



The official newsletter of
San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild
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Check for it at SFBAPG.ORG

SFBAPG is a charter guild of the Puppeteers of America, Inc., a non-profit, tax exempt organization

June 2009



Day of Puppetry



June 27th

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DAY OF PUPPETRY/JUNE GUILD MEETING

Guild Meeting

We will be having our June Guild meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. as part of the Day of Puppetry at the San Leandro Library on June 27. This is a very important meeting, as it will include the annual election of Guild officers. Your ballot, along with voting instructions, is included in this newsletter. The meeting will be combined with a social potluck supper. Please bring your favorite dish to share with others. Microwave and refrigerator available. Dinnerware will be provided.

Day of Puppetry

There are a number of demonstrations, workshops and shows planned for this day. In the evening there will be a Puppet Open Mic (also known as a Puppet Slam). In addition to being a lot of fun, it will be great outreach for our guild. This is the press release that will be sent out to media outlets:

Free Puppet Day Events at the San Leandro Library

Visit a world of make-believe at the annual Puppet Day celebration on Saturday, June 27, 2009, to be held at the San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., from 1:00-5:00 p.m.. This free celebration of puppetry is sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Area Puppet Guild, and features several free puppet shows and other events for a variety of ages.

The Puppet Company from Children's Fairyland will offer a free performance of "Aesop's Fables" at 2:00 p.m. Randal Metz will be presenting the Fairyland show, designed and built by Lewis Mahlmann. This performance is perfect for families with younger children, as well as anyone who enjoys puppetry. The Storybook Puppet Theater of Children's Fairyland is the oldest ongoing professional puppet theater in the United States. Both Mahlmann and Metz have directed the puppets there since 1967.

At 2:30 p.m., there will be a lecture and demonstration by Lewis Mahlmann, who will share photos and video highlights of his 82 years as a puppeteer.

Meet Images in Motion at 3:00 p.m., who will share how they create puppets for television. Lee Armstrong of Images In Motion will show puppets and demo TV puppeteering. Some audience members will have a chance to try their hand at this exciting form of puppetry.

For only \$3 per person to cover supplies, children can learn to make puppets from the experts! Jesse Vail, past director of the Happy Hollow Puppet Theater, will help families create glove puppets to take home.

Blake Maxam of Oakland's Vagabond Puppets offers the second free puppet show of the day at 4:00 p.m. "The Dragon Who Wasn't" uses a script and puppets created by Frank Oz, who started as a teen puppeteer in Oakland, before becoming Miss Piggy, Yoda, and an award-winning movie director. Vagabond Puppets was established in the 1930's as part of the federal W.P.A. program, and is the longest running recreation program using puppets in the United States. Maxam is also a popular magician and actor, and has performed at the Magic Castle in Hollywood.

Festivities scheduled for Puppet Day include an exhibit of puppets and Bay Area puppeteers spanning 50 years. There will also be a raffle and silent auction, featuring unique puppet items from Pixar and The Muppets. Several items were donated by Karen Prell, who played Red Fraggle on "Fraggle Rock." There will also be a puppet store sponsored by Folkmanis Puppets.

The San Francisco Bay Area Puppet Guild is one of four major hubs of puppetry in the United States. Each year the guild sponsors a free event to share the love and art of puppetry with the general public.

The Bay Area has produced many famous puppeteers, including Frank Oz, who portrays Miss Piggy, Yoda, and Cookie Monster, and Jerry Juhl, who was Head Writer of "The Muppet Show." Another noted local puppeteer is Tony Urbano, who created the robot seen in "Short Circuit" and many of the aliens seen in "Men In Black." Master puppeteers from the area include Lewis Mahlmann and Larry Reed. Lee Armstrong, of Images in Motion, puppeteered on "Fraggle Rock," and her company created the puppets for the film "Being John Malkovich."

