



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

January 2021



Guild Members get a special treat to start the New Year! At our virtual holiday party on Saturday, January 23rd (more info below) we will get to see the Emmy Award winning Manual Cinema's *Christmas Carol*. By all accounts this is a "don't miss" show and free to guild members.

AND BY THE WAY...The new Guild Membership Year starts on January 1, 2021! If you have not already renewed, DO IT NOW! It's fun and easy! Go to: <https://sfbapg.org/membership/join/>

Our holiday party has always been our biggest fundraiser for the Founders scholarship. The raffle of items donated cannot happen this year. So if you feel inclined to donate as you renew, know that your hard earned money will be put to good use! The Founders Scholarship is dedicated to helping members with registration at puppet festivals or to pay for courses. One of our members is currently taking a puppetry course online, thanks to our guild. She will be sharing her new knowledge with either an article or a workshop for the guild.

Guild Board and Officers

President

Camilla Henneman
camhenneman@gmail.com

Vice President

Ilene Cleveland
hope922000@yahoo.com

Secretary

Barbara Grillo
bgrillo@contracosta.edu

Treasurer

Valerie Nelson
mail@magicalmoonshine.org

Webmaster

Gabriel Galdamez
gabriel@cmtministries.org

Lee Armstrong
images@vom.com
707-996-9474

John Arnold
john@puppetsopt.com

Judy Roberto
be_artsy@hotmail.com

Nao Kobayashi
naopuppet@gmail.com

Librarian

Lee Armstrong
707-996-9474

Membership Assistant

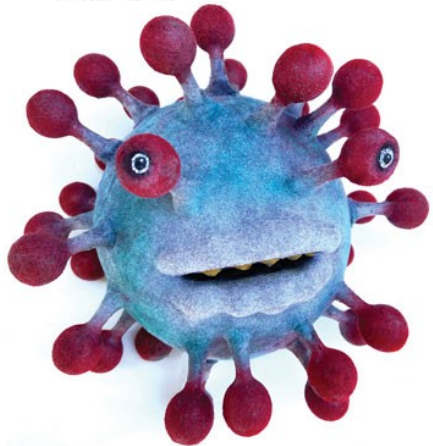
Michael Nelson
707-363-4573
mail@magicalmoonshine.org

A New Years Greeting from the president.

What a year this has been! Someone said recently that the most useless object they bought last year was a calendar planner. For those who make their living from teaching and/ or performing puppetry, 2020 was --- many challenges and some hardships. Still there were some triumphs to look back on.

We ushered the year in with our January guild party and 65th guild anniversary. The beginning of the year was especially busy for me as I was absorbed in building a pop-up book show with needle felted puppets that was inspired by Monica Leo's workshop from the National Festival in Minnesota. I got to present it for the first time at our guild party alongside Magical Moonshine Theater's "Gunnywolf." 2020 was off to a great start! I had a fresh show to tour schools with and my tickets in hand to fly to London for the Punch & Judy festival. It brings to mind the old adage "If you want to make the fates laugh, tell them your plans for the future."

And then it hit. Practically overnight we were in a statewide lockdown. Schools were closed and social events cancelled. It hit the puppetry community particularly hard as the primary venues for performance were shuttered. Working artists who often live on the edge financially were hit hard. But the puppetry community is nothing if not innovative. Zoom offered possibilities for presenting online shows and workshops. I learned more about online platforms than I ever thought I would want to know. Some puppetry performers found innovative ways to present their shows. If they couldn't bring the audience in, they brought the shows out or put them online. 2020 saw a pivot to drive in shows, online Zoom workshops, and streamed shows both live



COVID-19: Wreaking Havoc on Puppetry

and recorded. Our very own Images In Motion (Kamala Porteges & Lee Armstrong) created a brilliant PSA about Covid-19 and the importance of washing hands. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLPAOy6hvWE> Their puppet made the cover of Puppeteers of America Winter edition.

The Puppeteers of America offered an emergency fund to give grants to out of work puppetry artists. I became involved with the fund by selling some felted puppets and tiny felted dolls as a fundraiser so I could contribute. The fund is still available, and applications can be found at <https://www.puppeteers.org/relief/>

We hosted several online workshops for the guild at no cost to participants. Monica Leo taught workshops in pop-up books and Bohemian rod puppets. Alex Griffon presented "Craft Your Puppet Show for Video." We held 2 guild challenges that we named experiments for guild members and guests to explore a new

character, puppet, story, script and present the final piece or work in progress. We had a happy hour, some meetings and get-togethers.

