



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

November 2012

A Plethora of



<http://www.skiptomylou.org>



<http://www.busybeekidscrafts.com>



<http://www.highlightskids.com>

Turkey

Puppets

(well, at least three...)

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THE NEXT SFBAPG MEETING

SFBAPG Fall Meeting 2012

Saturday, November 10th, 5pm to 8pm
Children's Fairyland
699 Bellevue Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610
www.fairyland.org

Programming!

Robin Stevens will share his experiences working with Ragdoll Productions on shows such as Teletubbies, Pob, Rosie and Jim, Tots TV, Boobah, and Blips. With a focus on the distinctively different style of puppetry that he invented for TV, and Ragdoll's approach to creating programming for children. With a special additional presentation of Robin's own blue screen system used in his productions of his cult-favorite puppet Pob!

(Want to see examples of Robin's work? Check out the last page of the newsletter for links to some of the shows he has worked on.)

Also!

Randal Metz will perform a beautiful production of The Nutcracker Prince. This is not to be missed! Through the music of Tchaikovsky, flowers and snowflakes dance, candies come to life, and Clara tries to outwit the evil Mouse King and turn her nutcracker into a handsome prince. Can Candy Land be saved from the mice? Will Queen Blanche and King Winter safely carry Clara into her dreams? A different telling of the classic ballet The Nutcracker. Designed by Pamela McIntyre. Puppets and script by Lewis Mahlmann.

Pot Luck!

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

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@vom.com, 707.738.5906 to receive a book list and/or request a book.

Show and Tell!

Please bring something to share with your fellow members. Do you have a puppet you are working on? A sketch of one? A new puppetry purchase you'd like to show off? Perhaps you have a new idea or script you'd like to share? Bring it! We wanna see it! See you there!

Reviews and News

Great Plains Puppet Train Festival

Michael Nelson

Over the weekend of September 20-23, approximately 85 puppeteers and puppet enthusiasts gathered in West Liberty, Iowa, for 4 days of puppet shows, workshops, and great puppet camaraderie. In case you have never heard of it, West Liberty is a town of around 2500, and boasts a large turkey processing plant right in town. It also is the home of long established Owl Glass Puppet Center, run by Monica Leo. Monica, along with her staff and volunteers with much help from the community put together a great festival, attended by several members of SFBAPG, Michael & Valerie Nelson, Art Grueneberger, and Mary Decker. This was a Puppeteers of America Regional Festival, which are usually held biennially on alternate years from the National Festival. Our region did not have one this year, but we can hope for something in the future in our area. In any case, for those who were able to travel to the middle of the country there were lots of shows, including a very special presentation of modern puppetry from Indonesia presented by Papermoon Theatre, a large troupe with about 10-12 members presenting.

Papermoon was brought to the U.S. through a U.S. Department of State initiative, called CenterStage, which works to connect international artists with Americans through cultural exchanges. The group made its U.S. debut Sept. 8 with a performance at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Its visit to West Liberty was the smallest venue on its tour — and the only event not on the East Coast.

Their performance, titled Mwathirika, portrayed a dark period in Indonesia's history, using puppets and multimedia to convey the happenings during an uprising in the country in 1965. It was well done and very powerful, although not a happy piece. It was, however, great fun to meet the young performers who, in contrast to their show, beamed with great smiles, and even joined in whole heartedly at the barn dance where we all danced to live bluegrass music with a live caller that even we native English speakers had trouble following.

Other groups performing came from the Midwest as well as New Orleans, Seattle, and California. Saturday's shows were combined with the West Liberty Children's Festival, an annual event that benefited from having the puppeteers in town.



The New Strand Theater in West Liberty is an historic opera house now used for movies and puppetry, including the Great Plains Puppet Train and West Liberty Children's Festival shows. The tentacles were decoration for the children's festival.

Construction Tips For Simple Shadow Workshop

Terry Ryder

I just found some unusually slender flex-straws at IKEA that will make great handles for construction paper shadow puppets working with kids (or adults). Usually flex-straws are pretty thick. The thinner straw makes for finer manipulation and a second straw can be slit and inserted in the first to make a longer handle for a better crack at getting hands out of the picture. When I was an artist-in-the-schools I used a lot of straws and black construction paper teaching shadows. White sheet plastic that they use to cover recessed lighting can be clipped with giant metal clothespin style clips to long L shelving brackets front and back which then rest on a table in a stable way and make a good screen for practice that is rigid and diffuses light well. This kind of screen is more out in the open than a booth type so more kids can get at it at one time also they can hold a shadow on one side while peeking around the edge to see what it looks like.

