



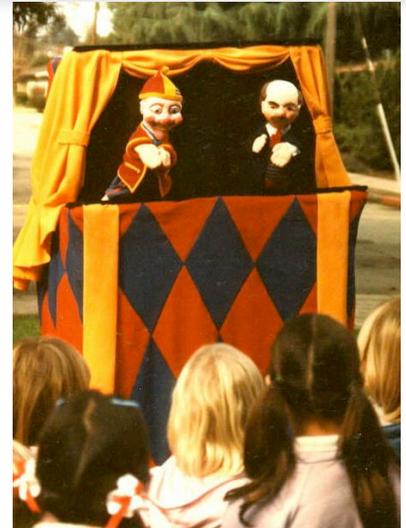
The official newsletter of
San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild
Looking for updates and missed information?
Check for it at SFBAPG.ORG

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

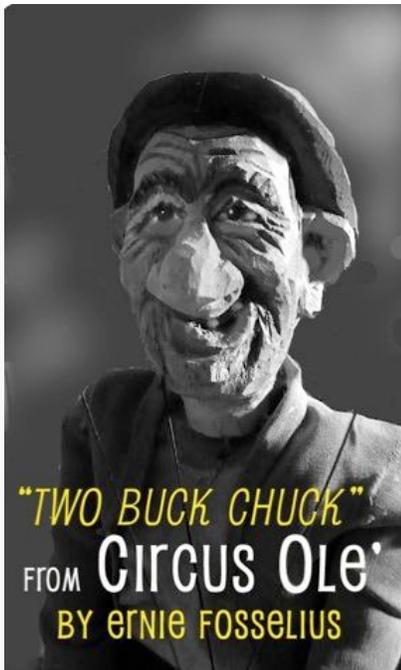
January 2010



*Goldilocks and the Three
Sharks by Puppet Art
Theater*



*The Puppet Man
by Magical
Moonshine
Theater*



*Get Ready For the
Holiday Party!*



**Warren Peace
Ace Poet**

In this issue:

- Holiday Meeting
- Reviews and News
- Class Announcement
- Equipment Review
- Scholarly Paper on Sock Puppet Creches
- Calendar
- And Much More!

JANUARY MEETING AND HOLIDAY PARTY!

GUILD JANUARY HOLIDAY PARTY

Sat., Jan 30 5-9 pm

Christ Presbyterian Church, 620 Del Ganado Road, San Rafael

Mark your calendars for this Guild traditional celebration of the Holidays and New Year, featuring “Goldilocks and the 3 Sharks” by Puppet Art Theater & Shorts by Special Guests: Magical Moonshine Theater, Eli Nash, Ernie Fosselius, and Brian Narelle. Holiday Potluck Supper, Gift Exchange, and More!

TENATIVE SCHEDULE (NOT STRICTLY KEPT TO, AFTER ALL IT’S A PARTY!)

- 4-5 Adopt a table & trim the room (Volunteers welcome, contact Valerie Nelson)
- 5-7 Guild Welcome and Vignettes from Circus Ole by Ernie Fosselius
Social & Gift Exchange, Short Guild meeting & announcements, Potluck Supper
- 7-9 Performances & Party

INFORMATION ON PERFORMANCES

“Goldilocks and the 3 Sharks” by Puppet Art Theater

Puppeteers: Art Grueneberger & Rachael Malin

Using the magic of blacklight, Puppet Art Theater transports the audience deep into an ocean environment where they join Goldilocks the Mermaid under the sea as she looks for adventure and finds nothing but trouble. Fish hooks, crazy clams, silly sea horses, giant octopus, and a family of man-eating sharks! Will Goldilocks escape? Will she stop looking for adventure and go back to school? Find out in "Goldilocks and the Three Sharks."