With December came hopes of a vaccine and regime change. We are cautiously moving ahead with the hopes of getting back to some semblance of normal in the new year, but for a while we will be continuing to use online venues. The guild has several activities planned for the new year starting with our first virtual holiday party to be held on January 23.

Good luck to everyone in the new year. Covid-19 has left many of us hurting from loss of family, and loss of human contact and loss of livelihoods. It will take time to heal, but we are strong, creative, and above all, we are innovators.

Camilla Henneman, President, SFBAPG

Emmy award-winning Manual Cinema's *Christmas Carol* for Guild Holiday Party

When: Sat., Jan 23rd from 3-5:15ish PST

Where: Zoom – Signup for Zoom link at RegFox, <https://sfbapg.regfox.com/january>. RegFox will send you the Zoom link on Friday, Jan 22 and then again shortly before 3 pm on 01/23.

Come one, come all for a delightful afternoon of jingling and mingling, plus a dazzling performance by Manual Cinema!

Loose Schedule, subject to change

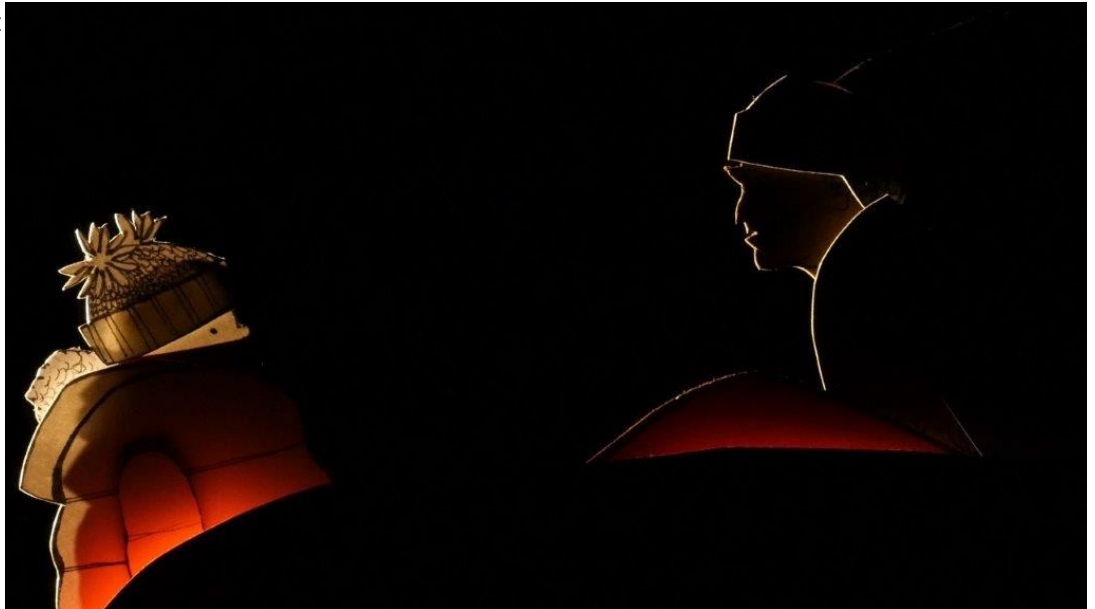
3:00-4:00 Guild Meeting – meet & greet, puppet news & puppet shorts!

4:00-5:15ish **Manual Cinema's *Christmas Carol*** (60 minute show followed by Q & A)

This show is free to Guild members (and those viewing on the same device with the Guild member). If you aren't a Guild member, we encourage you to join at <https://sfbapg.org/membership/join/> (lots of great programs happening this year) or make a donation (suggested \$15) at Reg Fox when you sign up.

Manual Cinema's *Christmas Carol*

In this online event created for audiences of all ages, interdisciplinary performance collective Manual Cinema takes on Charles Dickens's holiday classic with a visually inventive adaptation designed for streaming. In signature Manual Cinema fashion, hundreds of shadow puppets, miniatures, silhouettes and an original score will come together to tell an imaginative re-invention of this cherished holiday classic. Show trailer at <https://vimeo.com/493151426>.



Plot: An avowed holiday skeptic, Aunt Trudy has been recruited to channel her late husband Joe's famous Christmas cheer. From the isolation of her Chicago apartment, she reconstructs his annual Christmas

Carol puppet show – over a Zoom call while the family celebrates Christmas Eve under lockdown. But as Trudy becomes more absorbed in her own version of the story, the puppets take on a life of their own, and the family’s call transforms into a stunning cinematic adaptation of Dickens’s classic ghost story.