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

June has arrived, and with it the end of the school year (for those of us who are students, teachers or perform for schools.) Graduations and end of school events abound, and as if your life was not full enough, the guild has a busy month ahead of us as well! This is the month for guild elections for the guild board. In addition we are having our first guild movie night (or at least the first one in many years.) At the movie event on June 6 in Vallejo we are fortunate to have a puppet filmmaker come and show and talk about his films. I know that 18 or so years ago, Valerie and I and our son Benjie greatly enjoyed "Hardware Wars" (which we watched multiple times!) the now classic cult spoof on Star Wars made by Ernie Fosselius. Ernie will be our guest of honor, and we hope to have other filmmakers come and show films for the guild and guests in the future. (Do you have a film or know of one we might like to feature? Let me know!) Another featured film will be Steven Barr's "Faust." Steven has generously given the guild permission for a showing of his Unima Citation of Excellence winning short film, and I encourage you to show your thanks and support by purchasing a copy of his DVD (www.classicsinminiature.com) In addition we are having our celebration of the National Day of Puppetry on June 27th at the San Leandro Library. The national day of puppetry is held all over the U.S. although not necessarily on the same day (most are in April, I believe.) Ours will feature performances and workshops during the day, a guild membership meeting (with elections for those who have not voted by mail or email) and an evening puppet open mic, which hopefully will serve as the pilot and inspiration for regular puppet slams (like a poetry slam, but with puppets!) for the future.

Creativity often flourishes during hard economic times. When artists don't have the regular paying commercial work, it can leave time to do those creative works that get shelved during busier, more prosperous times. Now may be the time to try something different...get a puppet slam piece together...try something new or different...stretch your artistry...get crazy creative...push some boundaries until they give way. Who knows? It could change your life and your art, pointing you in an unexpected direction. Get out and make the opportunities. Let your light shine!
See you at our guild events, future slams, and performances!

This is another press release being sent out about the events on June 27:

PUPPETRY OPEN MIC FOR PERFORMERS TO BE HOSTED BY PUPPET GUILD

A free Puppetry Open Mike for teens and adults only (13 and up) will be held at 7:00 p.m.. at the San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., on Saturday, June 27, 2009. Artists and actors can share their talents onstage using puppets. The Puppet Guild invites local performers to demonstrate their puppetry skills, as long as it is in good taste and not offensive. To join in the Puppetry Open Mic, please contact Jesse Vail at foolmoonpuppets@gmail.com with your ideas for a performance.

This event is organized by Jesse Vail of Fool Moon Puppets. He and other professionals will be on hand to offer advice and guidance for newer puppeteers and performers. Magicians, clowns, actors, and other performers who use puppets are welcome along with full-time puppeteers.

THANK YOU CONRAD BISHOP

Many thanks to Conrad Bishop of The Independent Eye for cataloguing the over 300 books and audio visual materials in the Guild library! The Guild Library is a valuable resource with books on a wide range of puppetry subjects. It has been many years since the Library has had a complete list of its resource material. The list will make it easier for members to request materials from the Library. Thank you Conrad.

Printed lists will be available at Guild meetings. Guild members can also request a list by emailing the Librarian, Lee Armstrong at images@vom.com or calling 707 738-5906. The list will also be accessible on the Guild website.

The Guild Library will be at the San Leandro Day of Puppetry. If you have any particular requests, please contact Lee Armstrong. If you have borrowed materials, please return them at this meeting, or mail them back to the Librarian. Thank you.

**COMMEDIA DEL ARTE THEATER***by Tim Giugni*

Darkroom Productions partners with Il Teatro Calamari to bring a “lifted” version of Carlo Goldini’s “The Servant of Two Masters” to Suisun City. Kicking off its tour at the Harbor Theatre from May 28-31 and June 5-7, the show will travel to Sonoma, Yountville, Santa Rosa, and ends in Napa by July 16th. This stage-play has all the twists and turns of a work of Shakespeare with 10 times more energy, and 10 times less verbosity.

