



The official newsletter of
San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild
Looking for updates and missed information?
Check for it at SFBAPG.ORG

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

July 2009



Dick Cheney as an American Idol diabolical guitar player by Ernie Fosselius



Jacques van der Water performing the "Three Little Blahs"

Day of Puppetry



S.B. Parks with her lovely and talented scarf marionette dancer



Elizabeth Fuller and Conrad Bishop from Independent Eye with the unfortunate Mrs. Jones from "Doom"

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DAY OF PUPPETRY THANK YOU'S!

The Day of Puppetry on Sat., June 27th at the San Leandro Library was filled with wonderful shows, programs, puppet making, exhibits, all for free to the public. What a great event for those who participated!

First a huge thank you to Randal Metz who coordinated the event, performed, put up the exhibit and worked closely with the library to keep everything running smoothly. Thanks to Penny Peck, the retiring San Leandro children's librarian, who sponsored this event, helped with everything, and is always a great supporter of the art of puppetry. Blake Maxum graciously donated a show. Wendy Morton of Folkmanis set up a wonderful display and store of Folkmanis puppets. Thank you to Lewis Mahlmann for a wonderful talk on his work at Fairyland, and Annie Wong as his tech support. Lee Armstrong did a TV Puppet workshop for participants from 2 to 82! Elisheva Hart and Tia Schmiroff had a very successful puppet making table. Volunteers Nina Dees, Padmini Sockappa and Sue Brinton kept the store and library running smoothly.

Thanks to Jesse Vail for coordinating the evening program and making us connections on the internet. Many thanks to the evening performers: Conrad Bishop and Elizabeth Fuller of the Independent Eye with a thought provoking piece "Doom", Michael Nelson of the Magical Moonshine Theater with a modern take on Caspar, two pieces by Puppets by Jacques, SB Parks with a beautiful scarf dance, Randal with magic from the Sorcerer's Apprentice and Ernie Fosselius with his political characters, ending with Cheney spouting fire. What an amazing lineup of talent.

To all who made this a very special Day of Puppetry, thank you so much!

To read more about the Day of Puppetry and the Guild meeting (including the election results) see page 7
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AUGUST GUILD MEETING

Sat., Aug 29

4:30-7:30 (after the annual Fairyland Day of Puppetry)

Children's Fairyland is located on the shore of Lake Merritt at Grand Avenue and Bellevue, Oakland.

Social & Potluck

Guild Meeting

Program: "Ask the Pros", and MORE (to be announced in Aug newsletter)

How do you get bookings in tough economic times?

What are handy tools to have when working in foam?

What are some tips for covering puppets in fabric or fur?

What sound system do you recommend for a portable show?

How can I make the videotaping of my puppet show look more professional?

"Ask the Pros" will be a panel of puppet experts. Guild members get to select the topics! Yes, you can direct the discussion and get answers to questions that are relevant to you. The questions above are just samples. Do you like any of them? Do you have something else that would interest you? Email or mail in your questions NOW (on or before Mon, July 19) to the contact below. The panel will select questions in advance so they can bring samples, etc. Send you questions to

Lee Armstrong

images@vom.com

720 Ladera Dr., Sonoma, CA 95476

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Guild Movie Night. On June 6 the guild held a film night at the Vallejo Music Theatre building in Vallejo. Approximately 40 people showed up (more than half were non-guild members) and were treated to not one, but two film makers sharing their work. First guild member Ernie Fosselius showed two of his short films, "Hardware Wars" and "Plan 9.1 From Outer Space." "Hardware Wars" is a cult classic that Ernie made back in the '70s. It is a spoof on "Star Wars" and became the most successful short film ever made. Many in the audience (including me) remembered our delight at seeing toaster space fighters shooting slices of toast at each other in deep space, R2D2 as a canister vacuum cleaner, Princess Leia with cinnamon buns for hair and Darth Vader speaking his dire commands and no one understanding a word he said. What a treat to actually meet some of the cast (Artie Deco, the R2D2 vacuum and Wookie Monster were both there in person, so to speak.)

