

	<p>The official newsletter of <b>San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild</b> <i>Looking for updates and missed information? Check for it at <a href="http://SFBAPG.ORG">SFBAPG.ORG</a></i></p> <p><i>SFBAPG is a charter guild of the Puppeteers of America, Inc., a non-profit, tax exempt organization</i></p>
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## February, 2018



Pam Severns was a special, guest artist at the guild holiday party, joining a slate of excellent performances by Animal Cracker Conspiracy, Camilla Henneman, Talib and Olivia Huff, Pam Wade, and Valerie Smith and friends! Fantastic fun! Review inside.

### *Inside this Issue*

- >Webmaster requests photos for website
- >Shrek, Jr with puppets
- > Updates on members activities including self driving cars hauling puppets, upcoming shows, and far flung puppet activities
- >Save the date for future guild meeting
- >Review of Guild Holiday Party
- >Ask Mrs. Bandersnoot

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## Words from a Computer Chair

Hello from your webmaster, we need YOU!

Specifically we need your photos. To keep things fresh, we need to keep our website and social media presence fresh, it's time to get some new or additional photos of your work.



We need any and all pictures of your puppets, and shows. Let's highlight not only pictures on the Performers/Services Directory page. Did you, your friend, or a professional photographer take a picture at your last performance? Send it in. Do you have a picture of your workspace, or puppets you've completed? Send them in. Got a great photo that didn't make it into the newsletter? Send it in. Have an image that's already featured but its more recent or a different angle? Send it in.

Lets update our banners, postcards, facebook, twitter and instagram with images of your work. Send photos to [webmaster@sfbapg.org](mailto:webmaster@sfbapg.org).

### Shrek Jr. Brings Puppets and Youth to the Stage.



The last weekend in January (26-28, Pittsburg Community Theatre (PCT)

([www.pittsburgcommunitytheatre.org](http://www.pittsburgcommunitytheatre.org)) wrapped their youth production of **Shrek Jr., The Musical**. This musical is a shortened version of the full Broadway show, with a cast of 31, ages ranging from nine to nineteen, and filled with costumes, props, and puppets.

"This show was my vision, nothing would be different. It was absolutely perfect and puppets were a huge part of that. I saw Brianna in the audience after a show and the little kid she was talking to was talking to Gingy and she kept the voice going and everything. It was magical." said Lena Timrott, director.

When Lena started on the production she set out with a vision, she wanted a Dragon, a Gingerbread puppet "Gingy" and a growing nose, which John Arnold found with help or built.



"Working with the kids was super fun and it was exciting to see them take direction and run with it. With the dragon in particular watching those kids grow and learn how to work the puppet was incredible." she added. "I got to watch the show from house on closing and go to see them move like a unit; it was great."

## MEMBER SECTION (WHAT ARE YOU ALL UP TO?)

*From Derek Lux:*

**DLUX Puppets' Alice in Wonderland**

Bankhead Theater, Livermore, CA

Sunday February 11, at 3pm

Tel: [925-373-6800](tel:925-373-6800)

Email: [websales@lvpac.org](mailto:websales@lvpac.org)

[Buy Tickets](#) online 24/7

<https://lvpac.org/event/dlux-puppets-alice-wonderland/>



With remarkable puppetry and clever digital scenery, the classic tale of Alice's journey through the marvelous world of the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat and the Queen of Hearts becomes a fun musical adaptation for the whole family.



In this visually engaging production, all of the characters who encounter Alice are intricately engineered life size puppets, hand built and voiced by DLux Puppet's founder Derek Lux. Derek is a multi-talented performer who stars in "Beach Blanket Babylon" in San Francisco at night while building puppets during the day. His wife, second grade teacher Lauren Lux, is DLux' education director and has developed a performance activity kit for students who attend the show. "Alice in Wonderland" made its debut in May 2017 in Walnut Creek. While the production is designed to also teach children how to use the power of their words, thoughts and feelings in a positive way, above all else, DLux Puppet's "Alice in Wonderland" is a feast for the eyes and an afternoon of family fun.

