



The official newsletter of  
**San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild**  
*Looking for updates and missed information?  
Check for it at [SFBAPG.ORG](http://SFBAPG.ORG)*

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

**April, 2018**



**April Fools'**

**Day** (sometimes called **All Fools' Day**) is an annual

celebration in

some European and Western countries

commemorated on

April 1 by playing

practical jokes and spreading hoaxes. People playing April Fool jokes often expose their prank by shouting "April fool" at the unfortunate victim(s). Some newspapers, magazines and other published media report fake stories, which are usually explained the next day or below the news section in smaller letters. Thanks to our guild co-president for the artwork.

**Inside this Issue**

- Governor Brown honors Guild with large funding award to further puppetry for ages 0-2
- EPA has "issues" with puppet making materials, considers ban
- Puppetry in prisons; helping inmates escape boredom
- Puppetry and your pets; works with dogs, not cats
- How to turn your ink jet printer into a serious 3D printer using only a hot glue gun and gaff tape
- New Muppet Show with all new characters in Fall

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## From your Co-President, Tree Bartlett

Why Join the guild? Great question. For those of you who have been a member of our guild for many years, I'm sure you can attest to many of the great benefits of being a member of our guild. With spring in the air it's a time to start getting active and getting our puppets out into the world. This month I thought I'd reflect a bit on why being a member of the San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild is worthwhile.

There are lots of great reasons to join and be a member. We exist to support our mutual interest in puppetry. To indulge and share in the medium as well as offer opportunities to build skills and learn from one another. Our guild is full of an amazing assortment of professional and non professional puppeteers and there are a few who call themselves just plain fans of puppets. Sometimes we arrange group events to go see puppet shows together in the area. We also have a library with a number of books and DVDs regarding puppetry of all sorts available for checkout which is only available to members. Being a member of the guild also provides opportunities to network and share our knowledge, discoveries, and tips and tricks. The guild continues to provide opportunities for members to build skills and learn from other professionals. In fact we have one such event coming up at the end of this month. Derek Lux of DLUX Puppets is graciously opening up his studio to us for an afternoon workshop on performing with hand and rod puppets. So please join us if you are able to make it. Everyone interested in puppets are welcome here.



One of the things I love about the puppet community is the generosity puppeteers have. We share freely what we know and love about puppets with others. I especially encourage those who are just starting out and learning to join us. Having the support of this wonderful community is invaluable. Speaking of which, we occasionally provide opportunities for performance through a puppet slam now and then. These events are great opportunities for new budding puppeteers to get up on stage and try your hand at puppet performance in front of an enthusiastic and supportive audience.

The year is still young and spring is here so there will be many more events and opportunities to come together over puppets. The guild would love to hear from you as well. If you have an exciting new puppet building trick you'd like to share, write an article and send it in to be published in the news letter. Send us pictures of your latest puppet project we love seeing what folks are up to and hearing from you.

Best wishes to all,  
Tree

## April Guild Meeting: Introduction to Hand & Rod (Muppet) Style Puppetry

Sunday, April 29 at 3pm

Derek and Lauren Lux's home: 1249 Glenwood Drive,  
Concord

3pm Meet & Greet (If you have a new puppet (or old)  
that you'd like to share, please bring it to the meet & greet)

3:30 Workshop: Introduction to Hand & Rod (Muppet)  
Style Puppetry



Sish Board Meeting & Potluck (Please bring something to share with others. Guild will provide paper products and utensils)

"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. <http://www.dluxpuppets.com>

## **May Guild Meeting: Kid Friendly Puppet Slam Workshop & Board Elections**

Date: May 19<sup>th</sup> afternoon

Location: TBA

Got a short, kid friendly puppet piece you'd like to try out in front of a family audience? Want a little direction from some of our more seasoned performers? Then our Kid Friendly Puppet Slam and Puppet Slam Workshop are for you!

Join us on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> and bring your kid friendly puppet short idea. During the first half of the workshop some of our more seasoned members will be on hand to give input and guidance as you rehearse and develop your puppet piece. The second half of the workshop will be the opportunity to perform what you've worked on. Don't have a piece to perform? Come anyway! There may be an opportunity to involve you in someone else's show!

Guild Board Elections: Will be held at the May meeting

## **June Guild Event: Kid Friendly Puppet Slam**

Date : Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm

Place: Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma, Menlo Park

The Slam will only run 45 minutes so pieces from the May workshop with the most potential will be invited to perform at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> event.

