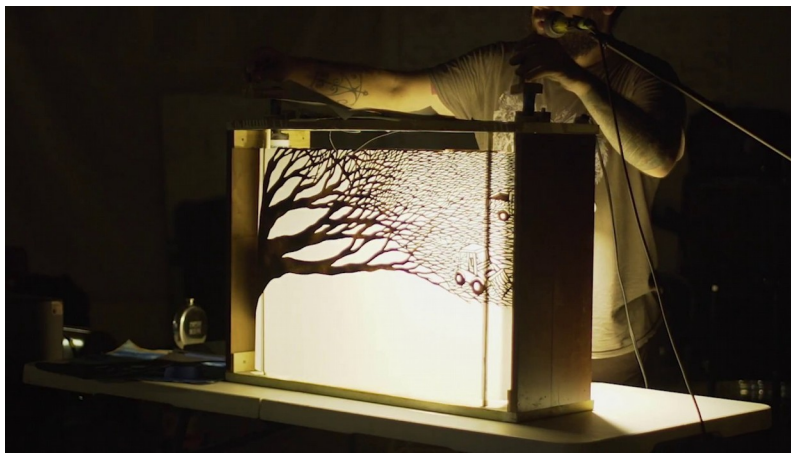




The official newsletter of  
**San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild**  
*Looking for updates and missed information?  
Check for it at [SFBAPG.ORG](http://SFBAPG.ORG)*

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

**March, 2019**



LET'S MAKE CRANKIES! Guild workshop April 6; make a crankie (scrolling shadow puppet screen/stage) with Cam Hennemann- see details below. (Might include cheesecake!)

**Guild Board and Officers**

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**Treasurer**

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## **NEXT GUILD EVENT: Crankies and Cheesecake for Nick.**

SFBAPG invites you to join us for our annual workshop honoring one of our most beloved members, Nick Barone.

Saturday, April 6th SFBAPG will host our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual workshop to honor Nick at the Veterans Memorial Hall of Benicia, 1150 1st Street, Benicia, CA 94510. The workshop will run from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

In case you don't know what a crankie is: It is a box with a crank that holds a story illustrated on a long scroll that is wound onto 2 spools. The scroll sits in the frame which is hand cranked while the story is narrated or sung. The crankie evolved from Moving Panoramic paintings. Panoramic paintings have been around for centuries. Some people say that it was the precursor to motion pictures. Moving Panoramas could vary in size from a few inches in height to huge ones that encompassed an entire stage.



We will be making crankies using cardboard boxes. These are crankies that you can make with children, as well as adults. At the workshop, you will make a box crankie and scroll. The workshop fee will be \$30 for members and \$45 for nonmembers. Camilla Henneman will be leading the workshop with Judy Roberto. Proceeds from this workshop will be used to keep this workshop ongoing in the coming years.

We will be sending out an email with a link to sign up for the workshop. If you would like more information, or want to make a cheesecake contact Camilla, [camhenneman@gmail.com](mailto:camhenneman@gmail.com).

One of Nick's passions was teaching. Another was cheesecake. He loved sharing his skills (and cheesecake) with other puppeteers.



WHAT WE NEED! People to help with set up and clean up! Also, people to volunteer to make a cheesecake from Nick's recipe (we will provide) to share. Please contact Camilla [camhenneman@gmail.com](mailto:camhenneman@gmail.com)

If you are interested in making a cheesecake, here is the recipe.

<http://www.sfbapg.org/download/other/Nick-Barone-Cheesecake.pdf>

## Review: Forbidden Puppet Cabaret

"TWAS A DARK, STORM NIGHT AS BAY AREA PUPPETEERS AND FRIENDS OF PUPPETRY SPLASHED TOWARDS VALLEJO TO THE!  
\*\*SOLD OUT\*\*! FORBIDDEN PUPPET CABARET!