#### *From Lynette Pinto*

One of my puppets made history! He was the first puppet to ride in a Voyage autonomous car!! This is definitely the first for Voyage, it may be the first ride of its kind in the country, or perhaps even the first in the world! (You never know.)

The puppet and I (okay, and if truth be told, my husband and mother too) are lucky enough to be able to live in a large, gated, 55+ community, that Voyage has chosen to be as their very first test site for their autonomous vehicles. Their service is being offered to those who need help getting around our community and my puppet, having no legs, definitely needs the help! The vehicles still have someone in the driver's seat as a safety precaution at this point, and I have to say that I felt safer on this trip than on any other that I have been on while driving the freeways around here. (Of course, it may help that the maximum speed limit in my neighborhood is only 25 mph.)



#### *From Mary Nagler*

**News from the North!** Greeting friends! Recently, I attended the Holiday Party of the Puppeteers of Puget Sound Guild gathering. It was held at the Thistle Theatre, a great little Children's Theatre in Seattle. A performance of Beatrix Potter's classic tale, **Two Bad Mice**, preceded the party. I really enjoyed the staging and thought you would too. It was a combination of large toy- like theater, direct manipulation and live actors. The story revolved around a young Beatrix and her brother playing with a doll house and making up/ and telling the story as they went along. It was very charming. The reactions of the children delightful!

I could not take pictures during the performance, of course, so here they are resetting the props on the stage! The props



were all miniature and very detailed. The MICE, could travel through the house and pop out of the base and come from a number of places!



It is always nice to meet, in person, one of your Facebook friends. This is Zane Exactly, who played Beatrix Potter's Brother. At the end of the show he and his co puppeteer, Amy Escobar, brought the mice out for the children to see up close. The Mice were really cute, and very lively!



Thistle Theatre's Artistic Director is my new friend Jean Enticknap. She is a force of Nature in the Seattle puppet scene! Submitted by Mary Nagler.

## Two Invitations from The Independent Eye:

First: We're presenting our new solo show, SURVIVAL, in various North Bay venues during February and March. It's not puppetry-except for brief appearances by ten finger puppets and a leftover sock-but if you've seen our puppet work, it's from the same brainpans.

You can see a video trailer of Survival at <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOoBdFLap9g>>. Elizabeth plays two halves of herself. As Lou, she's seen 77 years of surviving everything from having been born Sherilee ("Parents make a lotta mistakes; do I look like a Sherilee?") to dealing with a high-maintenance friend ("She's tried suicide three times and survived all three-never was good with practical stuff."). But reading the daily news with its multiple disasters-"Annihilation Awareness Day," "International Apocalypse Week"-she evokes her Inner Clown, Bozo, a perpetual red-nosed optimist: "We don't just sit there and say, 'What'll I do, what'll I do?' We gird up our loins and take a deep breath and rev up our engines and do something stupid."

It's a comedy, but it's double-edged, like all the work of this duo who've toured coast to coast for the past 47 years. Survival-and surviving our fatalism-is best addressed in the company of friends. You can get the full schedule at our blogsite, [www.DamnedFool.com](http://www.DamnedFool.com).

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And the second invitation: If you or a friend has a living room large enough to fit 10-15 or so people-and have 10-15 or so friends-you can invite us to do a house concert of SURVIVAL any time in March or April. We're free to hosts-we pass a hat at the end of the 50-minute show-and we provide text & photos for invitations. We only suggest that you provide some refreshments to help create the atmosphere of an artistic party/salon. If interested in exploring the possibility, email us at [eye@independenteye.org](mailto:eye@independenteye.org).



## Save the Date! Introduction to Performing Hand and Rod (Muppet) style puppetry

Sunday, April 29th afternoon, Walnut Creek area

More information will follow in the March newsletter

"This 90 minute workshop is loads of fun and the perfect introduction to performing hand and rod (Muppet) style puppetry! Using professionally made puppets, participants get to learn, explore and practice the fundamentals of puppetry for live performance!"