Clarice and Silvio are about to be engaged and their proud fathers, Pantalone Biginosi and Dottore Lombardi are delighted. But in walks Federigo Rasponi of Turin—Clarice’s dead fiancé—and his servant Truffaldino. Pantalone decides to honor the engagement between his daughter and the formerly dead guy, despite the bitter objections of Clarice, Silvio and Dottore Lombardi. Brighella, the local inn keeper, recognizes that Federigo is

really Beatrice, disguised as her dead brother in a desperate search for her lover Florindo who’s been accused of killing Federigo. When Florindo arrives looking for shelter and a servant, Truffaldino finds the best way to get a consistent meal is to serve two masters—Florindo and Beatrice—but neither knows about the other’s presence, and Truffaldino simply knows nothing. Truffaldino is run ragged by his dual masters, becoming hungrier and hungrier with every fetched order ... When all seems lost and confusion’s at its peak, a joyful series of reunions and discoveries brings the plot to it’s final unraveling where all the characters find a happy fruition.

June 5 & 6: 8 p.m. \$20 general, \$15 seniors/students

June 7: 2 p.m. \$20 general, \$15 seniors/students

Tickets on sale now at Suisun Harbor Theatre (720 Main St., Suisun City) or online at darkroomproductions.org.

OBSERVATIONS ON A PUPPETRY SLAM

The guild is organizing a Puppetry Open Mic as part of the Day of Puppetry celebration in June, with the idea of seeding the idea of future Puppetry Slams for the bay area. While the Puppetry Open Mic will be more gentle than some Puppet Slams, Valerie and I performed for a Puppet Slam last month at the Great Arizona Puppet Theatre in Phoenix and I thought I would share some observations, to introduce the idea to those for whom it is new. Of course, every slam would and should be different, each with their own personalities, but perhaps they all also have some commonalities.

The Great Arizona Puppet Theatre does about 8 weekends of slams a year and has been doing them for 6 or more years. We have performed at 3 or 4 of them over the years and this last one was typical (although they have been evolving and their audiences have grown immensely as the popularity and reputation of the slams has spread.)

The basic format of the GAZPuppet Theatre Slam consists of an evening event, with wine and beer, an MC, and a series of acts ranging from 5 minutes to 30 minutes, all designed for adult audiences. For GAZ slams, edginess is a plus, and no material seems too hot to touch. This last slam started with the MC announcing that the audience was going to be offended by something at the slam, and to help them get prepared he was going to tell (with his sock puppet) some dirty jokes he found on the internet. Then he proceeded to do just that. The jokes were dirty and in some cases shocking and the crowd (perhaps over 100 each night) laughed loudly or groaned, as they deemed appropriate. After 3 or so jokes an act was introduced. Here is the evening’s sampling: Act 1 was a hand and rod puppet act that began with a rather talky old MacDonald who had 3 homosexual pigs that he disdained. The show got much more interesting when the farmer left the stage and the three pigs came on, quickly all moved into a brick house (since the straw and stick house failed) and were visited by a wolf who was a missionary trying to convert the gay pigs, an intriguing twist to the three little pigs story. The pigs end up converting the wolf to their lifestyle.

Continued next page

Act 2 was a hand puppet rendition of Shakespeare's Othello, where Othello was played by a monkey puppet, Desdemona by a chicken, and other principles by a dinosaur, a pirate, and other puppets (probably selected from other puppet productions. The piece was about 20 minutes, was written 2 days before the slam and was brilliantly done. The monkeys only made monkey noises, the pirate (Yago) delivered most of the Shakespearean text, and while I laughed at the absurdity of the whole thing, I was enrapt and totally engaged both times I saw it. It was a wonderful piece of theatre, comic and tragic at the same time.

Act 3 was 2 episodes of a strange puppet video saga by Quintron and Miss Pussycat (<http://www.quintronandmisspussycat.com/index.html>) (previous episodes had been played at earlier slams.) These were projected on the wall next to the stage and lasted about 15 minutes.

Act 4 followed intermission and was an original song and shadow and rod puppet piece about a local sheriff in Phoenix, a political statement that many in the audience agreed with, and had a wonderful protest ballad written earlier that week in addition to some fun puppet images. We didn't know the politics but could appreciate the struggle for justice.

