



San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!

March 2011



Guild "Dream" Event: Guild members hang out backstage with the cast from Avenue Q after a recent show in San Francisco. Thanks to Gregory Hayes for this and other photos (later in the newsletter) of this special trip behind the scenes.

Inside this issue...

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Your newsletter editor wishes to send out a special thanks to guild member Pam Wade who is instrumental in helping distribute this newsletter to the members each and every month! **THANKS, PAM!**

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Puppet Art Theater Co. Creates iPuppet App! Art Gruenberger

Puppet Art Theater Co. is thrilled to announce the release of their first “app” *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*.

Several months ago we were approached to produce an “app” that would work on the iPhone, iTouch, and iPad. (For those who don’t know, an “app,” short for application, is a bit of software used on a mobile device.) The idea was to take one of our live shows and convert them to video so that people could download them onto their devices and watch them anytime they want, like having a puppet show in your pocket. One of our challenges was to make our live shows work on video. Our shows have lots of audience participation and many times the audience helps move the story forward. We had to try to fill in the gaps left by no participation while maintaining the feel of a live performance. Another challenge was performing a show I’ve done live for years in front of a green screen while using a monitor. (I’m not a regular video performer and it is evident from time to time in the App.) I’m pretty pleased with the final results.

Three Billy Goats Gruff is the first of four “apps” to be released in the next month. We will also be releasing *The Tortoise and the Hare*, *Tommy’s Pirate Adventure*, and *The Three Little Pigs*.

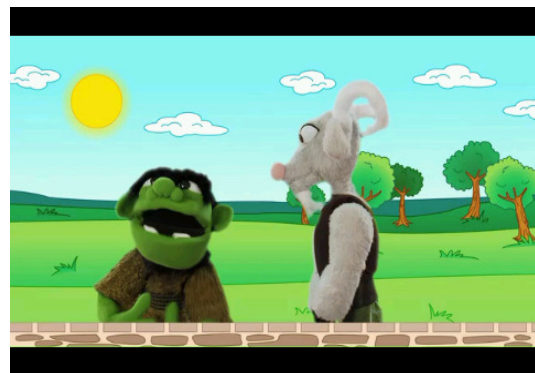
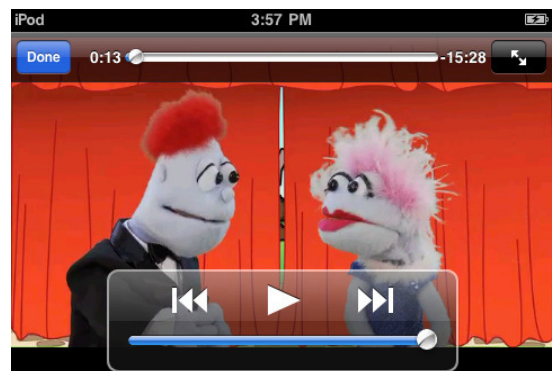
What’s included in each App:

-A full length puppet production performed by Puppet Art Theater Co.

-A behind the scene look at the show where we demonstrate the various puppets used in the production.

-A video puppet making tutorial to show how you can create your own simple puppets.

For more information you can go to: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/three-billy-goats-gruff-puppet/id416262168?mt=8#>



Some screen shots from Puppet Art Theater Co.'s new iPhone app.

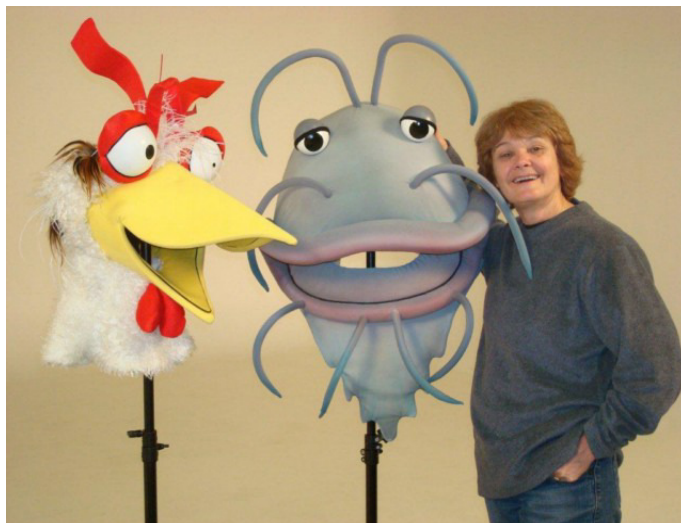
Spy vs. Spy - Fish Against Chicken Lee Armstrong

