



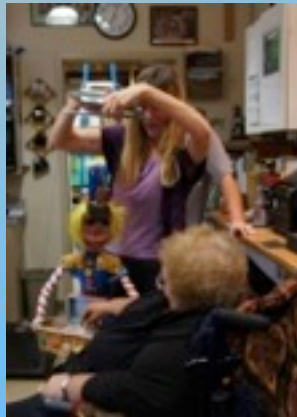
San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild **CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!**

September 2013



August

Meeting



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August Meeting a Great Success!

By Camilla Henneman

Our late summer meeting at Children's Fairyland was a night to remember. The evening started with a sock puppet workshop led by Jesse Vail. I loved watching adults turn back into enthusiastic kids as **they** built Muppet-y looking sock puppets under Jesse's tutelage.

Randel led the meeting. Here are some of the highlights!

Tia and Elisheva Hart demonstrated the Make and Take butterfly puppet project that they had set up during the day for the park's visitors.

Rhonda Kaye Godwin, The Puppet Lady, presented a talk and performance of a birthday party show. She specializes in performing at birthday parties for children 1 - 4. She performed her party show entitled "Mrs. Wintergreen's Birthday Surprise." The show was written by Lewis Mahlmann and Lettie Schubert, with puppets by Lewis Mahlmann. She then answered questions from the audience about how she runs her birthday party business.

We were also treated to a brilliant stop motion video called "Dragon Fire" by Annie Wong and Michael Flores. Annie Wong was a set painter at Fairyland, and is responsible for many of the amazing sets and backdrops in the park.

There was a beautiful display of traveling puppet theaters. Several puppeteers from our guild set up their theaters for members to look at and ask questions about. Randel Metz and Jesse Vail generously had photocopies available with plans for building the stages.

We shared a pot luck dinner, wine, (note to self, bring some non-alcoholic beverages next time) ideas and camaraderie. What a brilliant night under the stars at Fairyland. Thanks so much to Jesse Vail, Randel Metz, and Children's Fairyland for making this happen!

And from Lee Armstrong:

Make a Puppet Table at Fairyland

For the umpteenth year, Tia Smirnoff and Elisheva Hart have headed up the Make a Puppet table for the Annual Puppet Day at Fairyland. This year's creation keep children engaged, as they designed colorful patterns for puppet birds. Once completed, Tia and Elisheva taped pennies to the bottoms of the wings. Then, the puppeteer could balance the bird on a finger, making in move gently in the air, or attach it to a rod for extended flight. Thank you Tia and Elisheva.



Attendees get hands-on with puppet construction



4:30 show, cockroach and mouse, mexican folk tale (?)



One of the displays of puppets available to the public during the day



puppet theaters

More photos from

the meeting

Photos by
Gregory Hayes
and others



Tia and Elisheva head up
the Make A Puppet table



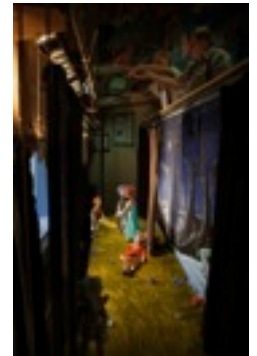
Mary Nagler demonstrates
her juggling comedy
number



Baron Von Jabba's wondrous Miss
Tickle gives rides at Fairyland



Featured performance for
Guild



Randall Metz and Tori Crosby
perform a scene from A
Midsummer Night's Dream



Jesse Vail demonstrates a simple sock
puppet design for a guild activity

From Ron Coulter:

to register for... more info., please call
415-296-8995 X304 or... arley@openhouse-sf.org

Join us for a very special performance piece:
"Backstage with Jesus, Sid & Greyson!"
Men's Second Sunday Gathering
Sunday, September 8th, 12 noon - 2pm

A message from Ron: That's Sid Star on the left. I'm ventriloquist and dramatist Ron Coulter. Sid and I make folks laugh, challenge belief and push the boundaries of ventriloquist and dramatic convention. Our work with theatre, puppetry, mime and ventriloquism continues a life-long exploration of the relationship between theatre, religion and human aspiration. We enjoy a full spectrum of performance adventures and comedy is our passion.

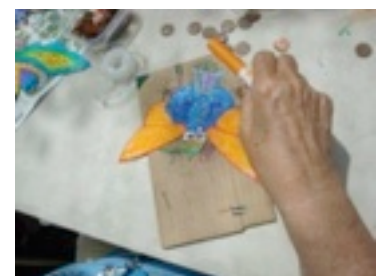


Bring a snack to share, mingle, and meet other GBT men 60-plus. Call Scott at (415) 296-8995 x303 for more information.

Performing for over 50 years, Coulter and Sid Star have appeared nationally, toured the Pacific Rim for the U. S. State Department and the U.S.O., taught college theatre, directed hundreds of productions and workshops, and operated Oakland's Myth and Magic Factory. For more information visit www.CoulterandStar.com



Successful
Puppetmaker



Paper and pennies make a
puppet

Reviews and News

Images In Motion Puppets Featured in Museum Exhibit

In March, the Museum of the Moving Image, NY, contacted Images In Motion (IIM), regarding their work on the cult classic film *Being John Malkovich*. This film was to be included in “*Persol Magnificent Obsessions*” a series of three exhibitions, *30 stories of craftsmanship in film*, running July 10, 2013- November 10, 2013.