Act 5 (ours) was a 25 minute Karaghoiz shadow puppet piece based on a traditional, ancient script (that I read about in Bil Baird's "Art of the Puppet" about a man in hiding who becomes excited watching some washer maids to the point that they mistake a part of him for a sapling and tie their wash line to it.

Of course any slam you go to could be quite different, but perhaps this sample will serve as introduction and inspiration. One of the great things about the slam according to Nancy Smith, director of GAZ in Phoenix is that it gives release for the GAZ puppeteers, provides them a chance to do something different and edgy and brings them together in a fun and creative atmosphere. And while the audiences both nights were large and enthusiastic, it seemed that both nights there were about 1/4 to 1/3 returning audience members (from previous slams) and the rest newbies.

Tied up in knots? Come to Guild meeting!



2008-2009 SFBAPG

Board of Directors and Staff

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CALENDAR

Saturday, June 6

SFBAPG Movie Night

June 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vallejo Music Theatre Building (823 Marin St, Vallejo, CA 94590) we will have the great opportunity to join puppet filmmaker Ernie Fosselius who will show some of his short puppet films and talk about puppet film making. Ernie is best known for his now cult classic "Hardware Wars" (which will be screened), a wonderfully funny and creative spoof of Star Wars. Ernie says of "Hardware Wars" that it answers the question can a puppet be made out of most anything? In addition he will screen his newest "Plan 9.1 >From Outer Space," a purposely cheesy play that shows the possibilities of hand carved wooden rod puppets. (Complete with Blooper Reel.) Ernie writes, "All my work is designed to let people, especially kids, say 'Hey, I could do that!'"

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JUNE 6, BRING YOUR FRIENDS TO THIS FREE EVENT, AND JOIN THE FILM MAKER FOR "HARDWARE WARS" AND "PLAN 9.1 FROM OUTER SPACE."

THE BAR WILL BE OPEN AND MOVIE SNACKS PROVIDED!

Storybook Puppet Theater
Children's Fairyland - Oakland

June 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28
11 am, 2 p.m., 4 p.m.

Snow White & The Seven Dwarves. We bring this heartwarming classic to life, complete with jealous stepmother, and the little people who befriend our princess. Oh yes, their may be a prince involved as well. Puppets by Lewis Mahlmann, with a script by David C. Jones.

Coulter and Star
<http://www.CoulterandStar.com>

Soliloquy For Two
Written and performed by
Actor/ventriloquists Coulter and Star
Friday & Saturday, June 12 and 13 at 8:00 p.m.
Main Stage.
The EXIT Theatre, 156 Eddy Street, San Francisco

Theatre meets vaudeville for puppetry that pulls your strings. A show of frivolity, drama and audience improvisation. This two act recital features edgy humor and short plays. Ruby Lounge Confession proceeds from mirth to murder. Inherit To Die is a deadly backstage battle of wills. Voice illusionists Ron Coulter and Sid Star promise to delight and amaze with virtuosity, comedy and the unexpected.

This show combines the best of our recent New York show, Jihad for Vent and Dummy, our evening of one-act plays, Last Act For Walter Gordon, and 50 years of fun filled foolishness. You will find details, background, photos and reviews at our website.

Fairytaletheater

The Fisherman and His Wife
Hand puppet show, 40 min., for everybody age 5+
based on the original by the Brothers Grimm

Sunday, June 7
Fellowship Hall
Broadmoor Presbyterian Church
377 87th St./El Camino
Daly City, CA
Admission is free.

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Rumpelstiltskin

Hand puppet show, 40 min., for everybody age 4+, based on the original by the Brothers Grimm

Friday, June 12, 7:00 p.m.

Goethe-Institut of San Francisco
530 Bush St., San Francisco CA 94108
phone: (415) 263-8760
suggested donation: \$5

Saturday, June 13, 2:00 p.m.

IN GERMAN!!!

