



The official newsletter of
San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild
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SFBAPG is a charter guild of the Puppeteers of America, Inc., a non-profit, tax exempt organization

August 2019

**PUPPETEERS OF AMERICA
2019 NATIONAL PUPPETRY FESTIVAL**



**JULY 16-21 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS**

THE 2019 NATIONAL PUPPETRY FESTIVAL, July 16 to 21 was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was exceptional in every way, with nonstop Intensives, workshops, performances, film fest, National puppet slam, Fringe micro festival, and more. We barely had time to eat! This festival was absolutely worthwhile, in every way. - Judy Roberto, Guild President

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Inside this issue:

Upcoming Guild events (2 of them!)

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Ask Mrs. Bandersnoot

From your editor: As the Puppeteers of America National Puppet Festival was in July, I have chosen to bump some of the wonderful articles you all have sent in for the August issue to next month so that we can cover reviews of the festival. If your article is one of the delayed ones, please know that we will all look forward to it in next month's issue and are grateful for your contribution! MN

August Guild Meeting at Fairyland

Sat., Aug 24 at Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland

Puppet Fair 10:30-4:30 & Guild Meeting 5:00 - early evening

Join us for our annual Puppet Fair at Fairyland. This is an action packed day of puppet shows, a puppet exhibit and events, provided by Fairyland. The Guild volunteers with the puppet exhibit, puppet walkaround "meet & greet," the puppet craft table and more. The schedule of puppet shows is below and features the popular Bob Baker Marionettes of Los Angeles. The evening is an opportunity for a social get-together, with a potluck supper and Guild meeting.



Admission: Admission to Fairyland is free to Guild members. If your membership needs to be renewed, please do this before Aug 15th, so we can give a current list to Fairyland. At admissions, say that you're with the Puppet Guild and have come to help. However, if you are bringing friends that are not members of the Guild and are not helping, they must pay admission (unless they want to join that day). **Guild members must be inside the gates by 4 pm.**

Additional info on directions, parking, etc. is at <https://www.fairyland.org/visit-us/directions/>.

The Puppet Fair Saturday schedule.

11 a.m. & 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. Puppet Show: Thumbelina. What a big world we live in! Particularly for Thumbelina, who is no taller than a thumb. Born from an enchanted flower, she tries to find out who she is and where she comes from. Her journey takes her from her home and on many adventures before reaching the Land of the Fairies. Adapted from a script, with music, by Forman Brown of L.A.'s famous Turnabout Puppet Theater. Puppets by Lewis Mahlmann with original scenery by Garth Geary. Music performed and re-scored by William Lewis.

12 p.m. Puppet Show: Jack and the Beanstalk. Presented by The Puppet Company.

12 p.m. - 2 p.m. The Marilyn O'Hare Arts & Crafts Center is open with activities geared toward children and their families.

12:30 p.m. & 3 p.m. Children's Theatre presents: Cowgirls. Saddle up and come on down to see some tall tales of the bold women who rode herd in the Old West. From Blue-foot Sue roping tornadoes to Sally Ann Thunder Whirlwind singing lullabies to bears, these fearless frontierswomen lived large and on their own terms. See what happens when they join forces in an original play featuring familiar tunes about wide open spaces.

1 p.m. - 1:20 p.m. Animal of the Day! Come up close and learn about one of our animal friends. Which one of Fairyland's feathered, furry or wooly creatures will it be today? Find out at the Humpty Dumpty wall

1:30 p.m. Puppet Show presented by Bob Baker Marionette Theater. Since 1963, the Bob Baker Marionette Theater has been part of imagination and fantasy that thrives in Los Angeles, with over 200 performances a year, utilizing over 2000 handcrafted puppets. Join Alex Evans as he presents his one-man variety show with marionettes from Bob Baker.

2 p.m. Repeat of Puppet Show: Thumbelina.

2:30 p.m. Puppet Show: A Modern Little Red Riding Hood. A twist on this classic fairy tale. Presented by the 4-H Puppeteers.

3 p.m. Repeat of Children's Theatre presents: Cowgirls.

