



The official newsletter of
San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild
Looking for updates and missed information?
Check for it at SFBAPG.ORG

SFBAPG is a charter guild of the Puppeteers of America, Inc., a non-profit, tax exempt organization

October 2015



Welcome to October. Besides the wonderful Halloween Driveway Follies in Oakland (pictured above) there is so much puppet stuff happening in October! Read on!

Also, your newsletter has a new email address:
newsletter@sfbapg.org and calendar listings should go to
events@sfbapg.org

Inside this issue:

Reports on Fairyland Day of Puppets and the National Festival, tips for working with puppets and kids, the guild shadow puppet retreat, Puppet Ruckus, Bread and Puppet, Exhibits and more!

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Newsletter contributions Oct 2015 from Mary Nagler

Late report on Fairyland: Many thanks from the Program Planning Committee to all the great volunteers who stepped up to help with the Fairyland festivities! Sharon Clay, Tia Smirnoff and Elisheva Hart assisted by many others manned the Craft table where little guests got a chance to design their own Popsicle puppet character! Lex Rudd, Jennifer Kruss and Mary Nagler precut and assembled the bodies the children decorated. Thanks also to the Folkmanis Company for their generous donation of puppets and puppet kits given to “our” guild kids, and won as prizes by the volunteers. We still have some left, and will make them available as raffle prizes at future meetings!

To the right is a picture of Nils Frykdahl enjoying the day with his three extremely cute daughters, Gudrin, Ura and Edda, (pictured here) and their lovely mom. Nils’ parents, he said, were in the guild for many years in the past, and he likes bringing the children to our events!



Late National Festival at UCONN report:

Going back to my Alma Mater for a National puppet festival was something I eagerly anticipated for two years! I made puppets to sell in the store to cover the costs of going and basically broke even! It was great to see old east coast friends and introduce them to my west coast friends! Especially fun was hanging out with Lynnette Pinto who knows both places and many of the same people! Here are a few pictures of guild members at the festival to give you a taste!



Left, instructor Heidi Rugg taught a great “Put a little spring in your rod puppets” workshop.

Right, guild member Yumi Osaki with Heidi’s Frog puppet! Heidi let us handle and explore everything! Lots of great information!



Lower left: From the exhibit: my two offerings, Dr. Lottgar Spensori, styled after my friend Spencer Lott, and a portrait puppet of UCONN Puppet Arts professor, Bart Roccoberton, who I posed laughing as he celebrates 50 years of the puppet arts program and 25 years as the program’s professor.



Left: Bart welcomes guests to the puppet Lab for the Bar B Que, backed up by Poseidon, from the show Iccarus!



Right: Visiting the Puppet Lab (with guild friends) was strange and familiar!



Lower right: The parade was a gift to the hosting community, and fun!

Lower left: Here Carroll Spinney (the soul of Big Bird) mugs with Nick Barone's puppet and Camilla Henneman.



They are my tribe, they are my people. Good times!

Shadow Puppet Sleepover Workshop with Camilla Henneman!

Just 5 spaces left in the upcoming Shadow Puppet Workshop Oct.10 and 11 at Westminster Woods, in Occidental. If you like hanging out with friends in the woods, taking a break from cooking and dishes and like making art in the dark, this workshop is for you!

Sign up here: <http://www.sfbagp.org/events/next-guild-meeting/event-registration/>

or contact: Mary Nagler 707 303 0093
mary.nagler@gmail.com

It's a sleepover shadow party! Hi! This is Camilla Henneman, the presenter of the upcoming shadow workshop. My friend, Mary Nagler, from our planning committee has generously called me a "professional". If we were making gorilla suits, fat



sits, monsters, or Bigfoot, that might be true. As for shadow puppets, there are those in the group with more experience than I have. Still, it is my joy, and I am excited to share what I have learned from teachers: Jim (Nappy) Napolitano, Kathy Foley, and more recently from Faye Dupras at the P of A National Festival. We will be a mix of young and old, experienced, and beginners (with me somewhere in between) I will bring the ingredients, and together we will mix it up and have a glorious romp in the shadows. Please come join us!

Helpful products when working with groups of students:

Judy Roberto offered some wonderful tips at the last guild meeting...here are some of her suggestions. (Sources are only given for price approximation.)

Soil Separator - Trench Wrap Fabric From Home Depot – in the landscape/French drain dept. 36" x 150 ft. roll, for \$14.99+tx. That's just about 16 cents a yard! This is a thin film webbing, similar to interfacing. It is durable with very little stretch. It has a MULTITUDE of uses, including:



Patterning, arts, crafts: To transfer a design, lay web over a design and trace. Then lay it over the item to receive the transfer. Use chalk, pencil or marker to redraw the design onto item. The web allows lines to go through to the item. The web is usually reusable and reversible.