Comcast Spotlight contacted Images In Motion, Sonoma about fabricating two unusual headpieces, needed for commercials for local JJ Fish & Chicken franchises. In a takeoff of the classic Spy vs. Spy conflict, actors would become a zany, tough chicken and a gentle giant of a catfish, vying for a diner's favor.

Kamela Portuges designed the characters. The foam understructures were built over skateboard helmets. The Fish & Chicken were covered in fabric, fur and lycra, airbrushed and detailed. The actor's faces are visible as they look out the mouth of mask.

The Chicken and Fish have been very popular, as they try to outwit each other. Catch the spots as they air on Comcast.

More information on Images In Motion at <http://www.imagesmedia.com/>.



Chicken, Fish and Lee Armstrong!



Above: Chicken under construction, below, designs for the puppets.



"Ananse The Spider" performed by Randal Metz of Fairyland Reviewed by Sue Brinton

On a dark and stormy February afternoon, the small town of Woodside fell under the spell of two visitors from faraway places--President Barack Obama and Puppeteer Randal Metz. The President networked at a gathering of Silicon Valley leaders while Randal entertained 75 or more children and adults at the Woodside Library. Randal prepared the full house for a Fairyland rendering of Gail E. Haley's A STORY A STORY in honor of Black History Month. He explained that the spider/man trickster Ananse traveled from Africa to America in stories about small, clever animals such as Br'er Rabbit who outfox the powerful.

A "punk" spider sporting a green dandelion-tuft coiffure, Randal's Ananse took the hero's journey on a brightly colored set richly interpreting the woodcuts in the Caldecott Medal winning A STORY A STORY. African drum music accompanied a handcrafted cast of rod, hand, and finger puppets costumed in authentic African textiles and accessories. Everyone loved watching Ananse trick Osebo, the leopard-of-the-terrible-teeth, Mmboro, the hornet-who-stings-like-fire, and Mmoatia, the fairy-whom-men-never-see to earn the stories of Nyame, the Sky God, for himself. The leopard and hornet puppets were especially eye-catching.

If the President fared as well at his gig as Randal did at his, both can claim success. "Ananse" will open at Fairyland this spring with two or more puppeteers performing an expanded version. Randal plans to surprise audiences with a closing scene showcasing Fairyland's ferris wheel adorned with animal imagery.

Review of Hobo Grunt Cycle at Exit Ronald E. Coulter

"Pure magic" is the phrase that resonates for me after experiencing **HOBO GRUNT CYCLE** at the EXIT Theatre in San Francisco. It is thrilling to see compelling puppetry, exquisitely staged with fine acting united to illuminate provocative and important human concern. There is no jerk and jiggle puppetry here. All aspects of professional theatre and quality puppetry merged to expand conventional stage illusion into significant emotional revelation. My connection to the dog? Magic! The floating clouds? Magic! The tramp clown? Magic! The important human story? Magic!