"Plan 9.1" is Ernie's newest film, and is a spoof of what is often called the worst film ever made, an Ed Wood Jr. film, "Plan 9 From Outer Space." This was Bela Lugosi's last film; apparently he died during the filming and Ed Wood's chiropractor finished the film in Lugosi's part-- Ernie's Plan 9.1 even has a puppet "chiropractor" stand in for the puppet Lugosi character.) Ernie admitted that there was a challenge in making a spoof of a film that was basically a spoof of itself, but "Plan 9.1" is as incomprehensible as the original, and since the acting in the original is pretty wooden, it makes sense that wooden actors could do it just as well (if not better!) And, it's a lot shorter (with more than half of the film being a blooper reel.) And speaking of wooden actors, Ernie brought the entire cast of wonderfully carved wooden puppets from Plan 9.1 and everyone got to try them out. During the talk-back portion of the evening, Ernie spoke of the making of both films, amusing audience members with his tales of problems, solutions, and fortunes lost. Big Thanks to Ernie for taking the time to share his work with the guild (and beyond. And check out Ernie's carved wooden automata photos at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/frauenfelder/sets/72157594272587745/>)

Robin Stevens is our newest guild member and our other film maker for the evening, joining us even as he continues to move to and get settled in the Bay Area. Robin has worked for the BBC (he's a Brit and has the accent to prove it) and has been working in children's programming (TV) for 25 years, including working in Jim Henson's "Labyrinth" and as one of the founding principals for "Teletubbies." He shared some various clips of a number of different projects he has worked on which showed the variety and the high quality of his work as well as gave us a glimpse into his gently charming personality. He seems just the kind of person society would want doing children's programming. Even though he joined us at the last minute and didn't have his puppets here (or at least unpacked) yet, he managed to find a puppet to bring and share as he talked to the audience about his ups and downs in media production. It was fun to contrast his experiences with Ernie's (the fortune lost through some unscrupulous partner theme seemed a common thread.) One of the audience members did ask Robin about the whole Jerry Fallwell/Teletubbies Tinkie Winkie being homosexual blow up. Audience members were amused to learn the back story behind that (I won't tell; you should have been there.) Robin has some video clips online at <http://www.vimeo.com/2875652>. Big Thanks to Robin for coming and sharing his work with us as well.

Audience members at the film night loved the intimate setting and interaction with the film makers. We got so much positive feedback. One audience member said it reminded him of attending film festivals as a college student; that actual connection with the artist which we get so rarely these days. This seems like an excellent way to reach out to the community and let them know more about the guild and puppetry. We are currently looking into arranging more puppet film nights (and open to your suggestions as to who to feature as our film makers.)



NEWS AND NOTES

Your webmaster (Matt Baum) and your board have take steps to update and reactivate the Guild Website's Membership Roster. Now we want to add your listing to it, should you be a guild member who offers puppetry services! You can view the current status of it at <http://www.sfbapg.org/members.htm>. The idea behind this roster is to inform people both in the guild and in the general public about guild members who have shows, workshops and services to offer. Only current guild members will be able to be listed, and listings should follow the following format:

1. Contact information: This would be your name, your puppet company name, and any of the following you wish to list: phone, address, email, website, fax (you must have at least one method for people to contact you.)
2. A brief description of your company, offerings and services (up to 100 words.)
3. A small photo or image (will be posted at 250 pixel width or smaller and no more that 250 pixels in height.) If you wish, I will size your photo for you before posting.

The other font sizes, colors and general format of the website will all be standard, as set by the website format. If you wish to be included in this guild listing, please send the info for #1-3 above to sfbapg@gmail.com by email, and I will, as time permits, post your material.



Guild member, Nina Dees, who performs by the name of "TwinkieDeeStar, Children's Entertainer" all over the SF Bay Area was one of 20 invited nationwide to be in "The Big Book of Clowns". Her 7 page section details how she began this work, her various characters, and her services which include Walk Around Entertainment, Comedy Magic, Face Painting, Storytelling with Puppet, Balloon Twisting, and Games.

She has been the Far West Director for The World Clown Association for 8 years, and this year

was asked to serve as International Ambassador for Clowns of America. She is a regular columnist for Clowning Around magazine & is a contributor to Calliope magazine. She makes a point of mentioning The Guild as much as possible in her news column and has written feature article on Folkmanis Puppets and was lucky enough to interviewed Judy Folkmanis personally. During this interview, she surprised Judy with one of her original "Furry Folk" puppets which yielded an emotional but happy reaction.

Nina frequently teaches to colleagues around the country at conventions. She has been invited to teach at the Living Canvas Face Painting Convention in San Jose this year and at the Western Region Clown Association Convention in Nevada in November.

