joy ) Yes , we all agree with you . Let's  
start now otherwise it'll be too late because another storm's  
coming .

All : Set out for work , singing merrily . As soon as the houses  
have been restored to good condition , it suddenly gets  
dark .

Old Toad : Another storm and hurricane is coming . Let's get in .

#### ACT V

#### THE STORM GENIE APPEARS

The Storm Genie : Ah ha, they're all scurrying . This time , I'll  
destroy everything . ( Winds are blowing hard, but the houses

still hold fast ) . Kum , they've just restored their houses . Phew, I'm getting tired of blowing, but the houses haven't fallen down . Phew . Where is my 11-grade hurricane and where is my 12-grade hurricane ?

Two heads of wind : Yes , here we are .

The Storm Genie : Muster all your strength to destroy this hill for me .

Two heads of wind are trying hard to blow . All the houses remain in good condition . The two heads of wind fall prone with exhaustion .

The Storm Genie : Why so ? Why drooping dead like this ?

Two heads of wind : We're exhausted . We can't blow any more .

This is a bitter defeat .

The Storm Genie : I'm also weary . Well, we'll win the day another time . Let's withdraw .

The Storm Genie and his children disappear . Calm returns .  
all the animals run out of their houses looking merry .  
Flowers are blooming .

Old Toad : ( Beating a drum roll ) Well, as you see, the storms and hurricanes have been defeated . Our houses are strong and reliable Let's make merry to celebrate our victory .

All sing and dance cheerfully : United against calamity .

Storms will have to give in

All families are happy

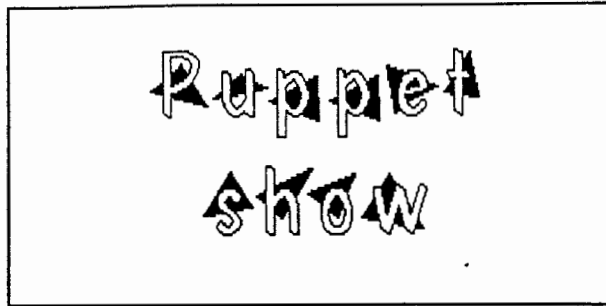
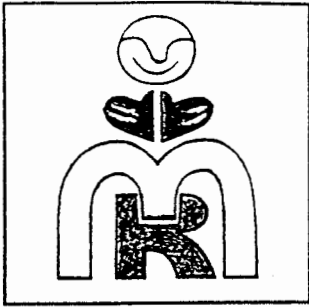
Life is as good as ever

la la la ...

25 July 1991

at the Temple of Literature

Đàm Thành .



Development  
Workshop

GRET

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# Water puppets programme

VIE/86/020

## Title: *Typhoon! Vaccinate your house!*

This short sketch aims to encourage people to take preventive measures to strengthen their homes with simple techniques, before the typhoon comes - rather than waiting until the typhoon has already arrived and the damage is done. Prevention is cheaper than repairs!

Scene 1. A village in the flat coastal plains of Vietnam; houses of various sorts built in three dimensions on an island. Backdrop of paddy fields.

*Teu* arrives: "Warning - a typhoon is approaching."

People rush to the fields to try and save rice crop; nothing done to the homes.



Scene 2. Typhoon arrives, water rises, houses begin to be flooded (sink below water level), and roofs blow off.

People climb onto roof to try and hold down what remains of covering, but it is too late.

Everything collapses - despair in the village.

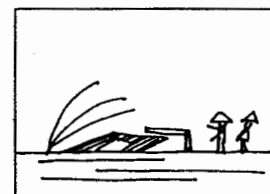


Scene 3. Aftermath - people lamenting, "How can we afford to repair, the whole house has gone." Family in great distress.

*Teu* arrives: " There is something to be done - next time a typhoon comes, you must be prepared. Simple techniques can be used to make your house stronger"

*Villagers*: " But we have other priorities, like saving our crops"

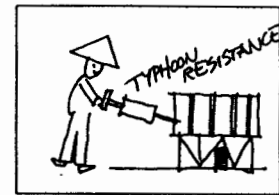
*Teu*: But strengthening your house is like vaccinating your children against disease - do it as soon as you can, and then you will be safer - and remember, it will save you



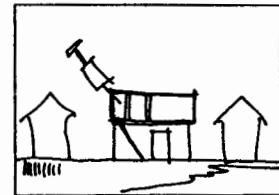
time and money too! Remember the idea  
- VACCINATE YOUR HOME AGAINST  
TYPHOONS!"

Villagers: "But the typhoon might not come again to  
our home"

One Householder: " I shall vaccinate my house, it  
sounds like a good idea - I have lost so  
much in the last typhoon"



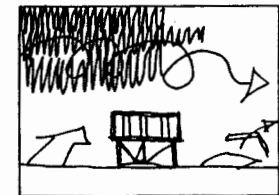
Scene 4. Householder strengthens his house (bracing,  
tie down roof). Villagers laugh at him.



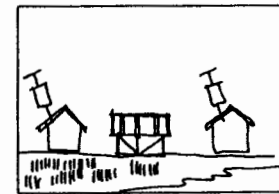
Scene 5. *Teu* arrives: "another typhoon is coming,  
have you vaccinated your homes?"

Villagers: "No, we were too busy, only one  
Householder did, we don't think it is  
worth it."

Typhoon arrives, all houses collapse and blow away  
except the householder's home.



After the storm, villagers crowd round: "We see now,  
vaccinating your home against typhoons  
has saved it, and you can now afford to  
spend money on more seed and better  
water supplies instead. *Teu* was right, we  
should vaccinate our homes too, as  
quickly as possible."



Jubilation, the villagers start to strengthen their homes.

After the performance, there should be an announcement that leaflets/poetry/posters explaining the ten key principles of typhoon resistant construction can be collected when you leave the show at the end.

Proposed counterparts: Hanoi Water Puppet Company

JN/GC - DW/GRET May 1991