Under the artistic direction of Art Grueneberger, Puppet Art Theater Company performs hundreds of live performances for family audiences every year. Their shows tour to theaters, festivals, and public events all over California. With a keen sense of humor and a flair for drama, Grueneberger is a master at developing marvelous puppet shows that delight audiences of all ages. The company also builds and tours fantastic educational shows for government agencies, corporations and other organizations that deliver important educational messages to elementary school students. <http://www.puppetarts.com/>

Magical Moonshine Theater presents Vignettes from “Christmas Capers”

Fun for the whole family, as Magical Moonshine Theater performs Christmas pieces, playfully presented in a walkaround stage. For hundreds of years puppet entertainers have roamed the streets in countries all over the world. They have sought to delight, amuse, reform their audiences, as well as earn their keep in society. Traditional puppet characters such as England's Punch and Judy, Germany's Kasperl, and France's Guignol all evolved from humble folk origins, nurtured by these street performers. In The Puppet Man, MMT's Michael Nelson creates his own version of traditional European street theatre.

Eli Nash presents his new short “The Very Sleepy Boy”

Ernie Fosselius presents vignettes from CIRCUS OLE’, a raucous and warped street version of Cirque with strange 12” carved wooden rod marionettes.

“I’ve been carving caricatures and making puppets since they first let me have a knife. For a large part of my life, whittling took a back seat to doing animation (Sesame Street, seasons 1-3) screenwriting, working as a sound editor, voice actor and other film related jobs But my true love was making satirical short films like Hardware Wars, (which is available along with several other short films of mine at hardwarewarsdvd.com - shameless self-promotion!) But now that I am an official cult movie Has-Been, I can get back to more fulfilling

creative work. Like whittling puppets, and writing and performing satirical pieces. The latest one-person shows I have put together, are all designed for small, intimate spaces - like your coffee table, and are available for immediate booking! (but not all at the same time). Other shows besides Circus Ole' include P'Fessor Fossil's Fantastical Flea Follies, a classic-style but slightly twisted flea circus, with invisible puppets and a comically bungling Flea Tamer (PETA approved), and Time Warp Theater, which features the appearance of Nostradamus himself speaking live and direct from 500 years ago, finally clearing the air on such subjects as "2012". Contact me at erniefossil@juno.com I hope all your Holidays were Happy!

Brian Narelle presents "THE HAFIZ AND THE HAZIF NOT", Being the Poetry of Warren Peace
Canine poet Warren Peace and his pet human Brian Narelle will bring some flea bitten wisdom to bear and share some of Warren's dog-centric poetry with the two-legged world.

Brian Narelle: Years ago, while writing and animating for Sesame Street, Narelle slid his right hand into Cookie Monster while visiting the set in New York. That was it. After one more animated feature he jumped into puppetry with both feet, creating several dozen award-winning children's film series featuring puppet characters including Sooper Puppy and What Tadoo. Following that he co-starred in Discovery's TV series Bingo & Molly in the role of one of the title rabbits. In recent years Narelle has become a dog owner - the kind with fake fur. As it turns out, Warren Peace is a canine poet of growing renown currently working on his first book. Besides his infamous canine sidekick Narelle is known for starring in the sci-fi cult film Dark Star and creating the original San Diego Chicken. He teaches cartooning at the Charles M. Schulz Museum in Santa Rosa, California. www.briannarelle.com

Plus Shorts from Special Guests

POTLUCK SUPPER

Please your favorite dish to share with others. Appetizers for the Social and Main courses are always appreciated. Microwave and refrigerator available. Dinnerware will be provided.

ADOPT A TABLE & TRIM THE ROOM

Individuals and companies are invited to adopt a dining table. Bring in any coverings and decorations to make it a wonderful table to dine at. There will be prizes for participation, but the greatest prize of all is knowing that you're lending your artistry to make the holiday party festive! To adopt a table, contact Valerie Nelson at 707 363-4573, mail@magicalmoonshine.org. Also, holiday decorations for the room will be greatly appreciated. Doors open at 4:00, so bring in some decorations (no nails please) to trim the room. At the end you just take your decorations down and take them home.

GIFT EXCHANGE

If you wish to participate in the exchange, bring a puppet related, wrapped gift to add to the pile (in the past, \$10.00 approximate value has been suggested.) All who bring a gift will receive one.