THE CLOWN CONSERVATORY at San Francisco Circus Center presents "Writing Without Words: Lunatique Fantastique's Live 3-D Animation" a workshop with Liebe Wetzel, Founding Artistic Director of the award-winning company Lunatique Fantastique

Saturday July 11th 11:30 am – 6:30 pm

Sunday July 12th 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

\$150 + \$20 insurance for each weekend workshop – Discounts available for 3 or more workshops and for Circus Center students.

This class will teach students how to “write” non-verbally. Students will create scenes entirely from scratch using only the objects that you bring to class. Students will also use traditional techniques of movement analysis, storyboarding, and cartooning to create non-verbal theatre.

All series workshops are held at San Francisco Circus Center 755 Frederick Street @ Arguello, SF, CA 94117. To register or for more information, call San Francisco Circus Center at 415-759-8123, or visit us at www.clownconservatory.org

Continued next page

From Sharon Clay: There is a new Toy Store in Pleasanton that has a puppet stage and is looking for "reasonably priced" puppet shows or entertainers. It is called Your Stage Toys. She is looking for interactive performers, for Saturday morning shows - usually 10:30 or 11:30 A.M. I have shared several performers with her from our roster - so if people get a call about a toy store, this is probably as a result of my referral.

THIS IS FROM HILLARY YOUNGLOVE, VIA
MICHAEL NELSON:
CURTAIN CALL

A show about the magical and mysterious world of puppet art.

The Byatt-Claeysens Gallery located at Sonoma Academy in Santa Rosa, California is looking for puppets of all makes and sizes that are creative and innovative. The more offbeat and eclectic the better!

Established and emerging artists are encouraged to apply. Local artists who show will be asked to participate in a 20 - minute lecture given to the community. The gallery does not take a commission for any work sold by the artists during the exhibit. The exhibit will hang for two months from September-October 2010.

If you are interested in showing please send a website link or jpeg images no bigger than 500k and a cv to: hillary.younglove@sonomaacademy.org

Michael Nelson has a puppet blog with text, photos and videos documenting the building of the giant automata puppet horse for the Vallejo 4th of July parade. You can find it at <http://www.vallejojuly4.org/> (click on the puppet blog link at the upper right.)



*Please Daddykins,
may we go to a Guild
Meeting? We promise
to be good!*

*I love going to Guild
Meetings. They
treat you like royalty!*



2008-2009 SFBAPG

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CALENDAR

Art Grueneberger/Puppet Art Theater Company
www.PuppetArts.com

Tuesday, July 7

Tale of the Dragon's Tail

Chavez Branch Library, Oakland, 6pm

Wednesday, July 8

Tale of the Dragon's Tail

King Branch Library, Oakland, 10:30am

Vacaville Library, Cultural Center Branch, 6pm

Thursday, July 9

Tale of the Dragon's Tail

Arcade Library, Sacramento, 3pm

Friday, July 10

The Hoover Theater, The Boy Who Cried Wolf

Puppet Fest Midwest, Trenton, MO

7:30pm

Saturday, July 11

Tale of the Dragon's Tail

Children's Room, Oakland Library, 2pm

Tuesday, July 14

Jack and the Beanstalk

Burlingame Library, 7pm

Wednesday, July 15

Tale of the Dragon's Tail

Orangevale Library, 4pm

Thursday, July 16

Tommy's Pirate Adventure

Alameda Library, 3pm

Saturday, July 18

The Boy Who Cried Wolf

San Jose Library, Pearl Avenue, 10:30am

Tuesday, July 21

Tommy's Pirate Adventure

Cordelia Library, 3:30pm

Wednesday, July 22

Tale of the Dragon's Tail

Temescal Branch Library, Oakland, 3pm

Jack and the Beanstalk

San Rafael Public Library, 2:30pm

Thursday, July 23

The Boy Who Cried Wolf

Grass Valley Library, 10:30am

Nevada City Library, 1pm and 2:30pm

Saturday, July 25

Show TBA

Pacifica Library, Dad and Me at the Library,
10:30am

Magical Moonshine Theatre

<http://www.magicalmoonshine.org/>

Thursday, July 9

7:00 pm

The Fox and the Condor

Children's Wonderland, Mullen Theatre, 360 Glen,
Vallejo (map)

In this mythological story from South America, there is little food on the earth while in the clouds the birds have much food. The Condor, the king of the birds takes pity on a hungry fox and carries him up to the clouds to eat, but the greedy fox does not stop eating until he falls from the cloud and his belly bursts open, spreading seeds all over the earth. It is these seeds from which the plants on earth have descended (so the tale tells us.) Tickets Adults: 10.00, Youth (15 and under) \$5.00

Wednesday, July 22

Continued next page

10:30am
The Puppet Man
John F. Kennedy Library,
505 Santa Clara St., Vallejo

FREE Magical Moonshine Theatre's Michael Nelson performs a one man European street theatre style show, filled with fun and lively skits and gags, for the whole family.