3:30 p.m. Puppet Show: Perez & Mondinga: a Mexican fiesta tale of a cockroach who marries a mouse. Presented by The Puppet Lady, Rhonda Kay.

4 p.m. Repeat of Puppet Show: Thumbelina.

Note: This event continues on Sunday, Aug 25. The schedule is similar to Saturday's schedule with a few changes. Find online @ <https://www.fairyland.org/events-and-performances/schedule-of-events/>.

Visiting Performer: The Bob Baker Marionette Theater was founded by Bob Baker and Alton Wood in 1963. It's reportedly the oldest children's theater company in America. His puppetry was featured on TV in Bewitched, Star Trek, Land of the Giants and on film in A Star Is Born, G.I. Blues, Disney's Bedknobs and Broomsticks and Close Encounters of the Third Kind. Baker was also instrumental in championing union membership for puppeteers. Bob Baker was an American pioneer in the art of puppetry and his theater lives on with dedicated puppeteers like Alex Evans to share his work.

5 pm **Guild Meeting**

Meet other Guild puppeteers, discuss upcoming Guild activities and more.

5:30 **Potluck Supper**

Please bring something to share and a beverage. If your dish needs refrigeration, please bring it in a cooler. Main dishes are always appreciated. Guild will provide paper products and utensils.

There may be a short program after the potluck. If so, it will be announced in a Yahoo group email. If you don't receive these Yahoo emails, please contact our membership coordinator to get your email address on this list. If you don't do email, then text or call Lee Armstrong 707 738-5906.

Volunteers: We'll need volunteers! Do you have a puppet and would like to greet kids as you walk around the park? Would you like to help at the puppet making table, monitor and chat about puppets at the puppet exhibit and other important volunteer positions? We'll have a SignUp Genius available in the next couple of days and will send out that link as a Yahoo announcement. Don't do email? Call or text Lee Armstrong 707 738-5906.

Puppets for the Puppet Exhibit at Fairyland

If you would like to display some of your puppet creations, contact Randal Metz at 510 609-8704. You MUST have your puppet at Fairyland no later than 10:00 on Sat.

Guild Library will be at Fairyland

The Guild library has hundreds of books covering a variety of topics. Books & DVD's will be available for checkout at the meeting, to people that have been members for at least 6 months. Are you looking for books or DVD on a particular topic? Contact the Guild Librarian, Lee Armstrong, images@vom.com 707 738-5906, and she will email the library list or do a search and bring related books to next meeting.

The Puppeteers of America National Festival

By Camilla Henneman

I just got back from the Puppeteers of America 2019 National festival. This was one of the most extensive and well curated festivals I have been to. The festival was very well organized. Everything seemed to go smoothly considering how much was happening all over the campus. I heard that we had upwards of 500 participants. We were seldom gathered in one area, but the numbers became noticeable as the line for meals wound out of the dining room, up the stairs and down the hall.

The festival was held at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Minneapolis is a beautiful city. I had a lovely view of the Mississippi River from my room. I would have liked to explore the city more, but the festival schedule was already packed. I did get to see a bit of the city on the last day with old friends.

The festival was organized in 2 parts. Prior to the main festival several intensive workshops were held.

The Pre-festival

SFBAPG member, Kathy Foley, a renowned puppetry scholar and Wayang artist teamed up with Indonesian professor, I Nyoman Sedana, to teach "The world of Wayang." Another member of our members, Lex Rudd, worked with Lisa Stiers to present a workshop on foam fabrication. Additionally there was a workshop on Pop-Up Puppetry In The Dark by Sea Beast Puppet Company and Crafting puppet films with Alex Griffith.

Festival Workshops

During the festival there were workshops covering nearly every aspect of puppetry you could think of. The workshops included: needle felting, cigar box crankies, lighting, working with silicone, control mechanisms, working with plastics, paperclay, writing, Karagoz, pop-up book stages, masks, sock puppets, toy theater, Fetting mechanisms, mask making, songwriting, creating shows for slams, directing, movement, marionette movement and ensemble performances and more. Whew! That was a mouthful. The only thing that I heard other than praise for the workshops was that participants regretted that they couldn't be in 2 places at one time, so they had to pick and choose.