a review by Elisheva Hart

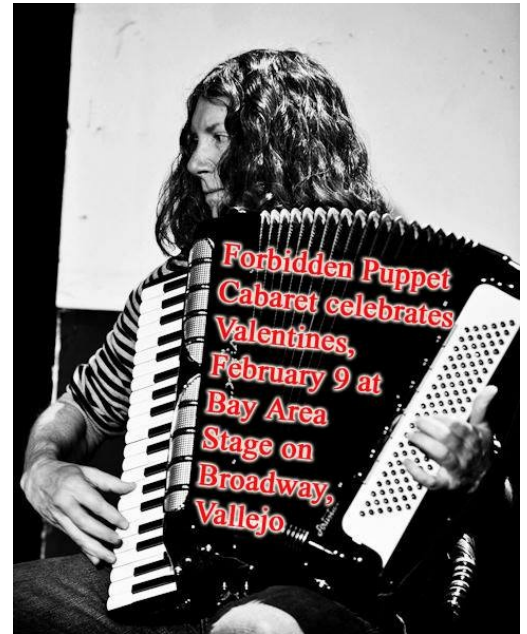
February 9th, 2019, was the date. Love, Sex, Mayhem & Valentines were our fate. Plus Romantic Accordion Music, Hilarity, and Poetry, and Nudity! All Promised! All Happened! plus Sweet Little Mice! A Century Old Robot! And More!

We were swept away to Forbidden Cabaret-Land. Meeting and greeting old and new friends. Finding seating with Steve Ventrello the accordion player, playing audience entry music (to borrow a phrase from the Javanese Shadow Puppet Theater) which set the mood for a delicious evening of adult puppetry.

Hosts Valerie and Michael Nelson-of Magical Moonshine Theater by day and Little Blue Moon Theater by night-warmly welcomed the eager crowd to their semi-occasional adults-only Cabaret! "Truly a cooperative community event!" to quote Mike.

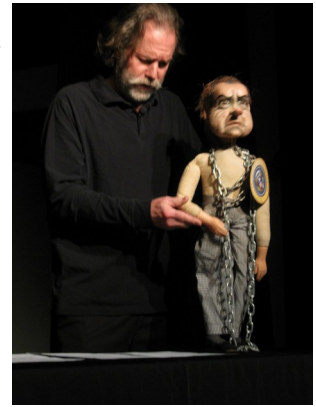
Act 1. Appropriately the opening event was the Love-at-First-Glance scene from Shakespeare's "The Tempest", presented by The Independent Eye. Elizabeth Fuller manipulated a beautiful classic, life-sized Miranda. She views the first man she has ever seen, excepting her father, Prospero. The young man, the shipwrecked Prince Ferdinand, is gathering logs for a fire. The Prince is manipulated by Conrad Bishop. Towards the end of the scene Miranda declares her love for the Prince and I could feel it in the air. These puppeteers have been married for 58 years and neither had played the above roles before. What comes around goes around.

Act 2. The Canine Poet Laureate of the Rohnert (Dog) Park, Warren Peace (assisted by his human, Brian Narelle) recited spot-on dog wisdom. For instance, re dogs, "We are not like people, no ponzi schemes...you either have a tennis ball...or you don't!" This loquacious, and pragmatic golden retriever totally captivates the human audience every time we see, listen to, and laugh with him.





Act 3. Mike Nelson brought forth a hands on table top puppet of Nixon (who was clad only in checkered pants, a scowl, and glares for each and every one of us. Plus dangling around his neck is a length of heavy linked chains, a la Marley's Ghost (E. Scrooge's dead partner.) After a barrage of kvetching re State of the Union, Nixon read a list of the names of every president who had a dog or dogs while in office, and the name/s of these dogs. Yes, Virginia, there was a quiz for the audience afterwards. Nixon departs, flailing about, with the chains hanging off his nose! Audience laughter.



Act 4. This was a film homage to Guild Member Larry Schmidt, who passed away in January. Footage was shown of "The Roundabout" sequence from his annual Halloween special, "Driveway Follies". [SFBAPG Newsletter, February, 2019 has more information on pages 7-8 about this remarkable puppeteer.] We miss him.

Act 5. To prepare the audience for Act 5, small folding binoculars were loaned to the audience members at the rear, with the admonishment that they were NOT SOUVENIRS!

The Little Blue Moon Theater-the adult manifestation of Magical Moonshine Theater-performed "Natalie", the sexy story of a French puppeteer who learned that it was interesting to do street puppet shows in the center of the town, enclosed in her stage, without her clothes on! In the NUDE!



Mike Nelson performed the miniature toy paper theater piece, while Valerie narrated the high jinks and kinks, frequently gracing us with her wonderful "wink-wink, chuckle-chuckle" sultry giggle. Mike surprised us as he rushed out from behind the stage to take his bow, clad only in his monogrammed blue robe after first giving us a tease of seeing his naked upper torso, a la Natalie.