PUPPET DISPLAY

Do you have a puppet that you've made, that you'd like to display? A table will be provided for an informal puppet exhibit, so bring your puppet (on a stand, if needed) and share your puppet(s) with others.

GUILD LIBRARY

The Guild library has hundreds of books covering a variety of topics. Books & DVD's will be available for checkout at the meeting, to people that have been members for at least 6 months. Are you looking for books or DVD on a particular topic? Contact the Guild Librarian, Lee Armstrong, [images\(at\)vom.com](mailto:images(at)vom.com), 707 738-5906. She can email you a book list and/or can bring related books to next meeting.

Directions to the party are on the last page of this newsletter or can be found at:

<http://cpcterralinda.org/directions.htm>

REVIEWS AND NEWS

ZANZIBAR FAIRYTALE PUPPET THEATER CINDERELLA

by Eli Nash

Uptown Body and Fender shop does not look or seem in any way to be the kind of place you would expect to find a puppet show, but, for the month of December, this ordinary auto shop became the home of Zanzibar Fairytale Puppet Theater's performance of Cinderella. The story was told with beautiful rod puppets dressed in unbelievably elaborate and detailed costumes. The wicked stepsisters made their debut in hats that were exploding with feathers and then left for the ball adorned with more feathers and bright colors screeching at each other the whole time. I was expecting the usual story of Cinderella that we are all familiar with, but I was surprised to see some changes to the plot that worked extremely well. I would have preferred a few less flashing lights and glittery explosions, but I really can't complain. The puppets were masterfully handled and each one showed life that is unusual for stiff rod puppets. The show was staged very well with suitable and beautiful sets, and the puppets interacted with each other very well, each taking an appropriate position on the stage. Zanzibar Theater's Cinderella showed wonderfully made and well handled rod puppets in a performance that left me very impressed.

AURÉLIA'S ORATORIO AT BERKELEY REP.

by Michael Nelson

Aurélia's Oratorio is currently playing at Berkeley Rep through January 24. In the 70 minute Cirque Nouveau piece of theatre, physical actress Aurélia Thierrée uses puppets, pantomime, dance, object theatre, and acrobatics to create a topsy turvy, upside-down world. There is no story, but rather we watch Aurélia wend her way through a variety of strange scenarios where the audience discovers, along with our heroine, a world gone inside out, including smoking hot ice cream, taxi cabs where the passenger sits upside down, and a world where, when you throw a prop off stage left, it flies back on stage right. In spite of the lovely main character, a great supporting male dancer, and a variety of animated puppets and costumes, I must admit my favorite character was the marvelous and luminous red velvet curtain that had a life of its own, changing, transforming, becoming a climbing apparatus, meeting other parts of itself apparently for the first time, and swallowing or expelling characters much to the surprise of the audience. Puppets played a big part in the play. One scene used a black theatre technique behind lace fabric (all of the fabric in the show was sumptuous and plentiful)...the white lace gave a kind of snowy effect and then giant white puppets that looked like they were inspired by Javanese shadow figures and possibly Norse gods, moved around the actress, also dressed in white, and at one point even picked her up and carried her. A mischievous puppet pulled a yarn on the actress's leg and unraveled her entire leg, almost as though undoing a knitted scarf with a missed stitch. Aurélia then has to knit her leg back before she can walk again. In another puppet scene a group of hand puppets appears to accost and then beat the actress down, a la Punch and Judy. Later one of the puppets hangs himself, perhaps in remorse (there were a number of "skits" where this reviewer felt unsure as to exactly what was happening and why.) Another puppet animates the prone actress's dead or unconscious body, riding it off stage as though it was a mechanical vehicle rather than a body...a quite wonderful effect, even to the point of the woman's hair getting caught on the stage and the puppet having to free it up before the "vehicle" will continue. In another favorite puppet-like bit, a coat has quite a physical fight with a male (human) character and ends up on top of the prone human, slamming the human's head repeatedly against the stage. The audience knows it is all done by the actor/manipulator but it sure looks like the coat is knocking the stuffing out of the poor guy. Aurélia Thierrée is the granddaughter of

