

The official newsletter of

San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild Looking for updates and missed information?

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

May 2010



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JUNE MEETING

June Guild Meeting: Meet Steven Ritz-Barr - Writer-Producer / Art Director/ Puppeteer and the 1st San Francisco Bay Area Screening of "QUIXOTE".

Saturday, June 12 2010 6:30-9 pm. Screening at 7 pm. Academy of Art, 1st Floor screening room, 79 New Montgomery Street, S.F.

Steven will show "FOUND IN LA MANCHA-- the Making of Quixote" then "QUIXOTE" (total 55 min. of film), a Q & A following the screenings.

"Stunning. A brilliant achievement. Cervantes would have loved it." Howard Mancing, President Cervantes Society of America

QUIXOTE, based on the Cervantes novel has been screened at the Beverly Hills Film Festival, and screened at Purdue University and UCLA (Steven is a visiting Professor in the Animation department at UCLA).

Well known actor Michael York is the voice of Don Quixote. Other voice actors include, Gino Compagna as Sancho, Iliana Carter as the niece, Lynda Lester as the maid, our own Conrad Bishop as Maesa Pedro the Puppeteer, Brooks Elms as the Master Sheepherder, with Ritz-Barr as the beaten boy, Mike Simpson and Hoku Uchiyama as the 2 Merchants. The puppets were operated by Steven Ritz-Barr, Eugene Seregin, Leo Ritz-Barr (Son), and several other interns from the UCLA film department. All the puppets were designed and fabricated by puppet Master Eugene Seregin.

Steven Ritz-Barr first learned Puppetry Arts from Jean-Loup Temporal in Paris in 1980, while studying at L'Ecole Jacques LeCoq (movement/mime/theatre school). Jim Henson introduced him to film/video work in 1985 in the Puppet Institute in Charleville, France. Later, in Paris, he worked as puppeteer on many video television projects. Back in the USA in 1989, he puppeteered on Batman Returns, Men in Black, Alien Resurrection, Team America, and Muppets Tonight, to name a few. He also performed 2 original puppet shows for young audiences primarily in So. California since 1996-over 900 times. Presently he's focused 100% on his Classics in Miniature series.

Classics in Miniature is a series of stunning half-hour films based on great works of literature- using beautifully designed, one-of-a-kind puppets performing our most beloved heroes and characters. We present these timeless classics in the most entertaining and artistically creative way. Distributed to educational market (from age 12 through university) and to the general public, these unique films are for everyone - young and old, cynical and romantic. Steven's first film FAUST, based on Goethe's work, was launched in 2008 to great reviews and a UNIMA USA Citation of Excellence. More information at http://www.classicsinminiature.com.

Copies of the "Classics in Miniatures" QUIXOTE" and "FAUST" will be available at the meeting for 25% off -- \$15 for Guild Members (both together for \$25).

A social and brief Guild meeting will follow the screening.

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? The Guild Library list is at http://sfbapg.org/resources/. Contact the Guild Librarian, Lee Armstrong, sfbapglibrary@gmail.com, 707 738-5906. She can bring a particular book, or a variety of books on a certain subject (Puppet scripts, Stages, Puppets in the Classroom, etc.) to the next meeting.

REVIEWS AND NEWS

BAY AREA GIANT PUPPET COLLECTIVE TO MAKE MISS LIBERTY

This year the Bay Area Giant Puppet Collective (guild members Michael & Valerie Nelson coordinating) will add another giant to the collection, creating a 14 foot tall version of the Statue of Liberty. The giant, which will be featured in the Vallejo 4th of July parade although with the other giants from previous years, is planned to be surrounded by small "boats" of emigrants from various countries, passing under the torch of freedom held by Miss Liberty. (These will be costumed actors in human powered, street-boats that interact with the audience.) While the giant puppet workshop has yet to be located (last year it was in the ferry building on the Vallejo waterfront) work will begin soon. Anyone interested in helping with construction or performance of the giants should get on the email list (send your email address to magicalmoonshine@gmail.com). More information about the giant puppet collective, including photos and YouTubes, can be found at http://magicalmoonshine.org/giantpuppet.htm -Michael & Valerie Nelson