INTERMISSION- a chance to gab, to create a paper puppet, to purchase some wine, and to peruse seven different toy paper puppet theaters-including Natalie's-by walking around the front and the back of the display. The other six toy theaters were recently donated, with many others, to the Nelsons by Bill O'Neil of San Francisco. Puppeteers and other audience members were thrilled to peruse them. [May these theaters be a focus for a weekend Guild workshop? Puppeteers would have first dibs to sign up, the public next...if there are any slots available.] Silent films were projected (or films were silently projected) on the rear of the stage, behind the toy theaters.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE APRIL ISSUE.....

## REVIEW: KID KOALA'S NUFONIA MUST FALL

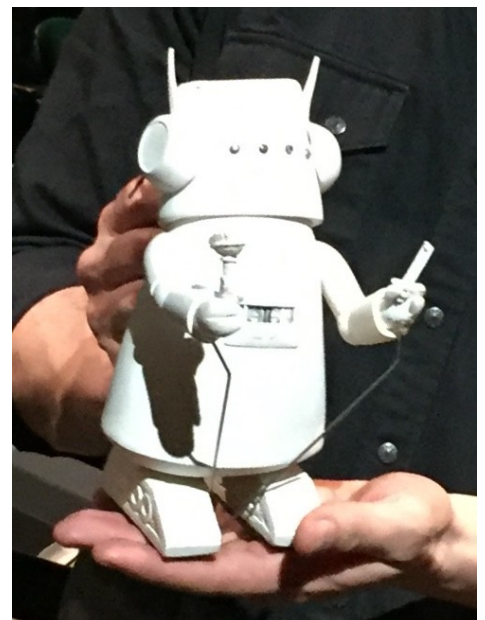
### A LOVE STORY LIVE VIDEO GRAPHIC NOVEL PUPPET MUSICAL EVENT

Review and photos for SFBAPG by Judy Roberto

Based on Kid Koala's graphic novel *Nufonia Must Fall*

Director: K.K. Barrett / Producer: Ryhna Thompson

Music: Kid Koala / Musical Dir: Vid Cousins



Set Design: Benjamin Gerlis / Photography Dir. AJ Korkidakis

Puppeteers: Patrick Martel, Tyson Houseman, Kyla Gilbert

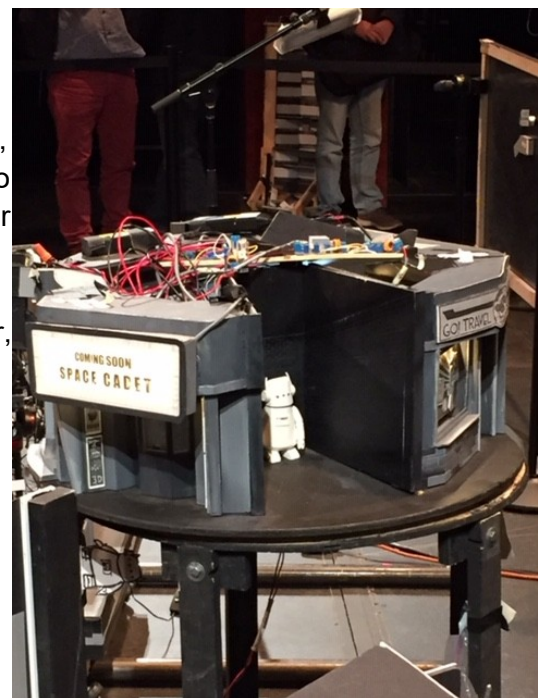
On Feb 13, 2019 at the Hammer Theater in San Jose, I checked off a bucket list item: seeing the live show **Nufonia Must Fall**. It had been on my list since just missing it at Stanford, four years earlier. Lynnette Pinto and I got tickets, and looked forward to finally seeing this unique production.

Upon entering the theater, we were intrigued by a city model sitting front and center stage, colored in greyscale. Beside it was a spinning turntable with a city street of shops. Next to that was a drum holding paper puppets of people that would hustle down the street when a crank is turned. On stage left and right were individual miniature room sets, about waist high. Center stage was filled with an array of sound equipment and musical instruments, where DJ Kid Koala (aka Eric San) would create music, voices and sound effects. Sharing center stage would be the wonderful Afiara String Quartet. Upstage was a big screen with sound mix and video mix stations, where amazing editing would happen, resulting in the movie playing in real time on the big screen.