Things to keep in mind: The performance space for the Kid Friendly Slam on June 3<sup>rd</sup> is in the middle of a library which is flooded with daylight and fluorescent lighting. There is no way to control the lighting in the space. This may eliminate shadow puppet shows unless they can be performed in full daylight. Also, pieces should be around 5 minutes long or less, or in Slam language, be too short to suck. They should also be able to set up and strike quickly. (There will be space to set up in the "wings".) We will have a sound system on hand for music and mikes. Menlo Park Library has a

reputation of bringing in large audiences, 200+ people. Ages of the kids range from 3 year olds to 7 year olds.

## HI, GANG! WHAT IS "YOUR" MOST MEMORABLE TV PUPPET/PUPPET SHOW FROM YOUR CHILDHOOD?

by Elisheva.

For some of us well-aged puppeteers, this might bring back visions of round screens frequently covered with snow (black and white of course), rabbit ear antennas often improvised with wire coat hangers, and smacking the set with a city phone book to clarify the pictures.

Or maybe you actually remember watching colors from the get-go. But probably most of us had only a handful of channels to watch, if you were B. C. (Before Cable).

Here's my bid for my favorite pair of TV puppets, which I NEVER hear mentioned. Actually I didn't grow up with tv -no, not my age, we just didn't have any, thanks Dad, so I saw them in my early 20's at Mike's house. He was my 3 year old nephew. And thanks to me he knew my puppets and how they worked. Still the little guy stubbornly out lasted me in our frequent arguments as to whether these 2 puppets were really alive-score 100% wins for his resounding YES!, or in my opinion "just" puppets-score zilch wins for me. I guess he was right, after all. Kids can tell these things.

OK, drum roll please! These excellently manipulated hand puppets are:

Mr. Bunny Rabbit, and Mr. Moose, on "Captain Kangaroo!" Ever hear of it? Or remember it? Back in the day it was the longest running children's TV program-broadcast on weekday mornings from Oct. 3, 1955-Dec.8, 1984.

Bob Keeshan conceived of the show and played the title character of Captain Kangaroo, so named because of his huge patch pockets. Bob had been the original Clarabell the Clown on the "Howdy Doody Show".

Besides Bun Rabbit and Mr. Moose, the regular characters included Mr. Green Jeans (a human who gardened), Grandfather Clock, and the "Magic Drawing Board." Puppeteer Cosmo Allegretti also played many roles on the program.

Interestingly, the show often had simple black light theater segments using paper or cardboard cutouts. A record was played ie "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" by Judy Garland from "Wizard of Oz", or "Inchworm" by Danny Kaye, from the movie "Hans Christian Andersen [I remember seeing both films back in the day]. The cutouts played on the screen, animated by a concealed puppeteer. This could be straight out of our current Guild!





Gosh, I thought we just invented this at our last meeting!

Please send in YOUR memory of the best TV puppet/s you saw as a young'un! We'll share this information with the Guild. Thanks.

## Behind the Scenes with Muppeteers

from Olivia Huff

I received this link today for a conversation with the Muppet puppeteers. Secrets revealed, unexpected stories, behind-the-scenes footage, and a private glimpse into Jim Henson's unique and visionary leadership.

[http://muppetguystalking.com/?inf\\_contact\\_key=ca92d59a62fb3634541976e5a9a3f2d0c37de4b9af71254e0494cb75acda12ab](http://muppetguystalking.com/?inf_contact_key=ca92d59a62fb3634541976e5a9a3f2d0c37de4b9af71254e0494cb75acda12ab)

## From Our Most Distant Guild Member, Herbert Lange

Impressions from my late October 2017 mini-puppet show (15 minutes):

One day, the old king living in a closet has a fantastic reunion with his younger self of lost childhood days.

Together, they float away into the open space of play, freedom and imagination leaving the old closet with its world of boredom, constraint and duty all behind .

On a very different note, here comes a puppetry related question:

What is your and/or other colleagues' take on kids hitting puppets?

An educator who would like to introduce more puppets during her sessions respectively classes asked me about that.

She seems a bit hesitant and overly anxious. I do already have a few ideas and experiences to share with her.

At the same time, I would definitely appreciate your kind input on this topic before getting back to this educator.

I will teach a PUPPETS IN THERAPY AND EDUCATION workshop in Berlin (which happens to be my hometown :).