Short Form Puppetry for Adults

Michael Nelson

Are you or do you aspire to be a puppet artist? Short form adult puppetry, for video, puppet slams, salons or cabarets, is about as creative and exciting as you can get with puppets. You



can take on any subject, from those that children would enjoy (because there is that child still living within all of us) to mature topics such as life, death, politics, philosophy, religion, sex, family, and just about anything else you can think of. Puppets can portray the everyman, specific people, fantasy characters and show us the life in objects we would normally not think of as alive. They can tackle science fiction, mythology, the lives of animals, insects, forces of nature, gods and goddesses, Barbie dolls, kitchen utensils; basically anything you can think of. Once you move your drama or story into the realm of puppetry, your audience knows that they must put aside their accepted views of the world in order to go with you. This leaves them ready for whatever your creativity conjures. And if you are going with skits or short performance pieces, not only can you experiment and see where you can take your captive audiences, but they will have the safety net that your piece is short and if they hate it, it will be over soon. And in a program like a puppet slam or cabaret, there will always be another piece coming that they will wait for.

If you build it, will they come? The Bay Area is starting to see puppet slams, salons, or cabarets popping up in various venues where puppet artists can try out their ideas in front of audiences that have already shown that they are open to the offbeat just by showing up. As more people attend and audiences build, more puppeteers will start to find their audiences and will create more work for such venues. San Diego has had a puppet slam community for a while, and recently one of their regular slammers performed at the San Francisco Fringe Festival, selling out shows, and winning the Best of Fringe Award for their offbeat, adult puppetry. Are you ready to dust off that black beret and create your soon-to-be-undiscovered (or discovered) masterpiece? You may not find fortune and fame, but that still puts you in a category shared with many great, unknown, artistic geniuses.

Do it for yourself!

Alan Cook Named Unima Member Of Honor

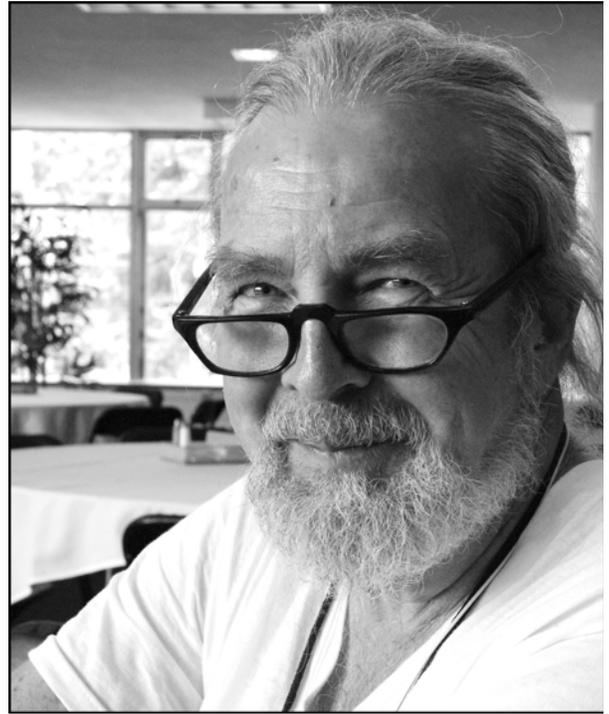
At the UNIMA International Festival and Congress in Chengdu, China, Alan Cook received a very high honor for his major contributions to the field of puppetry. Lynn Jeffries, the President of UNIMA-USA writes this about Alan (Her note is taken from the UNIMA-USA website).

Once every four years, at the international UNIMA congress, national UNIMA centers nominate a person of exceptional merit in the development of puppetry, whose work is of international status to be considered for recognition as an UNIMA Member of Honor. This year, the board of UNIMA-USA nominated Alan Cook of Altadena, California, and his selection was approved by the international executive committee in Chengdu, China in June. Alan Cook is a major force in preserving the worldwide heritage of puppetry. His personal collection of over 3,000 puppets has become the basis of the International Museum of Puppetry. He was the principal advisor and researcher for the exhibit Puppets: Art and Entertainment assembled for the UNIMA Congress in Washington, DC, in 1980. The exhibit traveled to seven museums in the United States, breaking attendance records. One of

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Alan Cook continued

the original members of UNIMA-USA, Alan has served as a board member and festival director for Puppeteers of America, and co-founded the Los Angeles Guild of Puppetry. He has numerous performance credits, including film and television work with George Pal and Art Clokey. Alan is perhaps best known in the American puppet community for his prodigious knowledge and memory for detail for every puppet, puppeteer, and puppet performance he has ever seen. He shares his perpetual delight in the art form with a wry sense of humor and a gift for storytelling. We are proud to add him to the distinguished list of American Members of Honor. – Lynn Jeffries



Alan Cook • Photograph by Paul Eide

Alan joins a select group of American Puppeteers – only 16 others have been named since UNIMA was founded in 1929. They are: Tony Sarg, Paul McPharlin, Romain Proctor, Remo Bufano, Marjorie Batchelder McPharlin, Vivian Michael, Rufus Rose, Margo Rose, Jim Henson, Bill Baird, Frank Ballard, Nancy Lohman Staub, Allelu Kurten, Peter Schumann, George Latshaw, Vincent Anthony

The Million Puppet March

You may have heard of the Million Puppet March that happened on Saturday, November 3. Started by two people who believe in public broadcasting, it was formed in response to a certain political candidate's statement that he would cut the budget for PBS. While I know that puppeteers (like most groups of people not affiliated by politics) cover a wide range of political views, I'm sure there would be an unusual amount of support for PBS, which has done so much to promote the art of puppetry over the years. This movement has not been anti-candidate, but pro-PBS as you can see from the following position statement from the website:



“We believe in public media. We believe that a strong public broadcasting system builds a stronger nation. And we believe that it is essential to provide adequate federal funding to our public broadcasters.