Several of our own guild members presented festival workshops.

Mary Nagler gave a lecture/demonstration workshop on the building of foam based puppets.

Lex Rudd's workshop "**Gourmet Sock Puppets**" was a huge success. Brilliant sock puppets from the participants were showing up all over the campus through the week. **Art Gruneberger** taught his workshop, "**The Secrets of Running A Successful Business.**" I took this workshop at a regional festival last year and found it to be an eye opener. I would recommend this workshop for anyone who is or is planning to make at least part of you living from puppetry.

Wendy Morton taught the workshop, **Shadow Puppet Mechanisms**, which I had the privilege of helping with. Wendy presented video performances from several artists including Richard Bradshaw and Lotte Reiniger. The

participants then chose a puppet pattern with a simple mechanism and built it in class. At the end, the participants got to explore movement with music against a shadow screen.

The Shows

Because there were so many shows, I am just going to list them and say a few words about each.

Le Cri Quotidien (The Daily Scream) by Compagnie Les Anges au Plafond, A French show where today's headlines come to life with paper marionettes.

Caws and Effect from the Canadian company, The Mind of a Snail, A large scale shadow performance dreaming the future from a bird's eye view.

The Magic Tree by Ayhan Hulagu/ US Karagoz Theater Company, A shadow performance about nature and protecting the environment

Kaytek The Wizard, by Janusz Korczak/ the US Karagoz Theater Company. A hand and rod puppet (in front of an animated screen) show telling of Kaytek, a mischievous schoolboy who learns that he has secret powers.

The Hoarding Show by Carole D'Angostino, A multi puppet one woman show with 3 stories of different hoarders.

The Pied Picker, by All Hands Productions, uses moving mouth hand puppets to tell a story based on the Pied Piper and an infestation of cockroaches

The Macanuda, by Deborah Hunt, A puppet and found object theater performance where a magical masked creature is the caretaker of journeys.

Seven Deadly Sins in the Border by Edwin Salas Acosta, Dante's Inferno at the Mexican border.

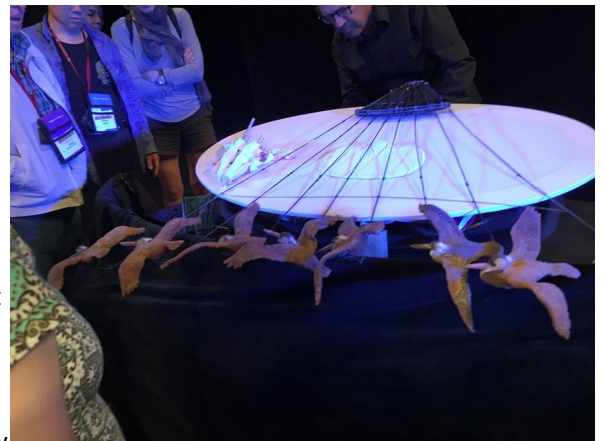
Sea Song by Hobey Ford, The story of a city boy who reluctantly spends his summer at the ocean uses several different styles of puppetry, including shadows, a crankie, hand carved foam puppets, rod puppets and tabletop styled puppets. The puppeteer is always in view. The tale follows the life cycle of the sea turtle and it's the fragile interwoven environment at the edge of land and the ocean. (bird photo from Hobey's show by Elise Handelman)

Harmonious Migrations by Ibex Puppetry, Heather Henson's project which teaches about the interconnectivity of the elements in the environment as they relate to crane flyways.

Horror of the Nightshade by Jason Thibodex, A shadow horror show accompanied by heavy metal music.

Mario The Maker Magician, Born of the maker movement, it straddles the worlds of magic, science, and puppetry

Penguin in my Pocket by Kurt Hunter, A wonderful interactive marionette and rod puppet show for children and families that tells of a fantastical friendship between a penguin, a monkey and a sea monster. (photo Elise Handelman)



The Doubtful Sprout by Liz Joyce, A children's show that explores what happens inside the soil as a seed begins to sprout

Still Life by Matt Sandbank, Nashville shadow puppeteer Matt Sandbank's hilarious show with short vignettes of misadventures about artists and their tribulations as they create their masterpieces.