## Pacific Southwest Puppet Fest Regional Festival

By Camilla Henneman

The Pacific Southwest Puppet Fest regional festival came to life in Santa Barbara, March 1<sup>st</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup>. It was a whirlwind of activity with nonstop workshops and performances.



Festivals feel like family reunions, and this was the same with getting to connect with old friends. This festival had a unique approach though. It was essentially two festivals occurring simultaneously. The festival partnered with Puppet Palooza, an ongoing, international festival of puppetry, puppet film, and multiculturalism. Puppet Palooza got its debut in January with the opening of PuppetPalooza Central, Museum and Theatre in downtown Santa Barbara.

This festival was brought to life by 2 brilliant and talented women, Christine Papalexis and Stacey Gordon (in photo to R, kneeling.) I have known Christine since my days of working in film special effects. She has lately been making her own films, Christine recently directed her first short puppet film in 2017 called "Amaterasu", with found object marionettes which was screened at the festival. Stacey Gordon is a puppet builder/performer and businesswoman who joined us from Phoenix, Arizona where she is the owner of Puppet Pie. This past year Stacey has spent her time going back and forth between Phoenix and New York City's Sesame Street Studios where she has been performing one of its newest characters, an autistic girl, named Julia. Stacey's own son is on the autism spectrum. A segment about Julia and Stacey ran on 60 minutes last spring. Here is the link to that show <https://www.cbsnews.com/videos/the-real-life-mother-and-son-behind-a-muppet-with-autism/>



Welcome to Santa Barbara.

This has been a year that will live in infamy for the town. This winter, Santa Barbara was the scene of one of the worst national disasters in our state's history. Starting with devastating fires, the city later was hit with catastrophic mudslides. The loss of life brought the attention of the world to this lovely little city. But one thing we learned is that Santa Barbara has a spirit that cannot be kept down. We watched the weather report daily with trepidation in the weeks leading up to the festival. When the date arrived, so did the sunshine.

The center for the festival was the Fess Parker Hotel which was right on the beach front. Festival goers met at the Fess Parker for a reception and wine tasting on the first day. All of the workshops were held there. Performances were at different venues throughout Santa Barbara.

### Workshops

Friday was full of workshops.

**"Workshop, Paper Puppets & Pantomime with Przemysław Grządziela"** was a brilliant, energetic workshop led by Polish puppeteer and clown, Przemyslaw Grzadzila (photo, R.) Participants left sore, but happy. According to Mary Nagler, it took her back to her days of mime, "I was surprised that I could still make those moves and of the overall creativity of the people in the room." Another festival goer said that it was so successful; it should be included at every festival.



**On Camera Puppetry with Greg Ballora (photo lower R.)** Greg Ballora, a puppeteer known for his work on Men in Black 2, Timmy the Tooth and Team America presented a workshop focused on performance for TV puppetry in the style of The Muppets.



### **Workshop, Making Puppet Films: Where to Start, by Alex U. Griffin**

Alex Griffin presented a fun and informative class on making films with puppets. Alex's teaching style was professional, yet accessible in a way that made filmmaking seem possible for the beginning filmmaker. I like that he emphasized story as the essential beginning. Lots of practical information and an entertaining presentation.

**Writing Characters workshop by Michael Paul Ziegfeld** Comedian and puppeteer, Michael Paul Zeigfield taught a crash course in writing comedy. His workshop emphasized knowing your audience and finding the comedy in everyday situations.

**Demystifying The Building of Foam Puppets by Mary Nagler.** Our own Mary Nagler (photo, R) presented a workshop on the building of foam puppets. Mary showed the process she uses to design, pattern and build foam puppets.

**Shadow Puppets with Lynn Jeffries** Puppeteer and theatrical designer, Lynn Jeffries, taught a shadow puppet workshop.

**Dollars and Sense with Art Grueneberger.** Art's dynamic workshop explores the financial side of owning your own puppet business. Many puppeteers see their prospects as limited. Art's goal is to get the puppeteer to stop placing limits on their success and helps them envision how to bring their business in line with their dreams.

**A Talk With Performers Peter Linz and Tyler Bunch** One of the most popular workshops was actually an intimate talk with Muppet performers, Peter Linz and Tyler Bunch. They talked shop and shared stories of their experiences working with The Muppets and other productions.