Decorating and costuming: The web is quite floaty and feathery when fringed. It can be colored with acrylic paint. You can dye a good amount of the web in very little water. To achieve the color you desire, test a few swatches. First, pre-wet the web. Don't wring it, just shake off excess water. Take a bucket with about 1/2c of cold water in it. Add acrylic paint and stir *completely before adding web*. Put web in bucket (wear gloves) and squish the web repeatedly in the color water. Make sure all areas are colored. Do not rinse. Carefully lift out and hang to dry or lay on drop cloth, moving it frequently while drying. It only takes about 15 minutes to dry. After drying, you can paint, stamp, tape, sew (carefully) and most glues will stick to it. Just remember it will go through to the surface below.



Just for fun, a special event ceiling done with soil separator.

The web can be glued over another color to resemble stone. Create beautiful shadow effects, ethereal drapes or costume elements, etc.

Ace Clipper Staple pliers – Using only Ace 70001 Staples (undulated)

From Amazon for \$17.99 stapler / \$4.84 staples. Money well spent!

These hand staplers are used widely by florists. The undulated staple grabs and holds many times better than regular staples. The ends are curled under nicely. They are powerful enough to staple a wooden tongue depressor to a piece of cardstock. Good to staple fabric, useful as an emergency "stitch" device.



Ginger 5" Craft Scissors

From Amazon \$17.15. These are amazingly sharp. Only for Adult Handling.

The blade is shaped differently, and is thicker than regular scissors. Incredible for paper cutting for shadow puppets or scherrenschnitte. It is possible to cut through 4 - 5 sheets of sulphite construction paper at once.



Ellison Die Cutter – The Die Cutter that came before the ones made for retail!

This is an industrial die and roller with a great variety of dies available. But they are pricey. So find a school resource room or a recycle center (Raft in San Jose or Redwood City). Several sheets of construction paper can be cut at once. Using these shapes allows you start quickly with shadow puppets, giving the students a chance to experience the performance process before creating their own.



2015 National Puppet Festival award for Best Performance for *The Pirate, the Princess and the Pea!*

Ed. Note, Bonny Hall and Jaime Keithline's Crabgrass Puppet Theatre won Best Performance at the National Festival. The couple are alums of SFBAPG and we are proud to claim them!



*Thanks to Judy Roberto for sharing these photos of *The Pirate, the Princess and the Pea!**

REVIEWS OF SHOWS AT FAIRYLAND'S PUPPET FAIR by Elisheva

(Note: Quotes are only around descriptions from the Fairyland daily schedule.)



The Emperor's Nightingale -Fairyland's current show opened the event and was repeated 2 more times during the day. The setting for this marionette show is fabulous. It is "....a lovely Chinese fairy story about an emperor who falls in love with the song of a simple nightingale." Absolutely stunning sets, by Annie Wong, and beautiful marionettes. The summation of this familiar tale is when the real bird refuses honors from the Emperor because she has

been rewarded already by moving him to tears with her incredible music.

The puppet heads were built by Bill Jones (designer of our Guild Logo) and Lewis Mahlmann in the 1950's for a production of this story. Lewis decided the heads were too heavy and built another set which he used as hand puppets. Later Randal resurrected the heavy heads and successfully turned them into marionettes.

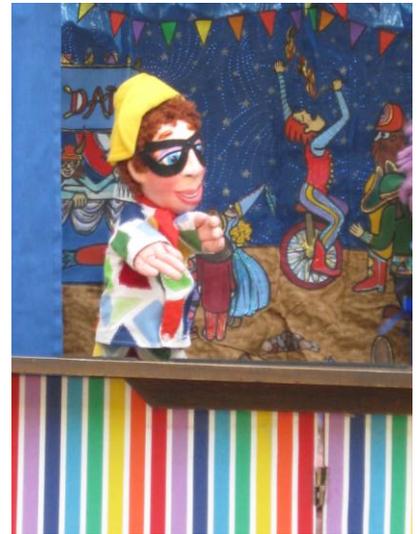


hand puppet!