The Lone Wolf Tribe, directed by Kevin Augustine, brought video projection, wit, imaginative staging, large and small puppets and human pathos into intelligent harmony. **HOBO GRUNT CYCLE** is as satisfying as it is meaningful. It runs through March 5. Don't miss it. <http://www.theexit.org>
Ron of Coulter and Star ventriloquists <http://www.CoulterandStar.com>

More Photos from the Guild Visit Backstage at Avenue Q



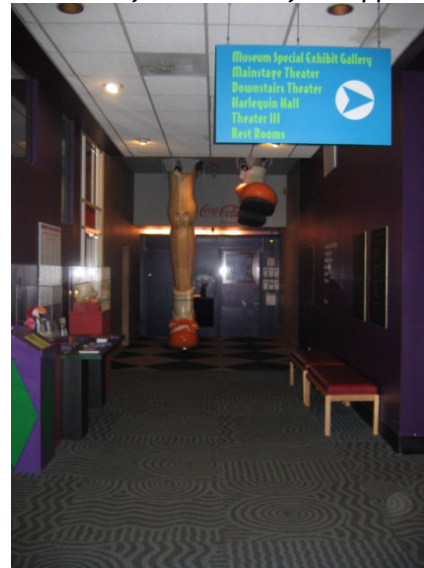
Report from the Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta Michael Nelson

Valerie and I are currently in Atlanta, Georgia, where daytime temperatures are in the upper 60s and 70s. We are being put up at the Regency Suites in Midtown Atlanta, which is a partial sponsor of our 2 week, 30 show run at the Center for Puppetry Arts, an easy walking distance from our hotel. The Center for Puppetry Arts (CPA) is certainly one of, if not the largest puppet centers in the U.S. Currently the center has our show, "Coyote Sings" running in the downstairs center, and their own in house production, The Body Detective running in the upstairs theatre. In addition they have an extensive puppet museum with a hands on collection of exhibits and some very special Henson exhibits. As we go through the back stage area to get to our stage, a crew is building a set in the rehearsal hall for an upcoming production, and as soon as we are finished, Tanglewood Marionettes will come in as the next guest artists.

For each production, audience members have access to a teacher's guide as well as a puppet making project designed especially for the show by Jeff Domke from the education department. He and his staff lead hundreds of children a day in the making of a simple puppet they can take home.



The front view of the Center for Puppetry Arts.



The Museum Entrance (can you see the giant marionette feet?)



To left, a poster for the special Jim Henson exhibit at the Center for Puppetry Arts Museum.

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CALENDAR LISTINGS

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Frank Olivier's Comedy Thrill Show

With special guests genius puppeteer Bob Hartman, and beat-box juggler

Bronkar Lee and his "Circus of Sound"

Saturday, March 5 8:00pm, 142 Throckmorton Theatre, Mill Valley

\$20 General Admission, \$23 General Day of Show

Buy tickets or call 415.383.9600

Bob Hartman is probably America's funniest puppeteer, and an innovative puppet-builder. - His wolf puppet doing stand-up comedy is both hilarious and technically astounding. Mr. Hartman is not dirty, but he's not your kids party puppeteer either. He's funny, poignant, and smart.

<http://HartmanPuppets.com>

<http://www.142throckmortontheatre.com/>

Lone Wolf Tribe

The Hobo Grunt CycleExit Theatre

The Hobo Grunt Cycle - Lone Wolf TribeMarch 3-5, Thursday, Friday, Saturday - 8 pm Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy Street, San Francisco

<http://www.sffringe.org/now.html#anchor23159>

Tickets \$15-\$25

Storybook Puppet TheatreChildren's Fairyland - Oakland

The Tale of Peter Rabbit. Based on the classic tale by Beatrix Potter, this is the story of what Peter learned when he didn't listen to those around him. Almost caught by Farmer McGregor for playing in his garden, Peter has to quickly figure out a way to return home to safety. Will he make it? Puppet and Script by Lewis Mahlmann. Scenery by Annie Wong. Song by Tony Jonick.