4-H PUPPETS CONTINUE TO GROW



The Alameda County 4-H Puppeteers performed last Saturday (April 10th) at the Sectional 4-H Presentation Day at U.C. Davis. The 4 members of the team performed 8 different puppets, including 2 marionettes, one lever action puppet and 5 foam

based puppets. They did a 4-H Variety Show. At this performance they were judged by 3 different judges and received another Gold Medal (the highest award they could receive). This means they qualified for the State 4-H Field Day, on May 29th at U.C. Davis. The Puppeteers are Tanaya Rensink (age 10 - a first year puppeteer), Megan Daniel, age 16, a 5th year puppeteer; Sean Daniel, age 19, a 5th yr. Puppeteer, and John Ruzicka, age 17, a 2nd year puppeteer and a member of the Guild. We want to extend a very hearty "Thank You" to Randal Metz who helped us with the lever action puppet that had some serious mechanical problems just the day before the County Presentation Day, and without his help we wouldn't have been able to perform.

Sharon Clay - Leader of the 4-H Puppetry Project.

INFO OVERLOAD

We have over 30 years worth of Puppetry Journals that need a new home. Just about every journal since the 1970s. So, if you are missing one, or need them all, please let us know. We also have some UNIMA journals. We are asking \$1 per journal and shipping if applicable. The money is used to support scholarships in Somoto, Nicaragua where our mother, Betty Stewart, started a sister city group with Merced. Contact bettyspuppets@yahoo.com or call Jo Weaser at 209-384-3007.

FREE OVERHEAD PROJECTORS

If you use or have thought of using an overhead projector for shadow or projection effects, you might want to check with your local school districts. Our local schools are all switching over to a different digital projection system and we were just given two free overhead projectors that a school wanted to get out of storage. For another in-class room workshop at a different school, they dug 8 unused overheads out of a closet for a shadow puppet project. They had not been used for several years, but all worked fine. It may be worth asking around if you are interested.

Michael & Valerie Nelson Magical Moonshine Theatre www.magicalmoonshine.org

SPECIAL GUILD ELECTION ISSUE

The guild board election will be held at the next SFBAPG meeting on June 12. The following three board members terms are expiring: Lee Armstrong, Talib Huff and Mary Decker. Lee is ready to step down, but Talib and Mary are running for reelection. In addition, we have two new candidates: Jesse Vail and Art Grueneberger. Yes, we're having a "real" election this year with four candidates for three positions. You can cast your vote at the meeting on June 12 or by mail (email or postal service). If voting by email, please list the three candidates you want to vote for. If voting by regular mail, return the ballot that's on the last page of the newsletter.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS:

Mary Decker has been a member of the San Francisco Guild since 1992. Leadership roles include: secretary; president; PR coordinator and store coordinator for the Day of Puppetry; email coordinator; bylaws committee chair; scholarship committee chair. From 1999 to 2007, Mary brought outside puppet troupes to the Bay Area and presented them at various venues, including the Marin Center, Cowell Theater, Exit Theater, Walnut Creek Center for the Performing Arts, and First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto. She has taken on various volunteer jobs with Puppeteers of America and is also a member of UNIMA. Currently she is a Board member for the International Puppetry Museum in Pasadena, CA. Mary loves the art of puppetry and thinks it deserves more respect and recognition in the U.S.

Jesse Vail has been a professional puppeteer since 1995 when he started his apprenticeship with Mr. Lewis Mahlmann of the Storybook Puppet Theatre in Oakland's Childrens Fairyland. In late 1997, he began his 7 year term as Coordinator of the Puppet Castle Theatre in San Jose's Happy Hollow Park and Zoo. There he worked to upgrade the theatre facility and produced many successful shows and one awful one... possibly two. In 2004, Jesse began work on his own puppet theatre company called Fool Moon Puppetry Arts. In addition to producing and performing his own shows, he works as puppeteer, prop master and consultant for various Bay Area companies including: The American Musical Theatre of San Jose, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Kaiser Permanente Educational Theatre Programs and Google.