***Puff the Magic Dragon* -"Presented by The Puppet Company."**

Randal Metz has been performing his one-man show off site all summer. It will be in the Fairyland rotation next year. Oh yes, it is that great Peter, Paul, and Mary song brought to life in a delightful '60's (when else?) setting/flashback. Grown up Jacky Paper is explaining about imaginary friends to his young daughter. All the hand puppets are great characters and young Jacky totally reminds me of Randal himself, way back in that Mythic Era! Sideburns, large belt buckle, and bell bottoms included. Pretty well designed, letting me see bell bottoms on a

***Harlequin and the Gift of Many Colors* "which introduces children to Harlequin, the father of all clowns. Presented by Whorls of Wonder Puppet Theatre." Mary Nagler says that this was one of the favorite stories she and her young sons shared in the 1970's. And she has beautifully brought it to life with hand puppets. Young Harlequin is crushed because he has outgrown his Carnival costume and mom is too exhausted to sew another one and has no fabric. His friends donate scraps of theirs' and lo! his diamond shaped costume was created! I like the way Mary performs live (no recorded dialogue) since she has a genuine gift for including and adapting the audience's dialogue with her/the puppets, and gently too. When she first built the show-way back in the '70's-many African-American Moms told her that Harlequin's friend was the first black puppet they and their children had ever seen! This book is by Remy Charlip, who lived in the Bay Area as a respected elder to college age dance students. Before that he was a modern dancer in NYC and a founding member in 1958 of Paper Bag Theatre, which still introduces kids to theatre today. He had written/illustrated 28 other children's books.**



***Perez & Mondinga* "....a Mexican fiesta tale of a cockroach who marries a mouse. Presented by Ronda Kay."**



Rhonda is a frequent Fairyland performer with her hand puppets. Bright colors and upbeat Mexican music and dancing are used throughout this jolly story. Plus fun sets with puppets peeping through windows, etc. We learn that even a beautiful cockroach has trouble finding the perfect spouse! She questions each of her various animal suitors, asking how they would show their love for her. No answers are suitable until Perez the mouse tells Mondinga that he will love her and equally share with her the work and joy of marriage. The rejected cat keeps interrupting the wedding plans and fiesta until Mondinga drops a very heavy piñata on this bad boy. Parents from various

countries, including India! have told Ronda that they also have a similar folk tale in their culture.

Bring the kids! Bring your friends! April's Puppet Ruckus was a smash hit and we're doing it again at noon, Saturday, October 24th at the Mira Black Box Theater in Vallejo!

We'll have music, merriment and wonderful puppets bringing you a live, family-friendly puppetry variety show like you've probably never seen before. The event will feature Bay Area legend



Mary Nagler performing "Little Red Riding Hood" and "Harlequin and the Gift of Many Colors" as well as performances by Kennedy Puppets with their rendition of "The 3 Little Pigs", Sacramento's Elizabeth Leonard performing "Life Goes On", Dani Joy performing "Meet The Chords" and newcomer Azlan Star-Clevenger performing "Azlan's Razzmataz", as well as live music and vocals from Dani Joy.

Saturday, October 24, Noon – 1:30pm (doors open at 11:30am)

Mira Black Box Theatre, 51 Daniels Avenue, Vallejo, CA

Free parking • Potluck snacks- please bring some to share

General Admission: \$15, Guild Members: \$7, kids age 5-10: \$4, Kids 4 and under are free

IT'S NOT TOO LATE to join the show. We have room for one more amateur or professional performer. This is a great opportunity for brand-new puppeteers to finally get on stage in front of a supportive audience, or for seasoned pro's to meet new apprentices and get exposure to the enthusiastic Vallejo Arts community. Please send your 2-15 min PG act description and photo to Elizabeth Leonard by October 4 at eo@elizabethdesign.com.

Exhibits

Malay Puppets and Performance, from Kathy Foley

An exhibit of "Malay Puppets and Performance: Islam, Iconography and Intangible Cultural Heritage" will open on Sept. 30 and run through Thanksgiving at the Porter Faculty Gallery/Sessnon Gallery at UCSC. Hours are generally 12-5 Tue-Sun (through Nov. 25). Wayang Kelantan tells Ramayana stories and was banned in East Malaysia in 1992 by the Islamic political power voted into power due to perceived Hindu-Buddhist elements. What happens to arts when politics, fundamentalism, and heritage efforts clash?



From Myrna Walton, Puppet Collector:

Tom and I are exhibiting almost 100 puppets, mainly from our collection, in San Francisco, at the Mills Tower public gallery, 220 Bush. It's very close to Montgomery BART.

The exhibit is called "So you thought puppets were just for kids." The gallery is open to the public Monday - Friday, 8 to 6pm.

I will be conducting a guided gallery tour on Sunday, Sept. 27 at 4pm, and Wednesday, Oct. 14, (along with co-curator Margot Blum Schevill) at 2pm.

