



San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild **CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!**

November 2011

Next Guild Meeting

There be
PIRATES comin'!



November 12 in
Petaluma

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?????

This could be you!
See inside for
details!



ALL HANDS ON DECK: Report to the next San Francisco Bay Area Guild Meeting

The details:

- Saturday, Nov. 12th at the Petaluma Museum, 20 Fourth Street (corner of B) in the Carnegie Free Library, Petaluma. 707) 778-4398 is museum phone, let it ring or call right again.
- 6:30 open if you are bringing a show to set up.
- 6:45 to put pirate themed puppets in the show 'n tell exhibit or have snacks to arrange***
- 7:00 muster for roll call. Dumb pirate jokes will be provided whilst we "kill time" for late ones.
- 7:15 begins our fabulous tour of the museum pirate exhibit by Petaluma's Passionate Pirate Collector, Nick Hoffman.

PROGRAM (subject to rearrangement if needed [as always])

- "Saint George and the Dragon" puppet brief, by Elisheva
- ??? (Space for YOUR short/s too)
- Hands on "Pirate Ship Origami workshop", by Tia
- "Strutting the Stuff" of your Guild Logo finger puppet (distributed at Guild Gala. Also the template is hidden somewhere in this newsletter, like a treasure. Get it?)
- Plus silly loot (aka booty, aka prizes) is available for all, including the audience (which is essential.)

SNACK TIME*** clustered around the puppet show 'n tell table neatly munching, crunching, and swilling.

PLUS choice pirate books for kids will be on display in case you have that "creative urge".

ALL ASHORE @ 9ish or 9:30....

RE SNACKS: no kitchen so please bring non drippy finger foods and beverages. Respect the needs of the museum, thanks.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Wear a Pirate Costume if you want to fit in, Matey.
- Non drippy/messy finger food or beverage.***
- Show 'n tell of puppets on a pirate theme (pirates, octopi, mermaids, sea serpents, etc) or scenery or photos of productions.
- LOGO FINGER PUPPET which you have cut out and decorated for our chorus line!

WHAT TO DO BEFORE THE MEETING: Eat dinner first. No kitchen, no potluck tonight. Petaluma has lots of restaurants. There is a theme diner just one short block away. 4th & "Sea" Fish n' Chips. Delicious! Popular with the locals. 101 4th and C street, Petaluma 707) 762-6424 There is a large parking area, but please move your car to street parking after eating. Street parking available within a block or two of the Museum, just cruise. (Very safe to walk around.)



You Found IT! Now use it...



Copy or glue this template on to card stock, cut it out, decorate it, and bring it to the meeting to perform with. I'm sure you can all do better than the example above (although he does have a cool pirate eyepatch!).

10th Annual PuppetFest Midwest is Coming

PuppetFest Midwest will be celebrating its tenth anniversary July 10-15, 2012, in Trenton, Missouri. Founded and supported by the Rumpelstiltskin Society, a group of professional puppeteers who strongly believe annual festivals are vital to the future of puppetry, this week-long festival brings together puppeteers from across North America and around the world. PuppetFest Midwest is the festival which provides time:

- Time to learn new skills in four-day (twenty-hours total) intensive workshops taught by such leading North American puppeteers as Drew Allison, Nick Barone, Luman Coad, Pam Corcoran, Art Grueneberger, Phillip Huber, Lynne Jennings, Monica Leo, Randal McGee, Paul Mesner, Jim Napolitano, M'el Reum, and Pix Smith.
- Time to enjoy outstanding performances and talk with the performers afterwards.
- Time to form new friendships and renew old acquaintances at Pam's Place each evening while enjoying tasty tidbits and cooling drinks.
- Time to see what everybody else has accomplished during the week at the final afternoon's Show and Tell. For full information, please visit www.puppetfestival.org Registration is limited to seventy-five people but a \$100 deposit will reserve your space. Come join us for a wonderful week of puppets, learning, and friendship. It will be a memorable time.

Luman Coad, Chair
PFMW Promotion Committee

FREE PUPPETS need new home

My mother, Betty Stewart, passed away four years ago and we are still trying to find homes for the remainder of her puppets. There are rod puppets, parade puppets, puppet journals, props, hand puppets, scripts and I think some complete shows. At this point, they are free if you can come to Merced to pick them up or pay for shipping. We do have some photos as well. Email judi_a_weaser@yahoo.com or call 209-742-3400.