Derek Lux is puppeteer, singer, actor and award winning puppet builder. He's designed and built puppets for television, music videos, short films, and theater. He created the curriculum and taught courses on Professional Puppet Building at Puppet School in Los Angeles. Derek received the Los Angeles Stage Alliance 2013 Ovation Honor Award for his work in *Shrek The Musical*. In 2016, he played the title role in a reimagined workshop of *Sweeney Todd* at the famous *O'Neill Theatre Center* in Connecticut as part of the National Puppetry Conference. Derek performs Professor Wonderman in its Gratitude videos for Class Dojo, an educational app that is used by over 8 million teachers across the country. As a full time working actor, Derek currently can be seen onstage in the principle cast of *Steve Silver's Beach Blanket Babylon*, the longest running musical revue in history. For DLUX Puppets' *Alice in Wonderland*, Derek built the puppets, wrote, directed and performs in the show.

## REVIEW OF GUILD'S HOLIDAY PARTY LAST MONTH!

by Elisheva, with a lot of help from my friends. Thanks.

SFBAPG-aka OUR TRIBE gathered together in Benicia Saturday January 20th to recreate the Holiday Parties which many of our performing members missed last December, do to gainful employment-at other groups' parties. We all had used much needed time to Relax, Reboot, and Renew our holiday spirits so WOW the energy was zinging!

Our event was identified as a DIY (Do It Yourselfes) Party and opportunities abounded, bringing our attendees together. They bustled around borrowing tape, unloading cars, setting up stages and tables, making signage for the raffle items, decorating holiday theme tables, munching, excitedly greeting old and meeting new friends, repacking cars, etc.

"THIS IS THE WAY TO ENJOY A PARTY", caroled Mrs. PUNCH. PUNCH himself did some high kicks, BLATTED his little tin horn approvingly and THREW IT OUT THE WINDOW!

\*THE 2nd ANNUAL PUPPET RUNWAY included:

>Mother and daughter team, Katie and Molly Christman, entering with "The Fabulous Singing CantaLupe"-who is part mammal, part iguana, and part cantaloupe-and her friend, "Goatina", both who are shy. Using Spanish seems to help.

>John Arnold with a giant 3-D felt gingerbread cookie named "Gingy", from the movie, Shrek. And he delightfully sashayed and vamped to "I'm So Pretty" while movin' with "The Ugly Puppet." (photo right)

>Ali Goss, with "No Name"- a basic geometrical marionette with no features or costumes, which allows maximum adaptability to dress up or dress down.

>Tree proudly paraded 2 marionette critters. First an amazingly bony (you could see right through her body) cow named "Flossie". Later he strolled out with an amazingly fluffy, realistic looking and behaving, petite French poodle named "Fifi".

>Lynnette Pinto jockeyed "Ellie", a contest winning Elephant down the runway. She was created from \$5 worth of items from the Dollar Store, plus the store's paper bag. (SEE THE FULL 'BACK STORY' AFTER THIS REVIEW!)

\*FOOD-PLENTIFUL, DELICIOUS, ALWAYS AVAILABLE! TABLES WERE SPECTACULAR! GIFTS EXCHANGED WERE WORTHY AND FUN!

RAFFLE-INCLUDING 3 FABULOUS ITEMS AS SILENT AUCTION BARGAINS-RAISED ABOUT \$226 FOR FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIPS!!!

\*PERFORMANCES: They were sprinkled throughout the event, like chocolate chips within a gigantic cookie!

>"This is a Star", an accumulative rhyme (like "The House that Jack Built") written by Joyce Dunbar which illustrated the Nativity Story on a shadow screen using minimal colored set pieces and black silhouettes of the characters. The star of course was a shining round light, which could be brought close to the screen for an intense bright light, and pulled



back for a larger, more diffused effect. Performed by Olivia and Talib Huff of Tinker's Coin Productions plus Pam Wade of Puppet Pals. (photo above)

>"Miss Otis Regrets," (photo to left) a crankie show set to the 1934 Cole Porter song and sung by Nat King Cole. The crankie backdrop was made with brightly colored tissue paper glued onto the roll of butcher paper. The puppet performer-elegantly designed in preWW 2 gowns-and the bits of scenery such as tree trunks, were done with black



silhouettes. Camilla Henneman was designer, creator, and puppeteer. Judy Roberto assisted her as the Crankee (person turning the crank.) SEE MORE INFO AT END OF THIS ARTICLE RE CAM PRESENTING A GUILD CRANKIE WORKSHOP IN THE NEAR FUTURE!