Rasputin's Marionettes by Matt Scot, An adult marionette show by the 25 year apprentice of Bob Baker.

Cellula by Z Puppets Rosenschnoz, A show about the marvels of the cells inside us. Jeghetto's Workshop by Tarish "Jeghetto" Pipkins, takes you through the process of his puppet creation told through visual projection, puppetry and hip-hop music.

Paper Cities by Animal Cracker Conspiracy, A multi-media puppet theater workshop as a city grows and faces contemporary realities of a city in transition.

Diggity Dog Days by Margo McCreary, A hilarious table top style puppet show follows Jack the dog as he discovers his world and tries to make sense of his human master's role in his life. (photo: Elise Handelman)

David's Dueling Dummies by David Malmberg, A ventriloquist show featuring the wisecracking antics of 2 competing character puppets.

Speechless Storytellers by Poncilli Creacion, A found object experimental piece that explores the beauty that can be created with recycled garbage.

Red Riding Hood by Monica Leo, A child friendly pop up stage show that shows the traditional tale with humor and a little artistic license. (Monica Leo pop-up stage photo by Cam Henneman)

Resist The Gloom by The Society of Realistic Optimists, A story of the end of the world and the part humans play in it told by eternal optimist, Cornelius the Collector.

The Adventures of Juan Bobo by Open Eye Figure Theater. The show combines puppetry and music inspired by Puerto Rican folk tales.

I was unable to attend any of the late night performances, slams, fringe performances due to health reasons, so I hope that one of our other members covered some of those.

There was a touching remembrance of puppeteers we have lost since 2017. Our members, Larry Schmidt, and Maria Bodman were included in the remembrance.

The Reel Puppetry Film Fest was happening simultaneously with the puppet festival was curated by Alex Griffin I am not going to list them all here, but some of the highlights included:

Lessons Learned by Toby Froud, Joan of Arc by Steven Ritz-Barr, and Yamasong by Sam Koji Hale.



If you have not had the opportunity to explore a national festival, I would highly recommend that you try to attend one. The vast array of talent and opportunities to learn new skills is unparalleled. See you at the next one!

National Puppet Festival

by Kathy Foley

As President of UNIMA-USA from 2017-2019, I was eager to go to the festival in Minneapolis with I Nyoman Sedana, a former student of mine from Bali who now teaches at the Institute of the Arts in Denpasar and who will be in charge of the seminar in conjunction with the World Puppetry Festival of UNIMA-International which will take place April 13-20 2020 in Gianyar, Bali. So Sedana arrived from Indonesia on July 19 and we had an intensive workshop for 2 days in which participants learned story, manipulation, some singing and chanting styles that they will encounter in Indonesia. Our workshop culminated in a short performance in which the group did a “kecak” (monkey chant) with masked characters and other students gave short scenes of Hanuman the Messenger episode from the Ramayana epic, telling how the White Monkey general finds the kidnapped princess Sita. Sedana will be organizing a workshop in Bali the week after the festival—so if anyone is coming and wants to spend an extra week immersed in Balinese puppetry please consider joining! The festival itself began with awards which included (among others) John Bell, director of the Ballard Museum receiving an award on writing and Citations from UNIMA-USA which included (among others) Peter Allen’s *Punch and Judy*, Steven Barr’s film of *Joan of Arc*, and Hamid Rahmanian collaboration with ShadowLight Production on *Feathers of Fire* which of course debuted in SF with guild members participating. Some of the shows that intrigued me were Ahyar Hulagu’s *Karagoz (Magic Tree)*. Hulagu is a Kurd who has founded a US Karagoz troupe in Washington. He was a journalist (with the paper closed for political reason) and is trying to establish this UNESCO Intangible Heritage of Humanity form in the DC area. He also delivered a great workshop. Brian Hull’s *Kaytek the Wizard* gave both the history of Janusz Korczak who died in the Holocaust and shared the narrative of one of his Polish children’s stories that is well known in Poland. It was a tale of a boy who finds his wizard powers that predates Harry Potter. Singing, animation, manipulation were all of a high level and the show had “heart” and narrative power (not always a core point for many of this festival presentations).