Charlie Chaplin and the show is written and directed by her mother, Victoria Thierrée Chaplin, who, along with her husband Jean Baptiste Thierrée, created Cirque Bonjour, Cirque Imaginaire and Cirque Invisible, innovative troupes that inspired Cirque du Soleil. The show is a delight to watch and very clever. My only complaint with the program was its lack of emotional content, as I tend to look for emotional involvement in theatre, but not all theatre seeks to provide that. The SF Chronicle calls it: "A whimsical feat for all...Part nouvelle circus, part vaudeville of illusions, part fantastical free association...The moment [Aurélia] makes her first appearance—one possibly disconnected hand, foot or leg at a time—she has the audience at her intricately inventive mercy...Oratorio is packed with enough delights for a show twice as long..." Berkeley Rep has shown themselves to be a regular supporter of puppetry integrated in legitimate theatre, and this is another example of puppetry in theatre that is well worth seeing.

STARTING ANEW

by Conrad Bishop

Since I've put a push on Guild members to contribute articles to the newsletter, I guess I need to put my mouth where my muttering is and offer something of my own. For a span of 50 weeks, I posted a weekly blog entry about the evolution of our Tempest. Now, after resting it a couple of months, I'm starting up again, this time focused more on puppetry in general as well as immediate work. So here's the first, to begin the New Year. You can follow subsequent weeks at <http://www.independenteye.org/news/index.html>. *** Life with Puppets #1

It's been two and a half months since my last post on The Tempest, toward the end of a very good run in Sebastopol. After that non-stop obsession and the intensity of the final months, we needed a long, long rest. Elizabeth flew to Italy in the final weeks to visit our daughter and other friends; I finished the performances and took a week off to drive to L.A., do a voice-over, and visit friends and museums.

And then got busy again. The Tempest isn't done. We're preparing a condensed show to tour to area high schools, with funding from an NEA grant; and that involves text work, revised set, lighting and music, and re-conception of various elements to make things more tour-able.

And I've become further obsessed, in my latter years, with preservation of artifacts from this ephemeral creative work in the form of video. No, it's not the same, but it's better than nothing. So I'm slowly working to master at least the rudiments. The result has been two months of solid work on a Tempest dvd, editing from the 36 hours of in-performance video. It's turned out pretty decent, and we're starting to distribute.

But the major task has been to try to get traction to start the next slow climb up the mountain. We've already targeted the mountain and have a seed grant from the Henson Foundation, so there's no turning back. Over the years, starting with Cub Scouts, I've perfected the technique of trapping myself in obligation as a means of forcing myself to do it. It works.

The project is Frankenstein. In 1998, we adapted it as a heavily-physical piece for three gifted clowns, staying close to Mary Shelley's novel. To my mind, it was one of our best works ever. So why risk it again?

First, I guess I share Victor Frankenstein's urge: to give it life. Second, to see how our view of this strange modern myth has evolved over the past 12 years of our own history and the world's. And third, to see how it translates to the new medium of puppetry.

So that's what I'll be writing about, along with what we hope will be a continued evolution of The Tempest and some smaller projects in gestation. Look for an entry every week: Monday if I'm faithful, a day or so late otherwise.

May all your puppets be sturdy and light, and your days as well.

Peace & joy-

STEVE MELTZER(MARCH 4, 1953-NOV 30-2009) CELEBRATION OF LIFE

From: Alan Cook

Sunday, March 13, a Celebration of Steve Meltzer's life was held in the Bob Baker Marionette Theater.

We were given the opportunity to fill many gaps in our knowledge of Steve's life before we met him. His father, Jack Meltzer was 34 when he married Sylvia, age 19. Jack ran a vintage record store in New York City called Merit Music Shop, and when Jack retired and closed the store, Jack received numerous letters from a wide range of celebrities. Apparently that store had a major influence on Steve's interest in music. The store's old window sign was a favored possession of Steve, displayed at his theater.