>"It's a Beautiful Life", recorded by Ace of Bass, was interpreted by a quartet of singing animal mouth puppets (a giraffe, etc.) which were manipulated by Valerie Smith, Molly Christman (our attending youth member), and Cam Henneman. They were rockin' out, and probably could be felt in many parts of The Bay! (photo left)

>"The Way of the Mask" aka "Fish Boy" A vignette from the Animal Cracker Conspiracy, our new puppeteer friends. Bridget Roundtree and Iain Gunn amazed us with a beautiful, elaborate, large Toy Theater of awesome multi-depths of scenery.

The opening scene was in a Pacific NW native fishing village and continued with a wonderful visual depiction of bygone London. (photo below)



>"Bunny and Squirrel" was the final performance of the evening, performed by Pam Severns, a marvelous pantomimist from LA who was visiting her Mom in San Francisco. Being blocked in by parking for the 2nd annual Women's March, Pam couldn't reach Benicia until we were on the verge of beginning the party cleanup. What a trouper! "The show must go on!" Well worth our wait. Despite the soft and fuzzy title, this hilarious skit was not kiddy stuff! (Photo on page 1)

THANKS ALL WHO PLANNED, APPEARED, CONTRIBUTED, & ENJOYED -"APPLAUSE TO

US, EVERY ONE!", QUOTH BABY PUNCH!

>BACK STORY...Lynnette Pinto's Puppet Runway description of her puppet, Ellie, was so interesting I want to share it with you all. {Elisheva}

"This is Ellie. She is a puppet that Lynnette built for a \$5 - Dollar Store Challenge, held by the Portland area PDX Puppet Collective Lab. The five, one dollar items that Lynnette purchased were a water pitcher, a pair of socks, an oil funnel, a package of foam hair curlers and felt.

The challenge also had lists of unrelated ideas, that each participant was supposed to choose from, to use as a starting point for their skit. Lynnette took the challenge even further by using all 5 ideas on her list. This elephant's story had to tie together: Easter, missing foot, road trip, elephant, and cheating. To complete the skit even the paper bag from the store had to be utilized.

Her story was about a little girl elephant that went on a road trip through the Savannah. Along the way she explored the nooks and crannies in the grasses. While playing she found an Easter egg with a peanut in it, and a lady elephant's missing foot, which she played with like a child would play dress up with their mother's shoes."

This sounds more fun than playing Pin the Nose on Pinocchio! It's "wackiness" might help shake us out of our same-old same-old, whether in concept, design, or scripting! Let's try it some time.-E.

>YAY! Camilla Henneman is scheduled to present us with a Guild Crankie Workshop soon, TBA. See her article, "The Crankies are Coming!" in the November, 2017 issue of SFBAPG Newsletter, pages 9-11 and Editor Mike's article about his and Valerie's use of crankies in an elementary classroom in the same issue, on page 12). Lots of colored photos and links for further info abound in both articles.

## Ask Mrs. Bandersnoot

Belated Holiday Greetings my dears!

Sorry my column is a bit behind the times! I so wanted to find an ugly Holiday sweater (all the rage) to wear for my picture, as my Halloween costume was such a hit! Ugly sweaters however, are really hard to find in a toddler size 4! Who knew!?! They are all too cute! Not ugly at all! While searching and shopping I missed the deadline! Would any of my clever fans like to volunteer to knit me one? Hmmm?

Well, I am encouraged that no one had any serious needs and that you are all so knowledgeable about all things puppet, but to be truthful, I am feeling a little left out. No one needed me again this month. Don't you have a puppet with silly questions? Use this opportunity to plumb the depths of my vast knowledge before my foam turns to dust!

I feel like Tinker Bell and need a little attention to keep going on. If I am doing this only for my amusement, I shall retire and write my Great American novelette instead.

(But who wants to retire? And actually, doing my column for my own amusement is also a very valid reason!)

Best wishes for a **BELATED** Happy Holiday! Still frisky Mrs. Bandersnoot