MANUAL CINEMA is an Emmy Award winning performance collective, design studio, and film/ video production company. Manual Cinema combines handmade shadow puppetry, cinematic techniques, and innovative sound and music to create immersive stories for stage and screen. Using vintage overhead projectors, multiple screens, puppets, actors, live feed cameras, multi-channel sound design, and a live music ensemble; Manual Cinema transforms the experience of attending the cinema and imbues it with liveness, ingenuity, and



theatricality. The company was awarded an Emmy Award in 2017 & was a Peabody Finalist for “The Forger,” a video created for The New York Times and named Chicago Artists of the Year in 2018 by the Chicago Tribune. They were voted “Best of Festival & Best Design” at the 2013 P of A National Festival. To date Manual Cinema has created nine feature length live multimedia theater shows. Samples of their work and additional information can be seen at <https://manualcinema.com>.

After the show Sarah Fornace will join us to talk about how Manual Cinema creates their innovative shadow puppetry and to answer your questions. She is a co-Artistic Director of Manual Cinema and heads up Education & Outreach. Outside of Manual Cinema, Sarah has worked as a performer or choreographer with Redmoon Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Court Theatre, Steppenwolf Garage, and Blair Thomas and Co. Most recently, Sarah wrote the story mode for the video game Rivals of Aether.

Call for Puppet Shorts Submissions!

We are looking to showcase some of our member's work at our holiday party. The shorts should be 5 minutes long, or less. It can be a section of a longer piece, but we are asking that it be of finished quality. It doesn't have to be family-themed, but please be family-friendly. If there are more than 30 minutes of material submitted, the final selection will be chosen by noteworthy puppeteers from outside our Guild.

Submission: Please send your video to sfbapglibrary@gmail.com. If 10 MB or less, you can include it as an attachment. If over, please provide a link (i.e. Youtube, Vimeo, DropBox, WeTransfer, etc.) or share via Google docs.

Early Bird Deadline: Please submit your short video by Sun., 10th or a write-up of your project (title, 1 line description and running time).

Final Deadline: All submissions must be in by Jan. 17th midnight, no exceptions.

Selected shorts will be aired January 23rd between 3-4 pm as part of the annual Holiday Party.

March Guild Meeting “The Ins & Outs of Live-Streaming Your Puppet Show”

When: March 20, Sat. 3-5 pm

Where: On Zoom – details to join coming soon

Join us for a Zoom Guild meeting, followed by a live streamed show of the “Three Little Pigs” and a backstage tour by Art Grueneberger of Puppet Art Theater.

The Three Little Pigs

Three pigs strike out on their own looking to have fun and adventures. But first, they must build houses for themselves. Straw, sticks, bricks, and a huffing and puffing Big Bad Wolf add up to hilarity and mayhem in this adaptation of the classic story, “The Three Little Pigs.”

After the show Art will give a backstage tour of his virtual set-up and discusses the three ways he's adapted his shows to work as live-stream performances in the COVID Era. He will also discuss how he will use the live-stream technology post-pandemic.

Art Grueneberger

Director, Puppeteer, Puppet Builder

Art became fascinated by puppetry in the early 90's while pursuing a degree in teaching. A puppetry course his last year of college took him off the teaching path and onto a successful career as a puppeteer. Under the mentor-ship of master puppeteer Richard Bay he began performing shows at theme parks and schools. An early opportunity to study with Jim Henson's Muppet Performers and hundreds of performances for Bay's company helped hone his skills as a performer. An invitation to be one of the first participants in the Emerging Artist Program at the National Puppetry Conference, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center helped develop Grueneberger's writing and production skills. These skills combined with a bit of luck lead to the formation of Grueneberger's Puppet Art Theater Co. in 1995. Today Puppet Art Theater Co. has eighteen productions that tour across California and beyond completing more than 600 live performances for family audiences every year. Grueneberger has become a master at developing marvelous puppet shows that delight audiences of all ages. Grueneberger took these skills and started Puppet Arts Creative which develops and tours fantastic educational programs for government agencies, corporations and other organizations that deliver important educational messages to targeted audiences.

In April Puppet Art Theater Co. 's pivoted from live performances to live-streaming shows. Since the pivot they've completed over 200 paid live-stream performances.

Loose schedule

3:00-3:30	Guild meeting
3:30-4:00	Show
4:00-5:00	Live Stream presentation & Q & A



Wayland Flowers, Jr, and Madame

by Ilene Kennedy

Wayland Parrett Flowers, Jr. was born on November 26th 1939 in Dawson, Georgia USA.