Steve lived in New York as a boy,, doing hand puppet shows with friends using commercial puppets. He graduated from Earlham College in Indiana in 1975, once owned an adobe house in Albuquerque, New Mexico, appeared on a number of TV Quiz shows including the "\$25,000 Pyramid" with Soupy Sales. In Southern California he did further studies in Theater, taught in grade schools, and in the 1980s rekindled his early interest in puppetry. He ran his own puppet theater in Santa Monica, California for twelve years, where he was known for his one-man vaudeville shows in which he sang, played guitar and performed with hand puppets, marionettes and ventriloquial puppets. At his Santa Monica Puppetry Center he displayed a collection of Pelham toy marionettes from England (including an over-lifesized Clown which had required much restoration work, and an elaborate Pelham animated window display unit of many different characters). There were other toy puppets of note as well. He was very proud to own such treasures. A collection of vent figures and marionettes were also featured.

He invited Paul Winchell to talk before a large audience in Santa Monica about his extensive career in Ventriloquism, and Paul ended up doing a short act with a replica Jerry Mahoney figure---which turned out to be Paul's last performance.

He was delighted to puppeteer for "Team America", the elaborate marionette film production. He rented a number of toy puppets for set decor for NBC's TV series "Heroes" in 2008.

A number of well-known puppeteers and vents reminisced and/or performed from Steve's Puppetry Center stage including Tony Urbano, Huber Marionettes, Chuck McCann, and Jay Johnson.

In October 2008, Steve presented his Santa Monica Puppetry Festival. A wide spectrum of events was offered, from a screening of the 1930's Fox film, " I am Suzanne" (with puppets by Teatro Dei Piccoli and the Yale Puppeteers), to performances by Doug Seymore 's Marionettes, and an appearance by Leslie Caron (who played "Lili" in the famed 1953 MGM musical with hand puppets created by Walton & O'Rourke.

Steve was proud to serve the Los Angeles Guild of Puppetry as President, and the Puppeteers of America as a Member of their Board of Trustees.

FROM EMILY BUTTERFLY:

My puppet crew: The Big Tadoo Puppet Crew is finishing up our autumn tour through Alameda County Elementary schools. We will be back on tour from mid January through the end of March with "A Breath Of Fresh Air, The Walk And Roll Solution." This show has touched the minds, hearts and souls of 30,000 kids, inspiring walking and biking to school.

I have been rehearsing this month with the Zanzibar Puppet Company on a production of Cinderella. The show runs from November 28th thru December 27th. In January I will begin working with a children's theater company: Vaudevillians Stage Troupe. It is an honor to be welcomed into this new and growing theater group of 5-16 year olds! And I am super stoked to be working on a stage production based on the album "FREE TO BE YOU AND ME."

Also- If you have kids who might be interested in enrolling for theater classes,check out the website info@vaudevilliansstagetroupe.com

LEARN MUPPET-STYLE PUPPETRY

Emmy Award-winning puppeteer, Michael Earl (formerly Mr. Snuffleupagus on Sesame Street), will be teaching a Muppet-style puppetry workshop in the Bay Area on Saturday April 3rd, 2010 from 10AM-5PM. Over the past 22 years, Mr. Earl has taught and/or mentored the who's who of TV and film puppet performers. Now it's your turn! You will expand your acting and improv skills by learning a proven technique in this all day on-camera class. Behind-the-scenes Muppet stories and secrets, career tips, and much more! The fee is \$275 for this intensive yet fun all day workshop. Space is limited to 8. To learn more or to reserve your spot, please visit www.teachingtour.com.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Friends-

I expect some of you are pretty exhausted from three shows a day during the Holidays; others are just exhausted by the Holidays. But that's why they invented the New Year: to recover from the old one.

Several things happening. First, of course, SFBAPG's Holiday Party, with a great line-up of casseroles and puppeteers. Read about it here, and if you have friends who are lapsed members, or might be members, or rarely-attending members, lean on-'em to come. We're later than usual this year because of scheduling considerations, but that should give us time to recover from those other holidays.