Goethe-Institut of San Francisco
530 Bush St., San Francisco CA 94108
phone: (415) 263-8760
suggested donation: \$5

7:00 p.m. Br'er Rabbit and the Number Nine Shoes at Children's Wonderland in Vallejo, CA

When: Saturday, Jun 20, 2009

Where: Children's Wonderland Mullen Theater, 360 Glen St., Vallejo, CA (map)

Description: Br'er Rabbit and the Number Nine Shoes-In this African American trickster tale, the clever Br'er Rabbit plays a trick on Br'er Bear, and steals his fish from him. Br'er Fox watches the whole trick, but when he tries it himself his efforts end in disaster. Once again Br'er Rabbit survives by relying on his wits. The story is told with large, direct-manipulation puppets, live banjo music and singing. Tickets at the gate: Adults (16 and older) \$10.00, Youth: \$5.00 Photo: <http://magicalmoonshine.org/BrFoxfoto.htm>

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11:00 a.m.

Puppet Making Craft Table followed by Puppet Story Time

When: Sat, June 20, 11 a.m.. – 1 p.m..

Where: Children's Wonderland, 360 Glenn St., Vallejo, CA (map)

Description: Puppet Making Craft Table (ages 4 and up) Come and make a puppet with your child between 11:00 and 12:45 p.m., then join us for a fun story time performance at 1:00 p.m.. Ticket required

for puppet making \$5.00. Puppet Story Time free with Children's Wonderland admission (\$2.00)

Thursday, June 25

11:00 a.m.

Puppet Making Craft Table followed by Puppet Story Time

When: Thurs, June 25, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m

Where: Children's Wonderland, 360 Glenn St., Vallejo, CA (map)

Description: Puppet Making Craft Table (ages 4 and up) Come and make a puppet with your child between 11:00 and 12:45 p.m., then join us for a fun story time performance at 1:00 p.m.. Ticket required for puppet making \$5.00. Puppet Story Time free with Children's Wonderland admission (\$2.00)

7:00 p.m.

The Fox and Elk Make a Trade at Children's Wonderland, Vallejo, CA

When: Thurs, June 25, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Where: Children's Wonderland, 360 Glen St., Vallejo, CA

Description: The Fox and Elk Make a Trade- -In this story a fox and elk decide that they are not happy with the way they are made, so they decide to switch arms and legs with each other. The fox, now with very long arms and legs, finds that she can no longer hunt, and is in danger of starving. The elk with the short fox arms and legs can not reach the leaves on the trees that he is used to eating. Both finally realize that they were much better off the way they were originally and in the end exchange arms and legs again, happy to have their old limbs back. The story is humorously set to music reminiscent of pop tunes of the '50s. Adults: \$10.00, Children (15 and under) \$5.00 PHOTO: <http://magicalmoonshine.org/changefoto.htm>



STOP
ROAMIN'
AROUND
AND
COME TO
A GUILD
MEETING!



SPECIAL GUILD ELECTION ISSUE

The guild board election will be held at the June meeting. The following three board members terms are expiring: Michael Nelson, Valerie Nelson and Sharon Clay. All three are eligible for reelection and all three have indicated they are willing to serve another term. Thus, we currently have three candidates for three positions. Nominations are still open. If you want to run for the board, contact the guild Nominating Committee via Padmini Sokkappa, email: [ravinosh\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:ravinosh(at)yahoo.com), phone: 925-454-0877 no later than May 15.

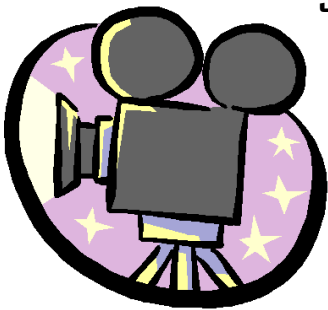
CANDIDATE STATEMENTS:

Michael Nelson is co-founder of Magical Moonshine Theatre (celebrating 30 years this year), Little Blue Moon Theatre and BAPA (the new Bay Area Puppetry Arts.) He is current and past SFBAPG president, past president UNIMA-USA, past artistic director Puppeteers of America National Puppet Festival and current co-Workshop Director for the next national fest (July in Atlanta.) Under various guises, the Nelsons have performed coast to coast in the US and in 15 (or so) countries abroad, and received numerous awards and honors including 3 Unima Citations of Excellence for Puppetry.