Wednesday, July 22
2pm - 3pm
Recyclers in Space!
Ingleside Branch Library,
1649 Ocean Ave., San Francisco

In this fun and lively hand puppet adventure, Chester attempts to gather items to recycle then discovers that with them he can make a rocket and space suit and head off to explore outerspace! Great for ages 3 and up!



Storybook Puppet Theater
Children's Fairyland, Oakland

Saturdays & Sundays, July 11-12, 18-19, 25-26
11 am, 2 pm, 4 pm
The . A lonely fisherman captures an enchanted fish one day. As a favor for letting him go, the fish grants the fisherman a wish. When the wish is granted, the trouble begins. How will it end? A valuable lesson is learned at the finish of the tale. Puppets and script by Benjamin Blake.

FROM GALE WARSHAWSKY:

Read to Me International Puppetry In Education
Workshop 06/18/09

Approximately 35 teachers participated in a hands-on puppetry in education workshop for pre school to third grade students, co-presented by Gale Warshawsky, Rotarian/Literacy Chair of the Rotary Club of Windward Oahu Sunrise, and Phyllis Gurlen, President of Pi Lambda Theta Hawaii

Chapter, at the Read to Me International Conference. Participants built 2 puppets: a cat puppet which was used in a story dramatization of Wanda Ga'g's Millions of Cats, and a box puppet which was used for several lesson ideas on phonemic awareness. The teachers also learned how to develop their students' multiple intelligences via the use of puppets, stories, and songs in this workshop. Rotarians from Windward Oahu Sunrise had cut out 100 cat puppet bodies and 100 box puppet bodies to prepare for this workshop. They also purchased small cereal boxes for the box puppet heads. The cereal was donated to Family Promise participants, and the teachers in this workshop used the empty boxes.

FROM LEE ARMSTRONG:

The \$25 Summer Series at Douglas and Sturgess!
We feel your pain in this economy and are offering a series of classes to be held every Wednesday evening from June 17th through September 2nd from 6 to 9 PM in our classroom at our Richmond facility. These should prove to be fun forums for discussing various topics and exchanging ideas. Cost for each of these will be \$25 and will generally include some free materials and media discussing the topic of the evening. The class topics will be as follows:

July 8th-Cold Metal Casting Using Resin and Atomized Metal Powders
July 15th-Using Drystone, Tufstone and Other Enhanced Gypsum Cements for Casting Art Forms
July 22nd-Basics of Body Casting
July 29th-Using Epoxy Coating Compound to Create Laminated Images on Various Surfaces
August 5th-For When the Lights Go Out-Making a Basic Container Candle Using Simple Jars and Glasses
August 12th-Resin Casting Using Insta-Cast and Filled Polyester Resin
August 19th-Cold Metal Casting Using Resin and Atomized Metal Powders
August 26th-Using Low Temperature Thermoplastics to Create Sculptural Elements and Theatrical Props and Masks
September 2nd-To Be Announced
We hope to see you here soon!

GUILD MEETING, NATIONAL DAY OF PUPPETRY, & ELECTION NEWS

Election Results are in and there were no upsets or unexpected results. All of the candidates were incumbents running for re-election and all were re-elected. If this does not look like a democracy, it is because YOU did not come forward to run for the board. The good news is this is still a membership organization and you can be active in the guild governance whether you are on the board or not. The current board is a very easy going group and would welcome your input and participation in guild activities and new ideas and directions, especially when you provide the person-power to move them forward. In any case, re-elected to the board were Michael Nelson, Valerie Nelson and Sharon Clay. Big Thank You to our nominating committee of Padmini Sökkappa, Elisheva Hart, and Tia Smirnoff.