The Guild website is partly revised: you can see where we are thus far. Still some major sections to get into operation and a bunch of little adjustments, but we're moving ahead. We welcome feedback.

Wearing another hat, as new Regional Director of the SW Pacific region of Puppeteers of America, I'm slowly learning the ropes, though frankly, the ropes are a bit frayed. My immediate goal is to get the Regional scholarship fund operating in time for the Northwest festival in Seattle at the end of July (<http://www.puppet-o-rama.org>). Keep in mind that SFBAPG also offers scholarships to attend festivals. More about that before long.

Finally, a reminder that we welcome both articles and short news blips for the newsletter. What have you been doing or seeing or thinking about that your fellow travelers might enjoy? Yes, we're all incredibly busy, but it can be enormously energizing to break that rhythm once in a while and do something just for the hell of it. Give it a shot.

Peace & joy-
Conrad Bishop
SFBAPG President



wait! weren't we supposed to have flying cars and jet packs by 2010?! I'm never going to make it to the Holiday party at this rate!

2008-2009 SFBAPG

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CALENDAR

STORYBOOK PUPPET THEATER

Children's Fairyland
Oakland, CA
www.fairyland.org

Jan. 2-3, 9-10, 23-24, 30-31
11 am, 2 pm, 4 pm

The Frog Prince.

Princess Gwendolyn is the sweetest princess in the countryside, until the evil Mizard the Wizard puts a "badness" spell on her. Now she's bratty, selfish and pouty. When her heroic prince is turned into a frog, the fun begins. Enjoyment for the whole kingdom! Puppets by Lewis Mahlmann adapted by Lewis Mahlmann.

NICK BARONE PUPPETS

www.puppetbuilder.com

Jan. 24
11:00 am

The Princess Mermaid

Cheeky Monkey Toys
640 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, CA

PUPPET ART THEATER

www.puppetarts.com

Jan. 2
1:30 pm
The Boy Who Cried Wolf
Carmel Library

Jan. 7
2 pm
Tale of the Dragon's Tail
Dixon Library

Jan. 12
7 pm
Three Billy Goats Gruff
Woodside Library
Dad and Me at the Library

Jan. 22
Times TBA
AquaSMART Live
The Sportsman's Expo
Cal Expo, Sacramento

Jan. 23
Times TBA
AquaSMART Live
The Sportsman's Expo
Cal Expo, Sacramento

2 pm
Three Billy Goats Gruff
Grand Ave Library So. San Francisco

Dad and Me at the Library

Jan. 24
Times TBA
AquaSMART Live
The Sportsman's Expo
Cal Expo, Sacramento

Jan. 30
6 pm
Goldilocks and the Three Sharks
San Francisco Bay Area Puppetry Guild

Saturday, January 16th

Little Blue Moon Theatre
magicalmoonshine@gmail.com
www.oakbarbies.com

OAK Barbies
310 Georgia Street, Vallejo

2:00 pm-6:00 pm Sparkling Cider Reception
Free of charge, everybody welcome - celebrate the new OAK Barbies gallery, shop, and studio space.

6:30 pm-8:00 pm Barbie Diaries Puppet Theater Show
\$20 admission, must be over 18 years of age. The lives of dolls take on new meaning as we delve into Barbie's recent life through her own writings. The diary excerpts selected focus on the period after her now famous split with Ken, and include her marginally triumphant emergence from a mindless stint at a Salvation Army shelter, to her attempts to rebuild her life and even reenter the dating scene after a relationship that inexplicably failed after 43 years. Ultimately Barbie realizes her deep need to be completely controlled, and how it has shaped her life. Giving Bridget Jones a run for her money, Barbies diaries offer an intimate view from a dolls perspective, humorous, yet with more depth than you might expect from a blond, plastic, fashion icon. From 6:30-8 pm and a steal at only \$20 a ticket. Attendees must be at least 18 years of age. To buy tickets in advance email LaVonne at lavonne@oakbarbies.com or call 707.644.OOAK