Flowers created his most famous puppet character, Madame, in the mid 1960s. He was a busy man with all his occupations as an actor, a comedian and a puppeteer. He had his first big break on The Andy Williams show.

The character of Madame is an "outrageous old broad" who entertains with double entendres and witty comebacks, all while being decked out in fabulous evening wear and "summer diamonds" (some of the diamonds are real and some are not). Madame's look is based on movie stars such as Gloria Swanson. Many people believe that Madame is based on a Washington,DC. gay icon waitress and restaurant hostess named Margo McGregor.



Madame's many TV appearances included Laugh-In and a long run on the game show Hollywood Squares with Flowers and Madame replacing Paul Lynde in the Central square, and a recurring comedy skit on Solid Gold and a short time spot on a show called "Keep On Truckin" and from there TV guest spots and as the star of her own syndicated sitcom in 1982 called Madame's Place.

Flowers and Madame were in the center square on the final NBC episode of Hollywood squares in June, 1980. Host Peter Marshall asked Madame the final game question of the day time series which was "Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert and Strauss lived in the same place... where did they all live?" Madame's, comic answer? "At the YMCA!" Then her serious answer: "Germany" (The correct answer was Austria.)

Flowers other Puppets included: Crazy Marty (an escapee from Bellevue mental hospital), Jiffy (a Harlem harlot with a heart of brass), and Macklehoney (a crochety, retired vaudeville comedian). His puppet Smedley worked with Marlo Thomas on Free To Be...You and Me. Flowers also performed with Madame for 4 years on Solid Gold. He also wrote a book called: "Madame: My misbegotten Memoirs" which was published in 1983.

While performing at Harrah's Lake Tahoe, He collapsed and had to stop performing and return to his hometown in Dawson, Georgia, where he had family, and after some time he returned to his L.A. home and after being there for a while he died on October 11,1988.

He was returned to Dawson Georgia, where he was interred at Cedar Hills Cemetery.

I will always cherish the times I got to watch him performing with Madame on Solid Gold and the game show, Hollywood Squares.

I surely do miss his performances and MOST of all I MISS "MADAME!"

Hobey Ford's Rod Puppet Workshop

By Camilla Henneman

One of the gifts that this year brought us was the opportunity to take online puppetry workshops from some true masters of their craft. I recently took a workshop on making rod puppet controls offered by Hobey Ford. Trying to describe Renaissance man Hobey Ford in a few words is a challenge, but here goes: Hobey Ford is an award-winning puppet builder, designer, director, filmmaker, performer, author and teacher. Hobey is well known for his brilliantly innovative Animalia in which he brings to life eagles, whales and otters and gets us to suspend belief that we are looking at a puppet though the performer is right in front of us.

Creating Hobey's animated rod puppets is a course that one could easily spend months on. But under Hobey's guidance, we all created a working rod puppet with head nod and tilt, jointed arm and hand movement in a little more than an hour. The materials were objects that most of us had on hand: masking tape, straws, string, foil, paper and a bamboo skewer. Hobey will be offering the workshop again on January 9th at 11 EST (8:00 our time)

The next workshop Hobey will be offering is a shadow puppet workshop. The first one is scheduled for this January 3rd. It will be repeated. If you are interested, you can contact him hobey1@aol.com.



Hobey's book "Rod Puppetry" which came out last year goes more deeply into his techniques of rod puppet controls. It can be ordered from this link: "[Rod Puppetry](#)"

<https://www.lulu.com/en/us/shop/hobey-ford/rod-puppetry/hardcover/product>

And from Ilene Cleveland



Ilene writes: Here are a few of the Puppets I have made. The Black haired little lady has a head of braids that are hand braided and it took 2 weeks to make the head of hair you see.

From your Newsletter Editor

Your newsletter consists of articles and submissions from your fellow guild members, who share items of puppet related interest to our membership. I have gotten many compliments on the newsletter, and the fact of the matter is that I merely paste what people send into the newsletter and forward it to you all, so the thanks and compliments deserve to be spread among **our many contributors** (could be you!) and other helpers.

My proofreader is my lovely wife, **Valerie Nelson**, who tries to correct any little typos, etc. And for those who don't get the full color, online version but rather prefer to have the B&W version printed and mailed to them, **Pam Wade** has been faithfully printing and mailing those out for many years, so a big thanks to her and her sometimes helper, **Olivia Huff**. Our Membership Officer, **John Arnold**, keeps the roster up to date so that your email and mailing addresses are available for getting you the newsletter, so a big thanks to him as well.

And when you are ready to join in this exciting world of Puppetry Journalism, send your newsletter items to newsletter@sfbapg.org. We will all be glad you did!