Valerie Nelson is co-founder of Magical Moonshine Theatre (celebrating 30 years this year), Little Blue Moon Theatre and BAPA (the new Bay Area Puppetry Arts.) She is current co-Workshop Director for the next national fest (July in Atlanta.) Under various guises, the Nelsons have performed coast to coast in the US and in 15 (or so) countries abroad, and received numerous awards and honors including 3 Unima Citations of Excellence for Puppetry. Valerie currently serves as SFBAPG treasurer and hospitality officer.

Sharon Clay is the current secretary of the SFBAPG. Her puppetry experience started about 15 years ago with her church puppetry team. She was also very involved with 4-H (the youth development branch of the University of California Cooperative Extension). She thought "This would be a very good subject for a 4-H learning activity". So, with little experience she started teaching puppetry in 4-H. Her current team has competed and won Gold Presentation awards all the way to state level for the past 3 years. Her secretarial background includes being secretary for several terms with the Bay Area Consultant Dietitians, as well as Secretary/Treasurer for the California Dietetic Association.

NOTE: The ballot is on the last page of the newsletter.



JOIN US FOR A GUILD PUPPET MOVIE NIGHT

(adults and older children, see reviews) on Saturday, June 6 starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Vallejo Music Theatre building, 823 Marin St., Vallejo, CA 94590, (707) 552-2787. Seating will be cafe style, snacks will be available, and the DOORS AND BAR WILL BE OPEN AT 6:30 (beer, wine, soft drinks, and an unpredictable assortment of other beverages, available for purchase.) An optional RSVP to [sfbapg\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:sfbapg(at)gmail.com) will help us know how many chairs to set up. Join us for this fun, FREE event. Come early and enjoy dinner in Vallejo (Vallejo has many reasonably priced eating establishments, waterfront dining, and a slew of good barbecue places, Thai and Pho restaurants, and by the freeway, the usual chains (Chevy's, Olive Garden, Pasta Pomodoro, and more!)

THE PROGRAM FOR JUNE 6, ** *ACT 1: MEET THE FILMMAKER:* Ernie Fosselius (maker of cult classic "Hardware Wars") will screen his famous satire on "Star Wars" as well as his newest puppet short film, "Plan 9.1 From Outer Space," a puppet spoof of the notorious Ed Wood's (known to some as the worst filmmaker of all time) "Plan 9 From Outer Space." In addition to sharing his films, Fosselius will talk about the making of the puppet films and answer questions from the audience. (Homework? Watch Ed Wood's "Plan 9 from Outer Space?" Optional.) REVIEWS ON NEXT PAGE

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*ACT 2: FAUST * Classics in Miniature presents Faust, the alchemist who sold out to the dark side. Puppet filmmaker Steven Barr has kindly given us permission to screen his UNI Award (for excellence in puppetry, founded by Jim Henson) winning short film. REVIEWS BELOW

REVIEW OF HARDWARE WARS FROM AMAZON.COM: San Francisco filmmaker Ernie Fosselius made the most successful short film of all time in the 1978 *Hardware Wars*, an inspired, mock-trailer for a nonexistent, cheapo rip-off of *Star Wars*. It worked like this: instead of Chewbacca, Fosselius offers the Cookie Monster. Instead of Darth Vader's breathy, slightly echoed voice emerging somehow behind that black-mask helmet, we get a villain whose every ranting utterance is so muffled even this film's Princess Leia equivalent beseeches him, "What? I don't understand you." And so on. Part of the joke is that George Lucas's revolutionary special effects are supplanted by common kitchen gizmos--mixers, toasters--that serve as spaceships and weapons sources. The updated special edition contains 20 computer-generated "special defects" that don't--the distributor boasts--at all match Fosselius's earlier version. Um... right on? *--Tom Keogh*