EQUIPMENT REVIEW

Nick Barone
I've got something that traveling performers might be interested in. Mid-summer when my Fender power supply stopped working, I bought a Wagan 400-Watt Power Dome and I've been very happy with it. It is a portable, rechargeable power supply with two grounded outlets for plugging in a sound system, lights or whatever. It's basically a giant rechargeable battery, so it's silent, which is great since some places don't allow noisy gas-powered generators. I charged it when I first got it and I've since used it for about a half-dozen shows without recharging. Best of all, it has a power level indicator so you always know if you have enough power for one more show before a recharge. Amazon is selling the Wagan Power Dome for \$189.25 plus shipping, but walked into Fry's Electronics and picked one up for \$89.99.



The Sock Monkey Nativity Crèche Tableau And its Socio-Religious Implications Via the Perspective of Historical Context as Viewed Through the Lens of the Neo-Modernist Puppetry Movement: A Replication of the Earliest Known Example

By Karen Lewis, 2009 Honoree at the annual Cultural Obscurities Foundation Spaghetti Dinner

Dedicated as I have been, during the course of my extensive puppetology career (Nov.1 – Nov.13, 2009) to the truth and accuracy of unearthing the ancient meaning and purpose of pre-strung marionettes, and the chthonic movement of the precursors to hand-manipulated puppets (or “poppets”), this research paper will prove, I believe, conclusively, (although Dr. Mather in his article “Cotton Spinners of Ancient Sumer” refutes this determination) the use of woolen, propped poppets (or “poopets”) in pre-Christian neo-natal crèches was as religiously important, as seen from an historical perspective, as its socio-economic status, evinced during the 1933 WPA supported small theater movement, in particular McPharlin’s “Footwear Parade”. Additionally, my scientifically accurate re-creation of an original sock “poppet” crèche tableau in the accompanying photo (constructed upon a cardboard science fair triptych for scientific accuracy) will shed light on the underlying, and as heretofore invisible, semeiotic nuances of the original folk artisans of the Post-Effluvial Period in their skilled construction of primate-shaped dung pies.

Historically, the Early Sumerian Ritual clay figures of the Madonna (although “Madonna” as a modern concept was yet eclipsed until the unprecedented, and unparalleled image making of Louise Veronica Ciccone), first discovered in the high mountains of Persia, where “Haplorrhini” – i.e. monkey people, or those whose family altars featured brown monkeys with red butts, led to a combination iconography with regard to the figures of monkey gods and those of the Adoring -though-sometimes-scolding Mother Archetype and the Patient-when-not-pissed Pater Familias or “Monkey Joseph”.

The outward architecture of the poppet was spawned from deeply religious manifestations, that is - combined neo-paganism and ancient monkey god worship, plus, and this must in no way be underestimated, (although Dr. Scholl, in his article on Ancient Sumerian Arch Supports, disagrees) the influences of cold temperatures that established sheep husbandry, wool gathering, and popsicle stick handicrafts.

Disinterred relics from Ancient Sumer baffled archeologist for millennia. Some modern fringe elements believe them to be replicas of either sacred household gods or Ancient Alien Visitors in UFOs. However, a more logical conclusion seems to be, at least according to Dr. Urdu Farsi-Digger, that these iconic figures were made out of readily available materials, which turned out to be wool socks with red toes.