Show time! Kid Koala warmed up the audience with Nufonia Bingo and his Scratch DJ music and signature sounds, as the 15 performers, technicians and musicians quietly slipped into places in and around the sets and stations.

The show opens with an airplane flying over the Nufonia city set, passing through fluffy clouds (quilt batting). At first it was hard to decide where to look, as puppeteers crouched around and under mini sets, and then quietly raced to another set. But the big screen quickly captured the focus as the smallest manipulation of the tiny rod puppets conveyed despair, loneliness, anger, fear, hope, infatuation, excitement and love. The audience engagement was all in at this performance. Immediately after the happy ending, the audience was invited onto the stage, where the performers demonstrated puppets, sets, effects and answered many questions.

Nufonia Must Fall was worth waiting for! Puppeteers - this is a must see when it returns.





## Remembering Chris Pray, "Buster" of *Buster and Me*



Bay Area actor and puppeteer Christopher Pray, best known locally for the long-running KRON-TV show *Buster and Me*, passed away on Wednesday, February 6, at his home in Suisun Valley, California. He played the title role (Buster) in the show which ran from 1977-1987.

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## Last Look: Larry Schmidt

SAYING FAREWELL TO CHILDREN'S FAIRYLAND'S ANNUAL PUPPET FAIR, August 25, 2018. Larry Schmidt (R) and his life partner Carl Linkhart (L) peer into Randal Metz's Puppet Company's pink stage. "The King's Problem", a traditional story from India's "Panchatantra Tales" had just been performed.

Randal says this is the last visit of Larry to Children's Fairyland that he knows of. Larry grew up attending as many puppet shows as he could at Children's Fairyland.

Larry passed away January 18, 2019.

His obituary is in SFBAPG's January, 2019 Newsletter, pages 7-8.

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## Book Review: *Making Simple Marionettes* by John Roberts

Marionettes are loved by puppeteers and audiences for what they can do on stage, but they can be challenging to design, make and perform. This beautiful book clearly explains the process from making the puppets to putting them on strings and bringing them alive. Detailed step-by-step instructions are given to make three marionettes - a walking bird, a dancer and a wooden man - each using different tools and materials, with progressively trickier techniques. Written by a leading puppeteer, it celebrates the art of the marionette. This book includes a showcase of marionettes from around the world to illustrate the variety, and richness of this ancient art which are superbly illustrated by 247 color images with step-by-step instructions.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Roberts has been passionate about puppets since he was five. He is a highly respected puppeteer and worked as a director of the world-renowned Little Angel Theatre in London. Thirty years ago he moved to rural Devon to set up his own company, PuppetCraft. As well as being a skilled designer, maker and performer, he regularly teaches puppet making to adults.

#### REVIEW

I'm not a marionettist and don't normally read books on marionettes. However, our company, Images in Motion, had sent the author a photo of a John Cusack marionette we fabricated for *Being John Malkovich*. John used this photo for "Making Simple Marionettes" and he graciously sent us a copy of his book.

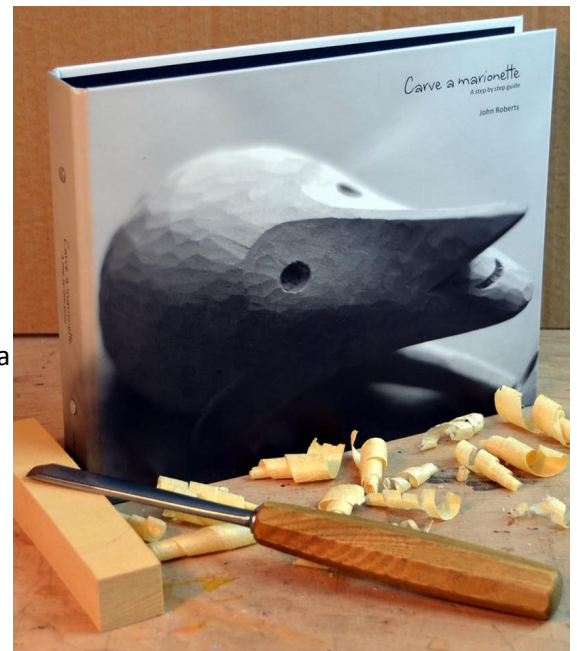
I was surprised by the exceptional introduction, showing various puppet types and intriguing photos from around the world. The book also covers concept and design with excellent examples. The introduction concludes with a discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of the marionette, which is very helpful.

