



# San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!

September 2012



**D**on't forget, September 19 is International Talk Like a Pirate Day. And this be the 10th anniversary!

### *In this issue:*

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- The Story of the Lonely Little Space
- Calendar
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# THE SFBAPG MEETING

AT  
CHILDREN'S FAIRYLAND IN OAKLAND

## An Incomplete Guide to the Guild "Day of Puppetry at Fairyland"

By Lee Armstrong

The annual Fairyland "Day of Puppetry" on Sat., Aug 25, with the support of many Guild members, was a great success. Randal Metz curated a wonderful exhibit of puppets, from beautifully crafted puppets of the past, to current productions. Randal and Jesse Vail worked behind the scenes to make sure that everything ran smoothly. Ron and Barbara Johnson graciously provided their magical puppet tent. It was fun to see children, sitting on the Oriental rugs, playing with a large collection of puppets. The "Make A Puppet" booth was as popular as ever, with Tia Schmiroff and Elisheva Hart helping children of all ages make finger mice puppets. Tia prepped a hundred furry bodies and two hundred ears. Thank you Tia!

I only caught two shows, but enjoyed them both. Michael Nelson's bag show is hilarious for children of all ages. The Fairyland production of "The Spinning Fairies" had a fun twist and the puppets are charming.

After the park closed, the Guild program started. Michael and Valerie Nelson of Magical Moonshine Theater showed puppets from their production "Cannibal Island". They talked about the development of the concept, showed puppets built from gourds and some very inventive props. The favorite was the wood chipper built from a plastic bottle and hair dryer. They are looking for performance opportunities. I've seen this show and it's amazing. More info at <http://magicalmoonshine.org/cannibal.htm>. If you have a venue, let them know.

Eli Nash talked about the animation summer school he attended at Cal Arts. This is the place that is famous for training animators from Pixar, DreamWorks and other top studios. Eli talked about the crossover of puppetry and animation. He showed his animation work, including a stop motion puppet, some clever cardboard cutouts he had animated and a tall stack of line drawings. Eli was very articulate, enthusiastic and had great info to share. Thank you Eli!

Larry Schmidt brought some very intriguing marionettes, created for his Halloween show "Driveway Follies". Larry does this free show each year as a gift to his neighborhood. It keeps 7 puppeteers busy and each year Larry adds a new vignette. He played videos, showing the marionettes in action. Mary Nagler said "I was amazed by the scope of the production. Larry's presentation was fun and it really makes me want to see it this Halloween!"

Kudos to Oakland's Fairyland and Randal Metz for hosting this annual puppet celebration!



*Two happy puppet builders*



*Michael and Valerie Nelson show colorful gourd puppets from Cannibal Island*



*Eli Nash showing some of his animation work*



# More Photos From Fairyland



*Furville Studios Furry Creatures*



*Puppet exhibit*



*From the puppet tent*



*Tia helps boy and his mom make a mouse finger puppet*



*Marionettes on display*

*All photos by Lee Armstrong*

# Reviews and News

**For those of us who missed Eli Nash's presentation on animation at the meeting at Children's Fairyland, he kindly sent in this notice about it:**

The California State Summer School for the Arts (CSSSA) offers high school students a month of intensive study in the fields of Visual Art, Theater, Music, Dance, Creative Writing, Film, and Animation. This short animation was created in one week and it uses traditional animation techniques of drawing and cutouts.

As an animator, I always seek to tell a good story, and to create characters and experiences the audience can relate to. That was the goal of this particular piece. As artists, we've often encountered people who don't understand us, but there are always people out there (like our own guild) who speak our language and share our passions. It's just a matter of finding them. The art in this piece was designed to work with a unique style, relying on my personal motto of simplicity and the idea of geometric design to create the characters. I hope you enjoy!

Check out Eli's animated short made at the California State Summer School for the Arts.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ozvcm6MMbk&feature=plcp>

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## **Taking it to the MAX! Gabriel Galdamez**

I had the incredible opportunity of being selected to participate in the Creative Ministry Dream Team at Ministry Arts Xtra (MAX) in Ohio. The Dream Team was charged with one task for the conference: learn a program in 3.5 days to serve as the finale performance for the conference. So... let's get to work!

Being on the Dream Team was inspirational. The high caliber of talent was apparent as soon as we began rehearsing. What was most amazing and impressive though was the passion burning inside these servant leaders, especially our directors, Christy Watkins and Amanda Cowles.

Despite running on little sleep, a problem I credit to still needing to work at night, I survived the 6+ hours of rehearsal a day along with the regular conference activities. Better yet, I had an amazing time!

Our program was titled "Shine." Don't let the simple name fool you though, the depth of the script is awe inspiring.

The story centers around a hilariously adorable 3-year old turtle named Gigi (voiced by Amanda Cowles) who sits in her bedroom and talks to God about her day, about being his child and about what it means to shine for Him.

The program featured a variety of creative arts, including live puppetry, drama, out front puppetry, blacklight, sign language, reverse blacklight, dance and dowel rods. The settings explored were just as diverse, ranging from a corn field to a jungle to the life of Jesus to the depths of history itself.



continued on next page

Taking It To The Max continued

One of my favorite pieces was titled "I Am," song by Mark Schultz, and was performed under reverse blacklight. The action centers on an orange sphere, which is at least 7 feet in diameter, and is three separate parts. Black silhouettes would slide in front of the sphere pieces and create an effect similar to shadow puppetry.

Now, imagine 17 people running around trying to find their black props while wearing a black hood over their face... in the dark. This song was the definitely most challenging to learn but also the most rewarding.