### **The Performances**

While the workshops were presented through the regional festival, the performances were hosted by Puppet Palooza. The range and quality of performances was exceptional. Just the slam was one of the most polished collections of puppet theater that I have ever seen at a festival.

**Heather Henson “Harmonious Migration by IBEX puppetry”** Harmonious Migrations (photo, top R) was developed to teach children about the interconnectivity of the elements in the environment as they relate to crane flyways.

**Brian Hull’s “Kaytek the Wizard”** A table top puppet and multi media presentation about a mischievous schoolboy who wants to become a wizard and is surprised to discover that he is able to perform magic spells and change reality.

**Yulya Dukhovny’s “A Real Elephant”** (photo to R) A toy theater and shadow puppet show of a heartwarming story about a little Russian immigrant girl who loses her interest in life. She makes a request to meet a “real elephant” and the story evolves from there.





**Manuel Moran's "La Cucarachita**

**Martina/Martina, The Little Roach"** A Bilingual Latin Rock 'n' Roll musical based on a popular Cuban and Puerto Rican children's tale of a little roach who learns many lessons on her journey to find true love.

**Tarish "Jeghetto" Pipkins' "Time Machine"**

Tarrish Pipkin is known from the Missy Elliot & Pharrell music video, WTF, entertains with his intricately mechanized puppets which include a breakdancing robot, a dinosaur, and more!

**Hobey Ford's "Animalia"** (photo, top R) was a beautiful ballet of animals in motion. His show which focuses on the metamorphosis of a butterfly and a frog was performed with humor and graceful skill. Hobey directly manipulates the puppets in full view of the audience, but all the children's eyes are on the animals.

**Huber Marionettes, "Suspended Animation"** (photo, middle R) Phillip Huber's Suspended Animation is a cabaret presentation of the amazing world class marionette artist, Phillip Huber. Huber is known for his work in Being John Malcovitch, Oz the Great and Powerful and the Legend of Tillamook's Gold.

**Puppetzilla Puppet Slam** was emceed by **Michael Paul Zeigfield** and his ventriloquist puppet the Bird of Pray. The slam featured a nonstop array of polished slam pieces. A favorite of mine was the duet between Pip and Pop, two magenta otters from Bear in the Big Blue House with Mary Nagler lip syncing to a hip hop song! Other performances were: **Liz Hara; "Sic Semper Tyrannosaurus"**, Tarish Pipkins; **"Amy Winehouse - Me and Mr. Jones"**, Alissa Hunnicutt; **"Marry Me"**, Dustin Curtis; **"GORGOS"**, Pam Severns; **"Bunny Love"**, Walter Santucci – and Shilo Kloko; - **"Behind Shadows"**, Dillon Yuhasz **"Dirty Socks"**, Stacey Gordon; **"Meet the T-Rex"**, Robin Walsh; **Dark, Dark, Dark**, Przemysław Grządziela; **marionettes, Phillip Huber; - "The Diva"**, Adrian Leonard; **"ROCKIT"**

The festival opened up to the public on Sunday with **Sunday in the Park with Puppets**. Jugglers, stilt walkers, face painters and other merry-making activities were there as well as Snook the Eco Sloth performed by Peter Linz of Sesame Street fame.

The final event of the festival was a presentation of Manual Cinema's "Magic City" The Magic City is adapted from the novel by Edith Nesbit. It is a live, cinematic shadow puppet show which used overhead projectors, paper shadow puppets, live actors in silhouette, and miniature toy theater.

My thanks to Alex Griffin for allowing us to use his beautiful photos. I would also like to thank all the festival participants who gave me input for this article.

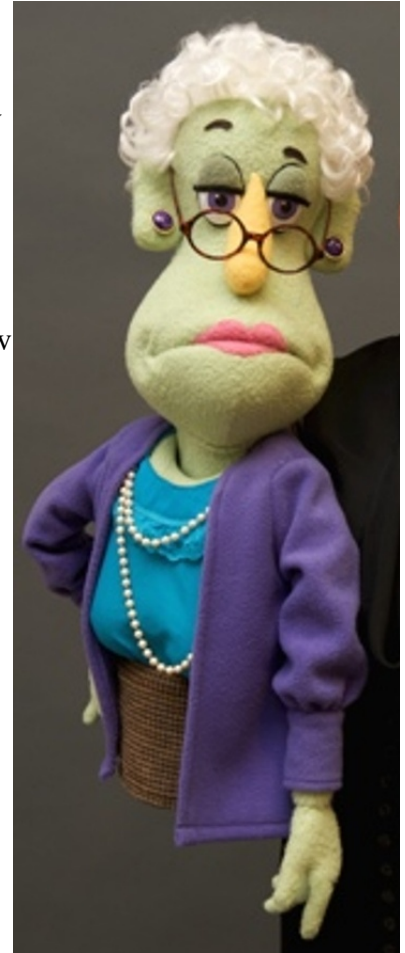




## From Mrs. Bandersnoot

My Dear Guilders!