Judi Weaser

REVIEW OF "FRANKENSTEIN", current Independent Eye Performance

We all have a multisource cultural jumble of images of Frankenstein's Creature, from Boris Karloff to a comic-scary one in a Bugs Bunny cartoon, with facial stitches and a screw through the neck.

This well performed version amazed me with not only the staging and conception, but the emotions aroused within me. I laughed at the funny bits like the anachronistic mention of a garage sale. I totally got frustrated with Dr. Frankenstein's casual neglect of his life-long friends, Henry and Elizabeth. I felt compassion. And I have a slight "crush" on the first successful version of Frankenstein's Creature. It is sort of akin to that "bad boy attraction" although the Creature was still just a bewildered innocent (like a 2 week old kitten) trying to figure out this confusion called humanity. During and ever since seeing the show I have been THINKING and PONDERING.

The 3 puppeteers-Conrad, Elizabeth and their son Eli-wear skeletonish grey half masks covering the forehead to top of the mouth throughout the performance. This frontal skull mask allows their well articulated words to be well heard, not muffled. They wear the basic black performing clothes which enables them to fade into the background so we can easily focus on the puppets themselves. One on purpose exception is a scene at a table where 2 puppeteers are facing the audience, each obviously manipulating one of their standard large figures who in turn were manipulating small figures! A brilliant puppetry piece.

Early on in the show we see 3 children playing at "monster." They are Victor Frankenstein, his cousin Henry Clerval, and a young friend, Elizabeth. their lives remain entwined as adults. In fact Dr. Victor Frankenstein says of Elizabeth, "We plan to be married, as soon as I ask her." (A mega workaholic he, possibly suffering from lack of attachment due to the death of his mother when he was young.) And Elizabeth throughout the play "stands by her man" [not a pejorative comment on my part] no matter how much Victor neglects her, stands her up, and deteriorates in regards to his own humanity. He also refuses to take the responsibility to give his Creature a name (think about being nameless!) despite his Creature's pleading for one. Note: I like the more dignified designation of "Creature" instead of "Monster" being used in this production. Homework: what did Mary Shelley, the author, use in her book?

Some highlights for me are:

The Creature's amazing "hand jive" as confused he signs over and over...faster and faster gestures which he has witnessed on his first day, such as a loving caress, the middle finger, etc.

The music, written and recorded by Elizabeth which underscores and guides the action and emotions. Her own silhouetted image frozen beneath the swathes of snow as the lights fade slowly at the end of the play.

Eli's flat cutouts of crowd scenes, which have but one group movement (gesturing arms for instance), sometimes words, and once just appropriate mouth sounds. (Lobby chatter, one teacher said they totally replicated his students!)

And the excellently focused and manipulated puppet of Dr. Frankenstein although I don't like his personality at all. Great proof of Conrad's skill.

At the reading of Conrad and Elizabeth's co-authored book, "Co-Creation 50 Years in the Making", they said that this is their last puppet show. They plan to just do dramatic readings in "living room concerts" in the future. So, if this is their final puppet hurrah, they are truly following the old Show Biz adage, "Leave them asking for more!" A magnificent ending, my friends.

Reviewed by Elisheva Hart, who attended opening night.



Storybook Puppet Theater

Children's Fairyland - Oakland
 Storybook Puppet Theatre
 Children's Fairyland - Oakland
 Nov. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27
 11 am, 2 pm, 4 pm

The Velveteen Rabbit. Based on Margery William's lovely tale of "How Toys Become Real", this is the story of a special relationship between a young boy and his toy bunny. You'll be charmed as the Velveteen Rabbit fearlessly stays by the young boy's side and is rewarded for his loyalty in the end. Puppets and script by Randal Metz. Scenery by Annie Wong. Puppet design by Kacey O'Hare.