The scenes created ranged from creation to the fall of Rome to American history, from the New World to 9/11, and beyond. The song always gave me chills, I wish you could have seen it... wait, you can!

Watch the video here: <http://youtu.be/njJktsd0Ehc>

All in all, the Dream Team experience was a breath of fresh air and inspiring. Imagine getting to spend all day with a group of 18 passionate and talented people from all over the US that are united for a common purpose.

This is what I enjoy most about festivals: being surrounded by creative people pursuing excellence. You get so much from interacting and bonding with these kinds of people.

So, if you have never been to a festival before (like Puppeteers of America, O'Neill or MAX) I highly encourage you to start planning for next summer!

You can also check out the original article in my blog here: <http://cmtministries.blogspot.com/2012/08/taking-it-to-max-with-dream-team-and-god.html>



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### **This was sent in by Ilene Kennedy:**

We are Kennedy puppets and we do character puppet shows. We are a family puppet group and we do shows at fundraisers and libraries. We performed at a fundraiser to help cleft lip children this month on August 6 and were given a standing ovation. I dearly love watching children and people of all ages smile. I have done puppets since I was 16 and I am a 4H leader and teach puppets to kids and my daughter since she was 4 and she is also part of the group. I met my husband through my puppet shows and now he is a puppeteer to. So now you know a little bit about the group Kennedy puppeteers.

We are in need of a complete PA system to help out with our shows. I'm hoping someone out there has a system collecting dust that they don't want or need any more. My poor throat can't scream any louder.

We have a very large fundraiser coming in first part of October with close to 3500 people and about 6 shows scheduled on October 13, so if any one could help, I would appreciate it. Please call or write to me on facebook -Kennedy Puppets@facebook.com or hope922000@yahoo.com or can call Kennedy puppets 707-557-1444 ask for Ilene Kennedy. Thanks for any help we can get. Thanks and God bless



**Nick Barone Puppets**

September 11, 7:00 pm  
 "T-Rex Thunderlizard's Wild West Revue"  
 Redwood City Library, 1044 Middlefield Road,  
 Redwood City, CA

September 15, 2:20 pm  
 "Puss in Boots"  
 Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival  
 Old Mill Park, 300 Throckmorton Ave., Mill  
 Valley, CA

September 16. 1:00 pm & 3:30 pm  
 "The Princess Mermaid  
 T-Rex Thunderlizard's Wild West Revue"  
 City of Santa Clara Parks and Rec  
 Central Park, 909 Kiely Blvd, Santa Clara, CA

September 25, 6:30 pm  
 "Tales from the Enchanted Forest"  
 Pleasant Hill Library  
 1750 Oak Park Blvd, Pleasant Hill, CA

September 29  
 Filoli House and Gardens  
 86 Canada Road, Woodside, CA

September 30, 11:30 am  
 "Puss In Boots"  
 Cheeky Monkey Toys  
 640 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, CA

**Fratello Marionettes**

September 15, 12:30 pm  
 "The Vaudeville Follies"  
 Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival  
 Old Mill Park @ Children's Grove  
 Mill Valley, CA

September 16, 12:30 pm  
 "The Vaudeville Follies"  
 Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival  
 Old Mill Park @ Children's Grove  
 Mill Valley, CA

September 22, 11:30 am, 1:00 pm  
 "Carnival of the Animals"  
 Sonoma Book Festival

Downtown  
 Santa Rosa, CA

**Magical Moonshine Puppet Theater**

September 3, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm  
 Coyote Sings  
 Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento

September 15, 2:00 pm  
 Puppylocks and the Three Bears (CA Premier)  
 Fetterly Theatre, Vallejo, CA

**Storybook Puppet Theatre**

Saturdays and Sundays in August 31–Oct. 28  
 11:00 am, 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm

*Sleeping Beauty*  
 In this classic French fairy tale, a king and queen wish for a princess to brighten their lives. Their wish is granted, and Briar Rose is born. All the fairies are invited to celebrate except for one, the evil Fairy Grundell. For revenge, she creates an enchantment to put Briar Rose to sleep for a hundred years and then changes herself into a dragon to guard the princess from rescue. Excitement, drama, and love—all in the same story. Puppets and script by Lewis Mahlmann. Production designed by Sheilah Beckett.

*Once upon a time,*

there was a lonely little space. This space wasn't particularly ugly, nor did it have mean sisters or brothers, nor an evil step-mother. It was not even sent out into the world to seek its fortune all on its own. Why was it lonely then? you might ask.

Because no one, not one person in the whole, wide, world, chose to write an article to fill the space up. It just sat there, feeling lonely and empty inside.

Now, this story could have a happy ending. You don't need to know a magic word, you don't need to clap your hands and shout "I believe!" All you need to do is write a brief paragraph and send it to the newsletter editor. And then the little space will be all filled up. THE END

# September 2012

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
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Sleeping Beauty	Coyote Sings					Sleeping Beauty
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sleeping Beauty					Sleeping Beauty	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Sleeping Beauty		T-Rex Th...rd's Revue				Vaudville Follies Sleeping Beauty Puss in Boots Puppyloc...hree Bears
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
T-Rex Th...rd's Revue Sleeping Beauty Vaudville Follies Princess Mermaid						Sleeping Beauty Carnival of Animals
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Sleeping Beauty		Tales Fro...ted Forest				Sleeping Beauty
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sleeping Beauty Puss in Boots						

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## HALLOWEEN IS COMING!

WHAT MONSTROUS SHAPE WILL YOUR CREATIONS TAKE THIS YEAR? WHY NOT SNAP A PICTURE OF YOUR PREPARATIONS AND SEND THEM IN WITH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION?