REVIEW OF PLAN 9.1 FROM OUTER SPACE FROM FILMBUG: A Cheesy Hand-Made Tribute To Edward D. Wood Jr. By Ernie "Hardware Wars" Fosselius. Apprehensive Films proudly presents the official Edition of Ernie Fosselius' Plan 9.1 From Outer Space. WARNING! PUPPETPHOBIA ALERT! This film may frighten or traumatize children and adults with good taste. May cause nightmares. Puppets are CREEPY and DISTURBING, although not nearly as much as the actual actors and filmmakers they represent. May cause unusual cravings for better entertainment. Ask your doctor if P9.1 is right for you. ** *REVIEW OF FAUST FROM THE UK PUPPET CENTRE: *Reviewed by Dorothy Max Prior

Classics In Miniature is a series of films that bring great classics of literature to life using puppet characters. Faust is the latest in this series, a 30-minute 'visual interpretation' of Goethe's Faust Part One. The project is based in California, USA, but is an international collaboration from puppeteer/producer Steven Ritz-Barr; film director Hoku Uchiyama; puppet maker Eugene Seregin; and composer John Greaves.

For some reason (perhaps because I'd spent so much time with the Quays' work of late) I was expecting stop-frame animation. Instead, I found that this was a filmed marionette puppet- theatre piece. The set is a lovely mix of painted constructions and found objects that are often oddly (in a good way) human rather than puppet sized: a nightlight, a heap of pebbles, roses that spring from the ground. Russian émigré Eugene Seregin's wooden puppets are beautifully crafted: old Dr Faust is wonderfully gnarled; Gretchen a wide-eyed, rather gormless beauty; and Mephisto a cheery strong-chinned chap. Their strings are very much on show and I like the way that their 'puppet-ness' is integral to the story, which plays on the 'we are but puppets of the gods' aspect of the story. There's a lovely moment in which we are taken into Faust's nightmare, and see him lifted and shaken by real human hands.

The story is told almost wordlessly: there are a few silent movie style lettered frames, and the odd mumbled or scribbled word, but the film's visual action is mostly carried forward by Greaves' musical score, an extraordinary mish-mash of jazz-tango, musical saw, electronica, and grunge. It's an odd mix, but somehow it works. But what else would we expect of one of the doyens of UK experimental music? (Greaves was the bass player in the legendary Henry Cow).

So all-in-all a rather oddball production, but there's nothing wrong with that. There's a great ending too, which I won't reveal...

SFBAPG
San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild
5137 Robertson Ave.
Carmichael, CA 95608



Candidates' Statements are on page 7

GUILD ELECTIONS FOR SFBAPG BOARD OFFICIAL BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS

Election of 2009 board members for the San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild. Padmini Sökkappa is the election teller. You may send Padmini EITHER a hardcopy ballot, an email ballot, or you may vote in person at the June 27 SFBAPG meeting.

How to vote via hardcopy:

- (1) Each single adult or youth member is entitled to ONE vote. Mark the ballot below.
- (2) Each family or couple membership is entitled to TWO votes. Copy the ballot below in any reasonable, legible manner and mark TWO ballots.
- (3) Put the ballot(s) in an envelope addressed to: Padmini Sökkappa, 423 Sheridan Circle, Livermore, CA 94551.
- (4) Put YOUR NAME on the envelope -- in the return address.
- (5) Put 44-cent postage on the envelope.
- (6) Postmark the envelope on or before June 20.

How to vote via email:

- (1) In the subject line, type YOUR NAME and "SFBAPG Ballot" (i.e. "Kermit the Frog -- SFBAPG Ballot").
- (2) In the body of your email, type the names of the candidates you want to vote for.
- (3) Send your email to ravinosh (at) yahoo.com (substitute the "@" symbol for the "(at)" in the email address) on or before June 24.

How to vote in person:

Come to the June 14 SFBAPG meeting at Contra Costa College (see newsletter for info.)



☐ **Michael Nelson**



☐ **Valerie Nelson**



☐ **Sharon Clay**