Nick Barone Puppets

Wednesday, November 2 - 3:00 pm
 "T-Rex Thunderlizard's Wild West Revue"
 Antioch Public Library
 501 West 18th St., Antioch, CA

Monday, November 28 - 4:50 pm & 5:50 pm
 "Holiday Treats"
 Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley Community Tree Lighting Celebration!
 Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley, 2050 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA

Pupper Art Theater

November 12th 10:15am
 Mountain View Library
 Three Little Pigs

November 15th 7pm
 East Palo Alto Library
 Dad and Me at the Library
 Hansel and Gretel

November 16th 7pm
 Redwood City Library
 Dad and Me at the Library
 Hansel and Gretel

November 25th
 12:30pm, 1:30pm and 2:30pm
 Fairytale Town
 Little Red Riding Hood

SFBAPG Meeting "Pirates in Petaluma"

November 12th, 7pm
 Pre-meeting Dinner at 5... ish?
 4th n "Sea" Fish n Chips
 101 4th (@ C Street)
 Petaluma, CA 94952

Petaluma Museum
 20 Fourth Street
 Petaluma, CA 94952

Parasol Puppets & Oregon Shadow Theatre at the Jarvis Conservatory Puppet Festival

November 18 & 19, 7 pm Fri., 2:30 pm Sat., Workshop at 1 pm Sat
 Oregon Shadow Theatre will perform "The Green Bird, A Mexican Story" & Parasol Puppets with "The GingerBread Man on Old MacDonald's Farm"
 Jarvis Conservatory, 1711 Main Street, Napa, California
 707 255-5445

The GingerBread Man on Old MacDonald's Farm
 Old MacDonald has a most unusual farm. Parasol Puppets presents colorful hand puppets in this musical version of everyone's favorite song story. On this farm are chickens and ducks and cows and ... oh, no, a very hungry fox! The story gets even more exciting when the Gingerbread Man races through this pastoral scene. Can anyone catch him? Audiences enjoy singing along with ukulele and hammered dulcimer music as these two familiar characters collide into an original adventure. Songs include OLD MACDONALD HAD A FARM, I HAD A LITTLE ROOSTER, SIX LITTLE DUCKS and INCH BY INCH.

"The Green Bird, A Mexican Story"
 Behind the illuminated shadow screen, colorful shadow puppets come to life and tell the story of The Green Bird. A drum roll and a cymbal crash, the calliope sound of a button accordion and the play begins: A boy is transformed into a fortune-telling bird by a magician. A brave girl journeys through Mexico to save him. In her travels, she encounters fantastic characters and scenes from Mexico's rich folkloric tradition. She sees skeletons dancing to the song La Bamba at a Day of The Dead fiesta. The climax of the play is set in the Bull Ring, where the audience joins in shouting "Ole!" Colorful and intricate shadow puppets combine with live music, voices and sound effects to create a delightful family entertainment.

So how come the newsletter is late? And why is there no tear out calendar again?

Well, you see, it's like this...
 Halloween and some home obligations combined to create a time crunch right at the end of the month. I try to plan ahead, but sometimes the Time Beings just conspire to catch me up. As for the calendar, since we mail some of the the newsletters, we need to have an even number of pages. I sometimes try to create an extra page to even things out if there isn't enough content but when I'm late I just try to get it out asap. Your Humble Editor

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Ye'll not be needin' a
treasure map! Here be the
directions to the next
Guild Meeting, ye scurvy
dog!



Directions to the Guild Meeting on November 12, 2011:

GOING SOUTH TOWARDS SF: Take 101 South past Santa Rosa. At bottom of the big hill, take the 2nd Petaluma exit, #474-Central Petaluma. At end of ramp turn right onto East Washington Street. 1 mile later, turn left onto Petaluma Blvd. North. Two blocks later, Petaluma Blvd. makes a left turn (on your left will be a gym, on your right will be the Mystic theatre). Turn right immediately onto B street, then left onto 4th St. The Carnegie Free Library will be on your right. Big PIRATE BANNER is above the door.

GOING NORTH TOWARDS EUREKA: Take 101 North past San Rafael and Novato. Take the 1st Petaluma exit, #472A onto Petaluma Blvd south and meander along, cross under Highway 101, going straight through a traffic roundabout. Turn left at D St. and then the first right onto 4th street. You'll pass the "4th 'n Sea Fish 'n Chips" on the right at C Street. The Carnegie Library/Museum is on the left at the corner of B and C Streets. There is a large PIRATE BANNER above the door.