The original Christian nativity tableaux, which were also crudely fashioned from materials-on-hand, have been cited as “in use” from as early as 0.5 A.D. My own historically correct folk art sample is a recreation of a yet earlier crèche, illustrating both the “Too Early” theory of F. Flintstone Ph.D. and the “Too Late” theory of Rene Nostradamus, who in 1509 prognosticated that “The crèche will be honored 500 years hence at this time of year – the 25th day of the last month”... [meaning December, according to The Porcinis, a family of Italian artisans featured in a 2009 Lillian Vernon Christmas Catalog.] “...and will be made of humble materials by common folk with access to googlie eyes.” (C.F. Edgar Cayce’s, Oracle of the Sock Kicker, p.1511)

So in summation, I conclude that my research reveals that what is required to offset the darkest day of the year is an abundance of gold, frankincense and MIRTH. May you harvest them all in excess, except maybe the frankincense. - KL

Sock Clad Footnotes and Seimiotic Identifications (see Fig. 1) are listed as follows:

- 1) Coconuts falling from coconut palm – i.e. the antecedent to the highly popularized “chestnuts roasting on an open fire.” Please note, as was traditionally required of sock monkey crèche makers: no pedestrians were harmed (at least in the rendering) by the falling fruit.
- 2) Planet Saturn, Or UFO?? (Upper Left Corner/Triptych) See above note on Ancient Visitors.
- 3) The superimposition of an Audubon Christmas tree, trimmed with birds, symbols of heavenly spirituality (Christmas card catalog ct-2650 \$8.95), is a modern day translation of a popular anachronistic pagan practice of the ancient local common sheep herders, such as adding St. John Deere Tractors to their triptychs denoting their earthly derived “making things a helluva lot easier” spirituality. Likewise, the TV Antenna; denoting the earth-plane communication system version of “Star of Wonder.”
- 4) Cow (In window behind sock monkey figures.) Symbolic rendition of Mad Cow Disease, hidden from photographic view, to prevent mass hysteria
- 5) Sheep (disguised as an Old English Sheep Dog): Symbol of where sock monkeys come from in the first place.

Notes on Assemblage:

- a) Tin Foil “Star of Wonder” – Due to AIG bailout, no 14 karat gold leaf is currently available; the “Star of Wonder” icon, along with various sky generated units, such as snowflakes, stars and the Crescent Moon and UFOs, were hand scissor-cut with historical accuracy, in 11 karat aluminum foil following the seminal modus operandi of scherenschnitte (or Edward Scissorhands.)
- b) Crèche Hay: The DNA of this hay, retrieved from a wet field in Winters (CA), matches within a 10 chromosomal differential, the Sumerian hay found in the mountains of Persia, a sample of which had been stored for 100 years in the DNA vaults at UC Davis.
- c) Haloos: sparkeldy pipe cleaners
- d) Due to the unavailability of actual gold, frankincense, and myrrh, or even myrrh-lite, the Wise Men’s gifts are represented by repurposed UNICEF junk mail.



January 2010

Special tear-out calendar! See Calendar listings for details on events.
Due to space limitations, not all times or show titles are listed here.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Three Billy Goats Gruff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Tale of the Dragon's Tail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 1:30 PM Puppet Art Theater The Boy Who Cried Wolf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 1:30 PM Puppet Art Theater The Boy Who Cried Wolf
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Three Billy Goats Gruff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Tale of the Dragon's Tail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Three Billy Goats Gruff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Tale of the Dragon's Tail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Three Billy Goats Gruff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Tale of the Dragon's Tail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 11:00 AM Nick Barone The Princess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 11:00 AM Nick Barone The Princess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Three Billy Goats Gruff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Tale of the Dragon's Tail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 5:00 PM Holiday Meeting!!!
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Three Billy Goats Gruff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Puppet Art Theater Tale of the Dragon's Tail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Storybook The Frog Prince 5:00 PM Holiday Meeting!!!


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

Directions to the Holiday Party

Christ Presbyterian Church, 620 Del Ganado Road, San Rafael.

The church is in Terra Linda, a suburb at the north end of town.
<http://cpcterralinda.org/directions.htm>. As always, check your maps.

Traveling From San Francisco and South
101 N to Terra Linda, 0.2 mi.
Merge onto Manuel Freitas Pkwy, 1.2 mi.
Turn right at Del Ganado Rd, 203 ft

Traveling from Santa Rosa and North
101 S to Terra Linda, 0.2 mi.
Merge onto Manuel Freitas Pkwy, .9 mi.
Turn right at Del Ganado Rd, 203 ft