The exhibit offers a unique opportunity to view rarely seen artifacts from acclaimed films, as well as behind-the-scenes research notes, sketches, and materials used in the development process by some of the world’s best-known filmmakers. *Being John Malkovich* was selected with other films that illustrate artistry, skill and obsessive attention to detail, such as *Apocalypse Now*, *Requiem for a Dream* and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

The Museum is displaying the complete set of marionettes. In 1999, IIM fabricated the marionettes for the movie and Kamela Portuges was the production designer for the puppet construction and sculpted the faces of John Cusack, Cameron Diaz and Catherine Keener for the iconic puppets. Michael Connor, guest curator, interviewed Ms. Portuges, and her remarks are published in the museum catalogue. Lee Armstrong worked with the curators on materials in IIM archives, including original wax heads of the marionettes and photos of the fabrication process.

The Museum of the Moving Image is the country's only museum dedicated to the art, history, technique, and technology of the moving image in all its forms. It is gratifying to see that the Museum recognizes the beautiful craftsmanship of the marionettes in *Being John Malkovich*.

The Circle of (Puppet) Life

Art Grueneberger

In January of 1993 I took a Puppetry Course at CSU, Sacramento taught by Professor Richard Bay. This is where I was introduced to the art of puppetry. That class was a life changing experience for me. It altered my path and brought me into a career as a puppeteer that continues to be deeply fulfilling on many levels. Last January I was invited to teach a class in Puppetry at CSU, Sacramento in the very same classroom I began in, exactly twenty years later.

I am thrilled by this opportunity to share my passion for puppetry with college students. I have built hundreds of puppets and performed in thousands of puppet shows, yet I consider myself a student of puppet theatre. I hope to always be a student, seeking out new techniques and honing skills already possessed.

Teaching basic performance and building skills has forced me to look at what I do as a performer and builder and why I do it. I hope I inspire the students in my class like Professor Bay inspired me.

Here are pictures of my Spring Semester students and some of their creations. We studied glove, rod, moving mouth and shadow puppet building and performance techniques. Fall Semester begins on

September 3rd. I can't wait!



Calendar

Fratello Marionettes

September 8, 3:00 PM
"The Vaudeville Follies"
Italian Harvest Festa
Uesugi Farms @ 14485 Monterey Ave.
Morgan Hill, CA

September 21, 12:30 PM
"The Vaudeville Follies"
Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival
Old Mill Park
Mill Valley, CA

September 22, 12:30 PM
"The Vaudeville Follies"
Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival
Old Mill Park
Mill Valley, CA

Magical Moonshine Theater

September 26, 11:00 am
Puppylocks and the Three Bears
Rohnert Park Library

Storybook Puppet Theatre

Saturdays and Sundays
11:00 am, 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm
The Magic Blossom, through Aug. 29
William Shakespeare's timeless tale of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" comes to life for children. Puppets, script & scenery by Lewis Mahlmann.

Tashi, A Boy From Tibet Aug. 30–Oct.27
This is a tale about helping each other and caring for animals. In order to learn the lessons of life, Tashi's father sends him out into the world. On the way he meets a magical monk, and saves a village from a wicked demon. Puppets and script by Lewis Mahlmann.

A Fond Farewell

Dear Friends,

After reflecting on the direction of my life and the time I have available for various pursuits, I have decided to step down as the newsletter editor for the San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild. Over the last four years I have been amazed, humbled, wowed, and proud to have the task of putting together the reports and articles about the creative group that is our guild.

I would like to say thank you especially to Michael Nelson, Elisheva Hart, and Lee Armstrong for their support in my attempt to turn out an informative, good looking, and timely newsletter. And a great big thanks to all of you who take the time to write up your activities, snap a few pics, and send them in.

Gregory Hayes has graciously offered to take over the task of newsletter editor. I will be working with him over the next few months to keep this going out. You can help him by sending in your articles. So start taking notes right now and watch you email for info on where to send them.

Talib



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Save the Date(s)

The Programs committee has agreed on the following dates and locations for 2013:

- A Mini-Meeting with Lee Armstrong for TV Puppetry and Movie Night is penciled in for September -North Bay
- Mini-Meeting to attend open dress rehearsal for “Driveway Follies” on Wednesday, October 30 - Oakland
- Fall Meeting on Saturday, November 9 -San Francisco
- Holiday Party 2014 on Sunday, January 26 -North Bay

If anyone has a suggested meeting place for the November meeting in San Francisco, please contact Jesse Vail.



Puppeteers of america

Puppeteers of america, a national non-profit organization founded in 1937, provides information, encourages performances, and builds a community of people who love puppet theatre. Share the enchantment of puppetry with professional puppeteers, puppet builders, teachers, librarians, therapists, youth leaders, hobbyists and audience members who are enthusiastic about puppetry. To learn how to join, visit: www.puppeteers.org