

© 2000

11 2, box 40
Lincolnville, me 04849
USA





A BOARD MEETING AT JAX WITH THE EXECS

Our standard EXECUTIVE wears a grey flannel suit, red print tie, and carries a leather briefcase. A male is shipped unless a female is requested. The hair is short and can be a variety of colors. Pink skin is shipped, but other colors are available.

PROFESSIONAL VARIATIONS

The following EXECS hold in their right hand the specified document.

Broker/bank/etc.	Wall St. Journal
Lawyer	legal document
Accountant	IRS form 1040
Architect/engineer	blueprint
Realtor	listing book
Insurance agent	policy
Teacher	textbook

PERSONALIZATION

We cannot do portraits, but hair can be added to the face or subtracted from the head. Glasses can be worn and limited changes can be made in the hair style.

Jacks-in-the-boxes have been around for at least two hundred years. An early name for them was *Boite de Surprise*. The jacks that popped out tended to the grotesque, and must have caused quite a surprise, indeed.

More recently people have come to expect a smiling clown or other childhood image. Although we do have a group of clowns (and an elephant) in traditional push button boxes, most of our characters are not what you might expect. We've put the surprise back in the box.

An Enigma box, when closed, is a nicely proportioned cube of polished maple; an attractive object for holding down papers on a desk perhaps. But pick it up in just the right way, and the inhabitant of the box is released; it might even look a little like someone you know. We have people from many professions living in our boxes, as well as famous names and fantasy figures. What a delight to have a little person jump out of a box and disappear again at your command.

The boxes (about 4"x 4"x 4 1/2" closed & 12" open) are mostly maple, though we use darker hardwoods for our Dragon, Lion and Samurai. We do not use rain-forest woods. The boxes are not stained but are finished with a Danish-type oil and wax, the final application of which gives them a fine, silky feel. Each figure is a small piece of hand-drawn and painted soft sculpture.

JAX are crafted in Lincolnville on the coast of Maine (about eighty miles north of Portland) by a group of craftspeople gathered together by Jane and Allan Ross. Jane, an ex-graphic artist, designs the characters, bringing out new designs every year. Allan, who used to do cancer research, designed the boxes and devised the secret opening mechanism.

This mechanism is now the same for both styles of boxes. The front panel of the box is attached only at the bottom so that the lid is released by pressing the top of the front panel or the button with the thumbs while holding the box with one hand on either side.

Closing is usually a matter of pushing the character straight down, tucking everything in, and clicking the lid shut. Some of the JAX come with special instructions for added dramatic effect. So that, for instance, the Frog Prince doffs his hat, or Dracula flings his cape over the back of the box.

We have nearly 50 designs which appeal to as many different kinds of people, but our real product is laughter. JAX make people laugh. We've been making them for over six years now, and they still make us laugh.



PHANTASMS
 Wizard
 Dracula
 Fairy Godmother
 Dragon
 Frankenstein's Monster
 Griselda



HOLIDAY SPIRITS
 St. Nicholas
 Mr. Scrooge
 Mrs. Claus
 Santa



CIRCUS TIME
 Jester, Rosie, Hobo, Pierrot, Elephant, Harlequin, Farnsworth, Knave of Hearts



PROFESSIONAL POP-UPS
 Chef, Male & Female Judge Albert, Graduate, Aviator



MEDICAL SURPRISES
 Pharmacist, Dentist, Dr. Bendover in scrubs, Optician, Dr. Bendover in labcoat, Nurse



JUMPING WITH TALENT
 The Bard, Photographer, Holmes, Ben Franklin, Ballerina, Artist, Samurai



BEASTS IN BOXES
 White Rabbit Lion Frog Prince Puss-in-Box