The book then covers techniques for working in a variety of materials such as paper mache and wood. The step by step instructions for making 3 different marionettes are easy to follow and patterns are included. The professional photos are used liberally and aid immensely to the learning experience.

This is an excellent book for a beginning and intermediate puppeteer, and the marionettes can be built by an older child with help from an adult. I would highly recommend this book and will be getting a copy for our Puppet Guild Library. For those who would like their own copy, [https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07LG7S8PF?pf\\_rd\\_p=c2945051-950f-485c-b4df-15aac5223b10&pf\\_rd\\_r=20HVFT1VKMK9DXBV6A66](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07LG7S8PF?pf_rd_p=c2945051-950f-485c-b4df-15aac5223b10&pf_rd_r=20HVFT1VKMK9DXBV6A66).

I also have a personal copy of "Carve a Marionette – A Step by Step Guide" by John Roberts. It's a visually beautiful book, with more in-depth info on how to carve a wooden marionette. I'll bring my copy to the next Guild meeting. You can order this book at [https://www.puppetcraft.co.uk/?page\\_id=1714](https://www.puppetcraft.co.uk/?page_id=1714). Payment can be made using PayPal. The book plus postage to USA is around \$80, depending on the conversion rate.

Cheers  
Lee Armstrong  
SF Guild Librarian





### Ask Mrs. Bandersnoot! Self acclaimed expert on everything Puppet!

Dear Ms. Bandersnoot,

To prevent our puppets from getting all sweaty inside, we wear light cotton gloves, sometimes even long ones, that can be washed when needed. The gloves can get amazingly dirty, so it is obvious that even though we wash our hands before performing, during the performance they somehow gather dirt. The gloves keep the insides of our puppets clean and dry.

Dublin 4-H Puppeteers

<https://blockbustercostumes.com/products/mens-or-ladies-deluxe-white-magician-costume-gloves.html>

Dear Dublin 4-H Puppeteers, you clever kids!

Your illustrious leader, and my personal friend Sharon Clay, shared this handy (Excuse the pun) tip! If you are trying to put your finger on keeping your puppets in good workable order, then cleanliness is a necessary part of good health for the puppet and the puppeteer. Most if us puppets are made of absorbable materials, so we can absorb all the microbes, pollens, grease, dirt, pathogens and germs a human can. And though we are not reduced to coughing jags and high fevers we are totally capable of passing things on. Sorry about that! It is completely unintentional. So, wearing a washable glove as a barrier is a good idea!

Once Mary's set of AVENUE Q puppets came back from a rental where it was reported flu had broken out amongst the cast of humans. Mary took extra care to wipe out the insides of the puppets with an antibacterial wipe and clean down all their surfaces; inside and out. Everyone got stripped, their clothes laundered and a few decapitations were even necessary to do a deep cleaning on a few of the more absorbent ones (The Hairy monster one, who I will not name, though you know I am talking about you Trekkie!). His whole body went into the wash! The AVENUE Q puppets bore it willingly because we know our puppeteers are the heart of us, and we don't want them to miss a show, due to illness, on our account. No further outbreaks were reported. Well done everyone!

I regret I was missing from my column for a few months tending to Mary's busy schedule. But we did get out for a bit of fun together around Christmas. We, meaning the new fledgling guild: The Puppetry Guild of Portland and a few folks from the PDX Puppet Collective went caroling on Peacock lane, here in Portland. All the houses were decked out, and hundreds of people heard us and experienced the joy of puppetry. I was sporting a new hat, with bobbles that added to the movement and the OREGONIAN Newspaper did an interview with ME, which streamed live and was available on their website! My influence expands! So, keep those questions coming in! I know everything puppet related darlings and wish to serve! Send your inquires to my roommate Mary at: [mary.nagler@gmail.com](mailto:mary.nagler@gmail.com), or call it in at 707 3030093! Merry Belated Christmas, oh, and Happy Valentine's too! Love, Mrs. Bandersnoot!

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Send your newsletter items to [newsletter@sfbapg.org](mailto:newsletter@sfbapg.org) and your calendar listings to [events@sfbapg.org](mailto:events@sfbapg.org)