March 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27

11 am, 2 pm, 4 pm

Images In Motion

www.imagesmedia.com

March 9 - WaterWorks

4:30 pm - Ingleside Library, 1298 Ocean Ave., SF

7:00 pm - Noe Valley, 451 Jersey St, SF

March 11 - WaterWorks

10:00 am - Golden Gate Branch, Sherman Elementary School. 651 Union St, SF

3:30 pm - Portola Branch Library, 380 Bacon St, SF

March 16 - Big Bad Bruce

4:00 pm - Sonoma Library, 755 Napa St, Sonoma

March 23 - WaterWorks

6:30 pm - Novato Library, 1720 Novato Blvd, Novato

March 29 - WaterWorks

10:30 am - Western Addition, 1550 Scott St, SF

2:00 pm - Visitacion Branch, 45 Leland Ave, SF

Puppet Arts Theatre

<http://www.puppetarts.com/>

Riley the Wiley Rabbit

March 5, 2 pm, San Mateo Library

March 8, 7 pm, Pacifica Library (Sanchez Branch)

Jack and the Beanstalk

March 15, 10:30 am, San Francisco Library (Bayview Branch)

March 15, 2 pm, San Francisco Library (Excelsior Branch)

AquaSMART Live

March 23-24, multiple showtimes, Orange County Water Festival

Three Billy Goats Gruff

March 24, 11 am & 2 pm, Rohnert Park Library

March 30, 4 pm, San Francisco Library (Glen Park Branch)

What: Circus Finelli's Puppet Peepshow

Where: Stage Werx Theatre, 533 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

(<<http://stagewerx.org>>stagewerx.org)

When: March 9 and 10, 2011

Showtimes: 8 pm

Tickets: \$15. Tickets available at <<http://brownpapertickets.com> or 1-800-838-3006

Info: Circusfinelli.com, <<http://stagewerx.org>>stagewerx.org

Circus Finelli's Puppet Peepshow

March 9 and 10, 8 pm
Stage Werx Theatre, 533 Sutter Street, San Francisco

\$15. Tickets available at <http://brownpapertickets.com>
1-800-838-3006. Info: Circusfinelli.com.

The ladies of Circus Finelli bring you a stellar variety show featuring the finest in:

PUPPETS! MUSIC! AND PUPPETS PLAYING MUSIC!

Evil marionette/ SF mayoral candidate/ hip hop superstar Blinky Winky is your host.

Acts on the bill include musical clown Audrey Spinazola and her kitty cat, east bay puppeteer Jesse Roadkill, Puppet Medicine's Paulie Anne Duke with "Monty", the Tango Finger Dancers, Professor Monkey, and more.

PARENTS BE ADVISED: This is a puppet show for adults, which will contain lewd language, and puppets doing things you may not want your children to replicate.

Magical Moonshine Theatre

Saturday, March 19

11:00am Little Elephant has a Ball at SF Library Mission Branch

2:00pm Little Elephant Has A Ball at SF Library Richmond Branch

Tuesday, March 22

6:30pm The Puppet Man, Pleasant Hill Library

Saturday, March 26

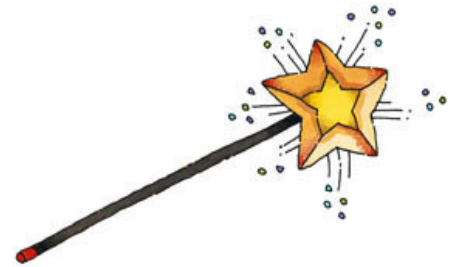
1:15pm Puppet Show SF Library Bernal Heights Branch

4:00pm Little Elephant Has A Ball SF Library Potrero Branch

Thursday, March 31 10:30am Little Elephant Has A Ball at SF Library, Sunset Branch

4:00pm Little Elephant Has A Ball, SF Library Eureka Valley Branch

For details on all Magical Moonshine shows, go to <http://magicalmoonshine.org/events-calendar.htm>



San Francisco Library is having a puppet festival this month!

Check out their puppet schedule and calendar at

<http://sfpl.org/index.php?pg=1005886201>



Mark your Calendars: Upcoming guild meetings on Saturday, April 9, 6 pm, and the evening of June 5. More details soon!!!



San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild
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