Butterworth's puppetry has taken him from performing locally at fairs and schools to an international career, leading large scale educational workshops, appearing in operas and classical music festivals, film, and television. He picks varied projects, often which involve collaboration, such as constructing theatrical events around wheelchair attachments, helping to create an Inuit mythological show in Nunavut, Canada, and designing sets for the 2008 St. Petersburg, Florida production of Strauss' comic opera "Die Fledermaus".

His work, breathing intellectual life into this elegant, sometimes underrated art form, has not gone without notice. He has been supported by the National Foundation for the Arts since 1979, and in 2005 he was honored with the Pell Award for Excellence in the Arts, for which he humbly allowed his puppets to take the bow. The grand sets, articulated special effects, and puppet staging surround the exquisitely moving marionettes and shadow puppets as they draw all into the world of Dan Butterworth. Artscope Magazine- 2009

Dan Butterworth's international award-winning workshops and performances use shadow, light, and movement in ingenious ways. Now, the powerfully equipped Wheelchair Theaters make Dan's inventiveness accessible to all. The combination of rolling 'Visual Chairs' and 'Music Chairs' allow for full theatrical productions in a variety of performance spaces.