Art Grueneberger earned a BA in Liberal Studies and Drama at CSU, Sacramento and an MFA in Theater Arts at University of California, Davis. He began his puppet career working with Sacramento Puppeteer Richard Bay. He formed Puppet Art Theater Co. in 1994 and began producing children's productions that have been seen by thousands of audiences across the United States. His shows have also toured internationally. He has directed productions for adults that have been seen at Here Theater in New York City, Zeum Theater in San Francisco and the Mondavi Center in Davis California. Grueneberger has also puppeteered for several film, television and video projects. Art is currently building his new children's show "Riley the Wiley Rabbit" thanks to a grant from the Puppeteers of America.

Talib Huff has been performing puppet shows with his wife, Olivia, for over 20 years. Touring across the United States and Northern Italy, they have performed in schools, libraries, Renaissance Faires and homes. Talib currently teaches 8th grade at the Camellia Waldorf School in Sacramento. He believes that puppetry, far from being a "lost art," is in a state of renaissance and that the San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild is both a source and participant in this process.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

The one with the long white hair, that is. Just a quick note to remind you that while the deadline is past for Guild scholarships to summer festivals, there's still time to apply for scholarships from the Southwest Pacific Region of Puppeteers of America. You need to be a P of A member to be eligible. Contact Christine Papalexis at lagopemail@aol.com if you're interested.

We want to start looking for a more-or-less regular place for our Guild meetings. It makes program planning difficult when we're hopping around the Bay from place to place. I'd like to put together a small Space Search Committee to do some looking, particularly in San Francisco, Oakland, or Berkeley, though other areas aren't ruled out. If you're interested and are yourself more or less centrally located, please email me at eye@independenteye.org.

I especially want to urge everyone to attend our June 12th meeting. First, because it includes the election of new Board members, and secondly because I think you'll find it immensely enjoyable. I've seen Steven Barr's films (in fact my voice is in one), and I think they're very special. Steven will be there, and he's very personable and articulate. His use of real-time marionettes in film recalls Bil Baird but has a uniqueness of its own - gorgeous sets and production values. And dvds will be on sale.

Elizabeth and I are headed up to Blue Lake, CA, (near Arcata) for a two-week teaching residency at the Dell'Arte school, and then back into work on two shows: DOOM, ETC. for October, FRANKENSTEIN for the coming April. We might have a few new puppets to show at the June meeting. Meantime, to abuse my presidential pulpit, I must mention that our TEMPEST dvd is on sale at our website, www.independenteye.org, but if you're sly you can freeload by checking it out of the Guild library along with our DESCENT OF INANNA. Contact Lee Armstrong and ask her to bring'em.

Peace & joy-Conrad 2009-2010 SFBAPG Board of Directors and Staff

BOARD

Lee Armstrong, Vice President, Librarian, Future Meetings 720 Ladera, Sonoma, CA 95474 707-996-9474 * images(at)vom.com

Conrad Bishop, President, Calendar Editor 502 Pleasant Hill Rd., Sebastapol, CA 95472 707-824-4307 * eye(at)independenteye.org

Sharon Clay, Secretary 925-462-4518 * sharonlclay(at)comcast.net

Mary Decker, E-mail Coordinator, Procedures C. 650-361-1310 * marydeck57(at)sbcglobal.net

Barbara Grillo 510-964-1513 * bgrillo(at)contracosta.edu

Talib Huff, Newsletter Editor 916-484-0606 * tahuff(at)dcn.org

Randal Metz 510-569-3144 * puppetcomp(at)yahoo.com

Valerie Nelson, Treasurer & Guild Roster Box 1258, Vallejo, CA 94590 707-363-4573 * mail(at) magicalmoonshine.org

Michael Nelson, Membership Officer, Box 1258, Vallejo, CA 94590 707-363-4573 * mail(at) magicalmoonshine.org