Camille Trouve and Brice Berthod are from Les Angeles au Plafond and their blend of music and paper pop-up book performance was *Le Cri Quotidien (The Daily Scream)*; a woman reads the newspaper—car crashes, slaughter houses for chickens, politics gobbledygook. etc. Cities rise and fall as Camille Trove turns her pages and each flip evokes the kind of daily scream those of us who still read the news experience daily (photo to R). Ibex Puppetry’s *Harmonious Migrations* was an interesting blend of ornithology and information on various Native American lifestyles that featured Cherokee educator Jason Gullo Mullins and crane puppeteer Adelka Polak. Liz Joyce’s *The Doubtful Sprout* combined science and

empowerment messages. A self-deprecating plant doesn’t recognize his/her potential to grow and be the first to sprout until a worm leads him through the wonders of soil, worms and mutual interdependences in ecology. *Caws & Effect* was done via shadow projecting on a large screen by Chloe Ziner and Jessica Gabriel from Vancouver, BC. Strong music, lovely layered projections and great movement when the artist played their crow personas combined. Kurt Hunter’s *Penguin in my Pocket* was a sweet and relatively simple children’s



marionette show that surprised as the stage emerged from the performer's costume. All the organizers are to be commended on the enormous labor that made it all happen—fringe performances, workshops by people like Lex Rudd, Mary Nagler, and Wendy Morton and ever so many others, and other events made this a wonderful week of puppets and one only wished that it was possible to be in three different places (at least!) in the same moment.

Puppeteers of America National Puppetry Festival 2019 – “Birds of a Feather”

National Festival Scholarship recipient, Mary Hildebrand Nagler

My career has encompassed many puppetry styles and I enjoy them all. I am both a builder and performer and consider learning something new one of the great joys of life. For this festival I eagerly signed up for a few things I have not had any experience with!

First, I took the Intro to Silicone & Polyfoam puppets workshop with Tom McLaughlin. Tom worked at the Puppet Heap in Hoboken, when I was there, and is the person who developed the foam process that makes Miss Piggy! Her process is unique, and Tom is a master. This was more hands on, where he showed us coloring the Silicone, and an assortment of methods for application. Tom makes a line of colorings so I purchased 2 sets and can hardly wait to try out some ideas I have.

Hobey Ford is a puppeteer I admire for his work in controllers, and the content of his shows. He has recently written a book and showed through Power Point, and live demonstration of his puppets, some of the marvelous manipulation possible. He is always improving on his last application and discovering new things too! His willingness to share and “Fast forward” other people's work, by applying his techniques is a generous wonder. I ordered his book and attempt to make one of his marvelous fairies! Here is the link if you want to check it out:

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/hobey-ford/rod-puppetry/hardcover/product-24186503.html>

Monica Leo was my mentor at my first festival in 1993. She was teaching a Book pop-up stages class and took us through the mechanics to actual application of an idea we were encouraged to bring in. I have a little play that won me a seat in Ronnie Burkett's playwriting class at the National Puppetry Conference at the O'Neill a few years ago. I have been gathering the stage décor and wondering how best to stage it. I think a book pop up would work for several of the scenes, so I was eager to learn. Monica is a great teacher and I came home with several samples to flesh out on a larger scale.

At the last National Festival, I had the serendipitous opportunity to pop into a Cranky performance last minute, by Katherine Fahey. Her Cranky stage was an elegant envelope, decorated with an elaborate paper cut sample of birds, flowers and insects. The envelope opened, to frame a series of Ghost tales with numerous special visual effects! I was spellbound. Her calm melodious voice accompanied by her partner doing music and sound effects, had me completely entranced. I was happy to get into her workshop! For their workshop, they had assembled wooden cigar boxes into a miniature Cranky for each of us, and we were invited to make a sample strip on a smaller paper to inform the larger paper scroll that would fit in our little crankys. It was a challenge for me to work so small! But their eagerness to share their discoveries and methods greatly demystified the process for me. I am eager to build my Cranky stage and complete an idea I have had for some time, which I could not resolve how to stage. I think a Cranky is the answer.