Please RSVP to myrnawalton@sbcglobal.net if you want to come to one of the guided tours

Bread and Puppet Tours West Coast

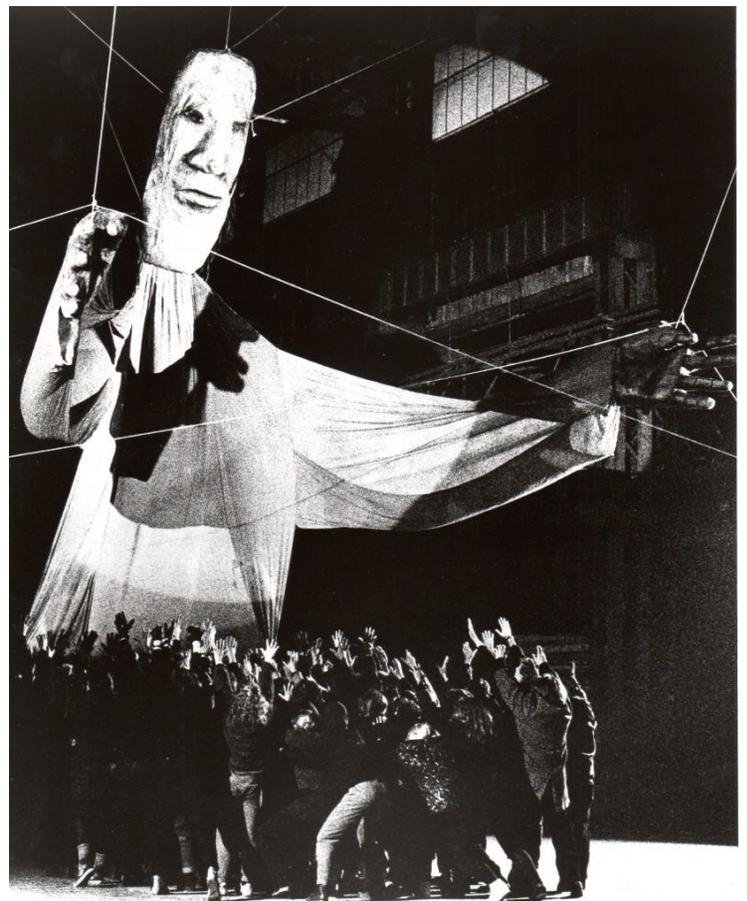
Editor's note: Bread and Puppet is one of the world's most influential puppet theatres of our time. Every year we meet people at our shows that come up to say they worked with Bread and Puppet. As you will note from their schedule, they are performing a variety of shows while they are here. This is a great opportunity to see some of the work of this legendary company. M.

"We believe in puppet theater as a wholesome and powerful language that can touch men and women and children alike, and we hope that our plays are true and are saying what has to be said, and that they add to your enjoyment and enlightenment."

—Peter Schumann

The Bread and Puppet Theater was founded in 1963 by Peter Schumann on New York City's Lower East Side. Besides rod-puppet and hand puppet shows for children, the concerns of the first productions were rents, rats, police, and other problems of the neighborhood. More complex theater pieces followed, in which sculpture, music, dance and language were equal partners. The puppets grew bigger and bigger. Annual presentations for Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving and Memorial Day often included children and adults from the community as participants. Many performances were done in the street. During the Vietnam War, Bread and puppet staged block-long processions and pageants involving hundreds of people.

In 1974 Bread and Puppet moved to a farm in Glover in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. The 140-year old hay barn was transformed into a museum for veteran puppets. Our Domestic Resurrection Circus, a two day outdoor festival of puppetry shows, was presented annually through 1998.



Monday Oct. 5 at 8 PM Bread and Puppet will present "Fire" at the Porter College Dining Hall UCSC.

Tuesday, October 6th, 7:30 pm ***FIRE*** performance OMNI Commons, 4799 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA--\$10 suggested donation, no one turned away. For more information, consult <https://omnicommons.org/>

Wednesday, October 7th, 6:00 – 8:00 pm opening reception for *JINGLES & GIANTS: A Bread and Puppet Book Fair* at the [San Francisco Center for the Book](#), 375 Rhode Island St, San Francisco. Pop-up Exhibit runs from Oct 7-12.