Another Big Thanks to Randal Metz for organizing the guild's celebration of the National Day of Puppetry, June 27 at the San Leandro Library. Randal and all his volunteers set up an exhibit, held workshops, and performances for the public. Unfortunately all of the newspapers seemed to have chosen to ignore the press releases and calendar listings sent out by the library, so turnout for this free puppet event was lower than anticipated (but by all accounts not terrible, just low.)

The Day was followed by another delicious guild potluck (although due to the all day nature of the event, there was more store bought food than usual) and a quick member meeting with the following highlight:

Guild librarian and board member Lee Armstrong received the President's Award for Outstanding Service at the meeting. Lee has been a long member of the guild, and has served in many capacities in the guild, including president. The current president chose to recognize Lee for her perpetual willingness to take on whatever task is asked of her, and for completing it in a timely and effective manner on her own. President Nelson says, "When Lee agrees to do something, it is a done deal. I don't need to think about it any more as I know she will do it and do it well." Aside from being librarian and board member, Lee is chair of the future meetings committee. Since she has been active on the committee our average meeting attendance has easily tripled, and meeting programs have been outstanding. Congratulations to Lee and a heartfelt thanks for all of the wonderful service you have provided the guild.

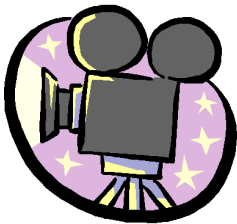
After the guild meeting, Jesse Vail MC-ed (and had organized) what was billed as the first guild open mic. Whether or not this was actually the first, it definitely had to have been one of the best, as guild performers took to the stage to present short acts. A member of the public confided afterwards that she was surprised that an open mic would have such consistently good quality acts. Opening the evening was Jacques van der Water performed a charming wordless three pigs (all anyone in the show said was "Blah") followed by a "Mambo Italiano" song and dance routine by an elegantly dressed and fun moving rod puppet. Next came Independent Eye with another of their skits that demonstrated the very high theatrical quality combined with decades of working together that we have come to expect from this very talented couple. Next came yours truly on the walkabout stage, trying out some contemporary news satire. After that was Ernie Fosselius who delighted us with a collection of American Idles, where are they now, including a singing and instrument playing group of recent politicians and ending with a horned Dick Cheney playing the Jimi Hendrix/Woodstock National Anthem on the electric guitar with a long diabolical tongue that slithered out and red lit up eyes. Then S.B. Parks, who had introduced herself to the guild at the meeting as a newcomer who had graduated from the U. Conn Puppetry program, did a wonderfully choreographed scarf marionette dance, excellently manipulated and danced to a piece of music that she had created on the computer. Finishing the program was Randal Metz who transformed himself into a puppet wizard and did a magic act which is a usual prelude to the puppet show "The Sorcerer's Apprentice."

July 2009

Special tear-out calendar! See Calendar listings for details on events. When an event has multiple shows on one date at the same venue only the first time is listed.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook Theater Fisherman & His Wife 2:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Tale of the Dragon's Tail
5	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Tale of the Dragon's Tail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Puppet Art Theater Tale of the Dragon's Tail 6:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Tale of the Dragon's Tail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Tale of the Dragon's Tail 7:00 PM Magical Moonshine Fox and Condor 	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Storybook Theater Fisherman & His Wife
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook Theater Fisherman & His Wife 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Tale of the Dragon's Tail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Tommy's Pirate Adventure 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Puppet Art Theater Boy Who Cried Wolf 11:00 AM Storybook Theater Fisherman & His Wife
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook Theater Fisherman & His Wife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:30 PM Puppet Art Theater Tommy's Pirate Adventure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Magical Moonshine Puppet 2:00 PM Magical Moonshine Recyclers 2:30 PM Puppet Art Theater Jack and the 3:00 PM Puppet Art 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Puppet Art Theater Boy Who Cried Wolf 1:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Boy Who 2:30 PM Puppet Art Theater Boy Who 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Puppet Art Theater TBA 11:00 AM Storybook Theater Fisherman & His Wife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Puppet Art Theater TBA
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook Theater Fisherman & His Wife 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook Theater Fisherman & His Wife 	

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



Film Night Photos

*Ernie and
Condi Rice
Puppet*



*Ernie poses with
Wookiee Monster and
Artie Deco, original cast
from the cult classic
"Hardware Wars"*



*Robin Stevens
shares his film
work with audience
members at the
Guild Film Night
June 6.*