STAFF
Matt Baume, Webmaster
415-688-7679 * mattymatt(at)gmail.com



CALENDAR

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Storybook Puppet Theatre

Children's Fairyland, Oakland

May 15-16 11am & 2pm & 4pm "Perez and Mondinga"

It's fiesta time in Mexico. Mondinga, the cockroach, wants to marry and share her hacienda with someone special. Rooster, Pig and evil Cat all want to marry her, yet none is right. Finally she meets Perez the gentle mouse and marries him. This is the silly story of their meeting, marriage and mishaps, just in time for Cinco De Mayo! Ole'! Scenery & Puppets by Lewis Mahlmann

May 22-23, 29-30 11am & 2pm & 4pm "The Wind In The Willows"

The story by Kenneth Graham of Mr. Toad, Badger, Mole and Ratty comes to life at Fairyland. It's up to Mr. Toad's friends to save the day when he gets into trouble. Will it work out in the end? Come to Fairyland and see. Puppets and script by Randal Metz, with scenery by Lewis Mahlmann.



Nick Barone Puppets

May 23, 12:30 pm
"The Princess Mermaid"
San Carlos Hometown Days Festival
Kiwanis Building at Burton Park, 1017 Cedar Street, San
Carlos, CA



Puppet Art Theater

May 12-14 - 10:30am, 11:30am, and 12:30pm May 15-16 - 12:30pm, 1:30pm and 2:30pm "Hansel and Gretel" Fairytale Town, Sacramento

May 13, 4 pm
"Tommy's Splashy Pirate Adventure"
Belvedere/Tiburon Library

May 19-21 - 10:30am, 11:30am, and 12:30pm

May 22-23 - 12:30pm, 1:30pm and 2:30pm "Three Billy Goats Gruff" Fairytale Town, Sacramento

May 19 - 4 pm
"Goldilocks and the Three Sharks"
Arden Demmick Library, Sacramento

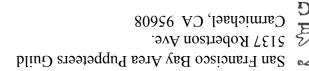
May 27 - 3:30 pm
"Goldilocks and the Three Sharks"
Lodi Library

May 26-28 - 10:30am, 11:30am, and 12:30pm May 29-30 - 12:30pm, 1:30pm and 2:30pm "Three Billy Goats Gruff" Fairytale Town, Sacramento

May 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 25	Monday 26	Tuesday 27	Wednesday 28	Thursday 29	
9	9 10	11	Puppet Art Hansel and Gretel	<u>.</u> ■ Ω	I3 Iretel 6:00 PM Puppet Art Tommy's Splashy Pirate Adventure
16 Puppet Art Hansel and Gretel	Gretel 17	18	8 19 Puppet Art Billy Goats Gruff	Gruff	20
■11:00 AM Storybook Perez and Mondinga			■6:00 PM Puppet Art Goldilocks and the Three Sharks		
Puppet Aroats Gruff = 11:00 AM The Wind in the Willows =6:00 PM Nick Barone Princess Mermaid	24	25	S Puppet Art Billy Goats Gruff = 6: GG	T Gruff	ruff 6:00 PM Puppet Art Goldilocks and the Three Sharks
Puppet Art Billy Goats Gruff = 11:00 AM The Wind in the Willows	o 31 Gruff		2		ω



GUILD ELECTIONS FOR SFBAPG BOARD OFFICIAL BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS

Election of 20010 board members for the San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild. Lee Armstrong is the election teller. You may send Lee EITHER a hardcopy ballot, an email ballot, or you may vote in person at the June 12 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 Lee Armstrong, 423 720 Ladera, Sonoma, CA 95474.
- (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 3.

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 images (at) vom.com (substitute the "@" symbol for the "(at)" in the email address) on or before June 10.

How to vote in person:

Come to the June 12 SFBAPG meeting at 79 New Montgomery Street, S.F. (see newsletter for info.)







Jesse Vail



Art Grueneberger



Talib Huff 🗌