Wednesday, October 7th, 7:00pm. ***FIRE*** Performance, followed by a Bread Reception [Sebastopol Grange](#), 6000 Sebastopol Ave, Hwy 12, Sebastopol, Tickets are \$20 or donation. (No one will be turned away due to lack of funds.) Tickets –<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2227275>

Friday, Oct 9th, 6:00pm. Reception and Cheap Art Sale followed by Fiddle Lecture by Peter Schumman followed by Performance of ***FIRE*** [Internet Archive](#), 300 Funston Avenue, SF, Tickets are \$20 or donation. (No one will be turned away due to lack of funds.) Tickets –<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2227297>

On Friday, Oct 9, come early to the Internet Archive for a wine reception and sale of the company's "Cheap art" at 6:00 p.m. Then at 7 p.m. we will be dedicating the [Bread & Puppet Archive](#) with Internet Archive founder Brewster Kahle and filmmaker Dee Dee Halleck. Thanks to Halleck's generosity, the Internet Archive is preserving 150 hours of video of circuses, pageants, passion plays, 250 puppeteers, and making it available to the public. Then Peter Schumann will perform one of his famous Fiddle Talks, an once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience the philosophy of this visionary artist. All this leads up to a performance of *FIRE*.

Saturday, Oct 10th, 2:00pm Parade at Dolores Park, San Francisco (Parade participants are welcome—wear white and meet at 1 p.m., look for the big banners and boat!) Bread and Puppet will lead the *We are All in the Same Boat* parade with volunteers, musicians and community members, asking a provocative question for the Bay Area in 2015: "What if we could all swim together?"

Sunday, October 11th, 1:00-4:00 p.m Bread and Puppet: Play in The Tenderloin [Luggage Store Annex/Tenderloin National Forest](#), 511 Ellis Street (between Hyde & Leavenworth) Bread and Puppet Cantastoria performances in the Tenderloin National Forest with bread and aioli; stew made "Fresh from the Oven" by Amara Tabor Smith; sewing with The Mending Library. In the Luggage Store Annex Gallery: Bread and Puppet's "Cheap Art" Sale and art activities for children with ArtsEd4All.

Canterbury: Miller's Tale by Magical Moonshine Theatre, October 9 & 10, 2015 in Napa

Canterbury's Miller's Tale: a rowdy puppet play of sex and deceit, will be presented at Alexis Baking Company (ABC) - 1517 Third Street - as part of their ongoing 30th Anniversary Celebration - on Friday and Saturday, October 9th and 10th. Magical Moonshine Theatre will present their internationally acclaimed "Miller's Tale" from Chaucer's



"Canterbury Tales," accompanied by a delicious "medieval" meal by the culinary masters at ABC Bakery. Doors open at 7pm for merriment and socializing, and dinner starts at 7:30 with show to follow. The design of the play is based on the Kelmscott Chaucer, produced by William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones, and the show features live music, singing, acting and even a miniature joust! Tickets are \$65.00 and can be reserved by calling ABC at 707-258-1827 or by going to ABC's website: abcnapa.com with your name/address and phone number. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to help fill the coffers of the Valley Fire Evacuees and we recommend this show for adults and mature teens.

In The Miller's Tale, the Reeve insists the Miller is too drunk to recount any tale but the Miller goes ahead, spinning a bawdy yarn about sex, love, infidelity, trickery and midnight shenanigans. Our play proceeds on several levels, with the actors/musicians taking the roles played by both Chaucer and the Innkeeper who encourage the tales, the hand puppets playing the roles of the story tellers, and the beautiful paper scenes and figures telling the tales themselves (when the hand puppets or actors let them!)

Tickets now available for October 9 & 10 by calling ABC Bakery at 707-258-1827

Guild Calendar Peek -For more: <http://www.sfbapg.org/events/calendar/>

Saturday, October 3

Children's Fairyland: The Emperor's New Nightingale

12:30pm

Guinda, CA Hoes Down Harvest Festival - 2 shows

8:00pm

San Jose: Lion King

Sunday, October 4

Children's Fairyland: The Emperor's New Nightingale

6:30pm

San Jose: Lion King

Wednesday, October 7

Children's Fairyland: The Emperor's New Nightingale

6:00pm

San Francisco Center for the Book: Jingles and Giants: Bread and Puppet Books

6:00pm

Rohnert Park Regional Library: Animalitos

7:00pm

Sebastopol Grange: Bread & Puppet Theater: Performance of FIRE

Thursday, October 8

Children's Fairyland: The Emperor's New Nightingale

Friday, October 9

Children's Fairyland: The Emperor's New Nightingale

7:00pm

The Internet Archive: Bread & Puppet Theater: Performance of FIRE

Saturday, October 10

Children's Fairyland: The Emperor's New Nightingale

10:00am

SFBAPG Event: Shadow Puppet Sleepover at Westminster Woods!

Send your Calendar listings to events@sfbapg.org