Oh what fun! In March I packed my bags and Mary took me with her to the Southwest Puppet fest! It was so nice to get out of my box...er ... room, and go on an adventure! The best part was getting to meet so many talented puppeteers! I just love puppeteers! So friendly and they love us puppets too! I know there is a lot of talk about the "Magic of puppetry" and puppets get a lot of attention, get to retire to a place of honor, live in Museums and are revered around the world, but it is the puppeteer that makes the magic happen. Here are a few pictures, from my new photo album, of a few of the new friends I made there! You will recognize a few as they are from OUR GUILD. We were well represented, and I was proud to be included in that esteemed company! I cannot wait until the next festival!!



Here are guild members Quack and Wabbit, from up Arcata way, and the McGees and me!

I got to see a few shows too! My favorite puppeteer the one who made the most affectionate impression on me was Hobey Ford! Here we are having a warm conversation in front of this amazing metal sculpture of a dragon outside his performance venue! Hobey's show was a delightful romp through Nature, featuring many amazing creatures. I wanted to take pictures but I was too distracted to by the performance, and besides it was not allowed! Sorry



Someone sent this picture to Mary from her workshop, which I also attended. It was on foam puppet building. You can see Lynnette Pinto on the right. She helped Mary a lot, so I could just relax and enjoy myself. Thank you Lynnette! As you can see, learning about all my inner squishy bits was a bit shocking and I fainted! How embarrassing to be so exposed!!

I am recovered now and ready for your questions! Affectionately, Mrs. Bandersnoot

To submit a question to Mrs. Bandersnoot, email Mary Nagler [mary.nagler@gmail.com](mailto:mary.nagler@gmail.com). (Mrs. Bandersnoot lives with her and Mary will relay the message!) Or, give Mary a call (707) 303 0093 **No question too silly**. Silly is good!

## Call for Nominations for Guild Board of Directors

Do you share our common goal of promoting the art of puppetry in the Bay Area? If so, you might be interested in serving on the SFBAPG Board. If so, please contact the Nominating Committee before April 15<sup>th</sup> for more information. Note that you can nominate others (with their permission) and you can nominate yourself.

Eligibility: Candidates must have been members of the SFBAPG for at least one year prior to the elections. Term limits: Each Board member shall serve for three years. Each Board member shall be allowed to serve no more than two consecutive three-year terms.

Candidates need to provide a short bio and photo to the Nominating Committee, prior to April 25<sup>th</sup>, to be published in the May newsletter.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Your Nominating Committee

Lee Armstrong, [images@vom.com](mailto:images@vom.com), 707 738-5906

Camilla Henneman, [camhenneman@gmail.com](mailto:camhenneman@gmail.com) (831) 359-9761

## CALENDAR

Why are there no calendar events listed here? Because Magical Moonshine Theatre is the only company represented in upcoming shows, and since that's me, it would seem self-serving if I posted only my upcoming shows in the newsletter. Because of that, Friends, I can not in good conscience tell you about my shows, as much as I'd like to. So help me out here! Allow me to post my shows in the future by sending YOUR listings to [events@sfbapg.org](mailto:events@sfbapg.org) or by filling out the form on our website at <http://www.sfbapg.org/events/notify/>

By the way, the way I always get our performances listed is that I have connected the calendar on our website to the guild calendar. I don't have to do anything to have my shows posted to the millions of readers of our calendar (increasing our success many fold) but post them to my own website, which I am doing anyway. If you aren't sure how to do it, I suspect our calendar person/webmaster John Arnold ([events@sfbapg.org](mailto:events@sfbapg.org)) could steer you in the right direction.

## HANDY CONTACTS

SEND YOUR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS BY THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH TO [newsletter@sfbapg.org](mailto:newsletter@sfbapg.org)

SEND YOUR CALENDAR LISTINGS ANYTIME TO [events@sfbapg.org](mailto:events@sfbapg.org)