This festival was inspiring from many areas; Performances, workshops, visiting with other puppeteers and teaching my workshop: Foam for Brains- Demystifying the building of Foam puppets- Tips and Tricks. For this I made material sample bags for all participants and a Power Point presentation, which stretched my cyber

knowledge! I am very proud of the effort. The workshop went off well and after talking fast for 3 straight hours I was pretty tired, but happy.

I decided to sign up to Mentor and there were two young women who signed up to have a mentor. Both were first timers. One I was not able to connect with despite many efforts and the other a charming college student from Iowa. She had been sent by her Mentor in College to learn about shadow puppets for an upcoming production. I also volunteered to work in the Festival store, as is my tradition, as I sell things there, and there is much to do when it is all over to pack and ship the leftovers.

My first festival was a life changing experience for me. I took a foam puppet making workshop with Kamela Portuges, which led to a job and launched me on my odyssey to learn everything puppet. I was mentored by Monica Leo, who expounded on the value of the community of puppeteers and gave me the courage to go for it. Here I am back again, coming full circle, teaching a foam workshop of my own, and mentoring other young women. What I learned at this festival will be the seed of new creative pursuits, both for me and hopefully in the lives of others this opportunity allowed me to touch.

Save the Date: October 5- The Crankies are coming!

The date for the Nick Barone Memorial crankie workshop has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 5th. It will be held at The Veteran's Hall in Benicia.

What is a crankie, you ask? Well, a crankie is an old storytelling art form where a long illustrated scroll is inserted into a box with an open front. The scroll is wound onto 2 spools that are hand cranked like an old time film reel. Stories can be narrated or accompanied with music or singing. Camilla Henneman will be leading the workshop. Camilla Henneman (recently retired teacher & special effects artist)- has been making crankies with her students for the past few years, as well as creating crankie pieces for puppet slams and potpourri.

In the workshop we will look at examples of performances from contemporary crankie artists. We will explore different types of crankies that you can make with children as well as ones you can perform with. Participants will have the opportunity to make at least one crankie in the workshop. Materials will be provided for a small crankies. You can bring other materials and tools that you would like to work with as well. More information will be coming out in the next newsletter as well as information on how to sign up for the workshop.



Vallejo Giant Puppet Project followup:

Each 4th of July, puppeteers and community members gather in Vallejo to make, repair and parade a collection of giant puppets through the streets. This year was no exception as approximately 30 Giant Puppet enthusiasts joined together for the event. SF Bay Area Puppet Community members who participated in the Vallejo Giant Puppet 4th of July: Judy Roberto, Olivia and Talib Huff, Fred Riley III, Max Bachmann, Dave Anderson, John and Lorelei Arnold, Jennifer Kruss, Mary Nagler, Danalynne

and Kevin Menegus and Michael and Valerie Nelson. You can see many more photos of puppets and puppeteers on the Vallejo Giant Puppet Project Facebook page.



Ask Mrs. Bandersnoot

Greetings Friends and fans! Yes! It's me, Mrs. Bandersnoot!

I don't have any sage advice his time except to say if you have never been to a national festival, you should really do yourself a favor and GO! My roommate Mary took me this time, and though I had to get there in a suitcase full of foam puppet body parts she needed for her workshop (Dreadful! The stuff of nightmares!) I was glad to go.

Mary took me as a "Guest of Honor" to her Workshop: Foam for Brains – Demystifying the building of foam puppets, Tips and Tricks. Everyone was glad to see me, and then, when she was talking about mouth plates she passed me around so everyone could, well reach up

inside and feel mine!! It was clear everyone was eager to get their hands on me! But, despite my initial shock, it was nice to hear so many compliments as I was passed around... like: about how lightweight I am, what a great character, and so beautifully made! Everyone was gentle, respectful and I endured it for the advancement of the puppetry arts; something Mary and I are both passionate about.



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