Through federal financial support, we the people of this great nation demonstrate our commitment to providing all Americans, regardless of their location or economic situation, free access to the best quality educational and cultural programming available anywhere, improving learning outcomes, increasing cultural awareness, and informing our electorate.

Through community events and social media, Million Puppet March seeks to increase awareness of the importance of federal funding to our public broadcasting system and to promote broad based support for its continuation.”

You can still get involved in supporting PBS by going to: <http://millionpuppetmarch.com>

Nick Barone Puppets

November 20, 7:00 pm
Puss In Boots
Milpitas Library
40 North Milpitas Blvd. Milpitas, CA 95035

Puppet Art Theater

November 3, 11:00 am
The Boy Who Cried Wolf
Redwood City Library

November 6, 7:00 pm
The Boy Who Cried Wolf
East Palo Alto Library

November 14, 4:00 pm
The Boy Who Cried Wolf
Schaberg Branch Redwood City Lib

November 17, 11:00 am
The Boy Who Cried Wolf
Shores Branch Redwood City Lib

November 23, 12:30 pm, 1:30pm, and 2:30 pm
Little Red Riding Hood
Fairytale Town Children's Theater

Fratello Marionettes

November 13, 5:00 pm
The Vaudeville Follies
Merced Library @ 2100 O St.
Merced, CA

November 15, 4:00 pm
The Frog Prince
Monterey Library @ 625 Pacific Street
Monterey, CA

November 15, 6:00 pm
The North Pole Review
Pacific Grove Library @ 550 Central Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA

November 17, 2:00 pm
Aladdin
Dublin Library @ 200 Civic Plaza
Dublin, CA

November 27, 7:00 pm
Carnival of the Animals
Milpitas Library @ 160 North Main St.
Milpitas, CA

November 29, 7:00 pm
Aladdin
Barton Foundation Festival of Trees and Lights
Mont Bleu Resort @ 55 Highway 50
Lake Tahoe, NV

Magical Moonshine Puppet Theater

November 6, 7:00 pm
The Golden Armadillo
Milpitas Library, 160 N. Main St.
Milpitas, CA

November 14, 4:00 pm
Puppylocks and the Three Bears
Portola Valley Library 765 Portola Rd Portola
Valley, CA

Storybook Puppet Theatre

Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 2–Jan. 5
11:00 am, 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm
The Nutcracker Prince
We end the year with the wonderful holiday tale about Clara and her magic Nutcracker Prince. Through the music of Tchaikovsky, flowers and snowflakes dance, candies come to life, and Clara tries to outwit the evil Mouse King and turn her nutcracker into a handsome prince. Can Candy Land be saved from the mice? Will Queen Blanche and King Winter safely carry Clara into her dreams? A different telling of the classic ballet The Nutcracker. Designed by Pamela McIntyre. Puppets and script by Lewis Mahlmann.

Puppet Show with Rebecah Freeling

November 17 and 24, 11:00 am
Rebecah Freeling presents a puppet extravaganza for kids and families. Freeling is a storyteller, an experienced early childhood educator, and a parent coach.
Book Passage Bookstore, Corte Madera

November 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
28 Nutcracker Prince	29	30 The Boy...Cried Wolf The Golden Armadillo	31	1 The North Pole Review The Frog Prince	2 Little Red Riding Hood	3 The Boy...Cried Wolf Nutcracker Prince
4 Nutcracker Prince	5	6	7	8	9	10 Nutcracker Prince
11 Nutcracker Prince	12	13 Vaudeville Follies	14 Puppyloc...hree Bears The Boy...Cried Wolf	15	16	17 The Boy...Cried Wolf Nutcracker Prince Alladin Puppet Extravaganza
18 Nutcracker Prince	19	20 Puss in Boots	21	22	23 Little Red Riding Hood	24 Puppet Extravaganza Nutcracker Prince
25 Nutcracker Prince	26	27 Carnival of Animals	28	29 Alladin	30	1 Nutcracker Prince

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



LINKS (see the meeting description inside for more information):

Robin Stevens
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robin_Stevens

Ragdoll Productions
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ragdoll_Productions

Teletubbies
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teletubbies>

Rosie and Jim
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosie_and_Jim

Tot's TV
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tot%27s_Tv

Boobah
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boobah>

Blips
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blips_%28TV_series%29

Pob's Programme
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pob%27s_Programme

Children's Fairyland
www.fairyland.org