



The official newsletter of  
**San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild**  
Looking for updates and missed information?  
Check for it at **SFBAPG.ORG**

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



Children's Fairyland in Oakland is open and ready for the Day of Puppetry with SFBAPG! Sat., Aug 28 Noon – 4 pm  
At Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland. For more information, see article below the President's letter.



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## A Letter from your President

Hello Members,

As we look at the constantly changing health news, I'm having trouble finding the words to express my concerns, but also share my enthusiasm for what we can do together, and how we can help make deeper connections safely.

In my personal environment, I'm watching some of my children navigate safe ways to do in person learning, and others continue remote learning. While the adults in our home will be doing our best to go to work or perform safely.

The guild has continued and will continue with virtual meetings, but I'm struggling with how we as an organization can support each other and make deeper connections and support each other.

So much of my favorite guild experiences are based on the in person meetings and side conversations at those events. How can we help those that struggle with online social media, and virtual events? How can we provide opportunities and a place for people just starting to connect? What kinds of opportunities are you looking for?

I'm excited by the meetings this month both virtually and in person. But I'm looking for ways we as a board can get feedback, support, and connect. So take the time to email me, catch me online, talk to me at our events, or reach out to any of our board members with suggestions and ideas. Let us know what is working, what you think we need more of. Take the time and share in Facebook or other social media things you're doing that are working or things you need help with.

Thank you,

John Arnold

## August Guild Meeting **In Person** at Fairyland's Puppet Fair!

**Sat., Aug 28 Noon – 4 pm**

**At Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, <https://fairyland.org>**

**For directions, public transit & parking, visit <https://fairyland.org/visit-us/directions>**

Fairyland's "Day of Puppetry" is an annual event (except last year) filled with a variety of joyful puppet shows and activities. This day will be extra special, as this will be our first opportunity in over a year and a half to get together with puppet friends and enjoy live shows on the beautiful grounds of Fairyland. We'll start with a noontime outdoor Guild meeting at the Merry Meadow. For shows, there will be "The Leprechauns' Gold" by The Puppet Company, "The Vaudeville Follies" by Fratello Marionettes and a display of Fairyland's treasure trove of hand-crafted puppets.

**NOTE:** This will be a "Cautious" Puppet Fair for all of us. Fairyland is following all safety protocols and providing this shorter day event with **mandatory masks** to keep all visitors safe.

**Admission:** Admission is free to Guild members. Go to the main entrance and tell a Fairyland "helper" that you're with the Guild. Guild members may bring friends who aren't members, but if they aren't helping, they should buy a ticket in advance online, <https://fairyland.org>, unless they help out or join the Guild that day. Fairyland will have an updated roster of members. If

non-helping guests aren't able to buy tickets in advance, a Fairyland "helper" can help them do an online purchase on-site.

### How to Enter For Guild Meeting

The entrance will be closed to the general public from 12-1 for deep cleaning. Please arrive at the main entrance between 11:45-12:15. If arriving before noon, see a Fairyland "helper." From 12-12:15, there will be a Guild representative at the entrance. From 1-3 pm, see a Fairyland "helper." Please look for a Guild MailChimp closer to the event, which will have additional info and any updates if Fairyland changes its entry protocol. If you don't get MailChimp, contact a Board member a few days before for any updates.

### Guild Meeting

From 12:10-12:50 – Enter Fairyland & join the Guild meet & greet (bring something to sit upon and a picnic if you'd like) at the Merry Meadow. Around 12:30 there will be a brief Guild meeting, led by our new Guild President, John Arnold. Meet your new Board of Directors, learn about upcoming events, and share programming ideas and more.

### Puppet Shows



**1:00 (repeat at 3:30) An Irish Tale - The Leprechauns' Gold at the Storybook Theater**  
An original tale from Ireland about the care and handling of leprechauns. Three brothers want to marry Meg, but which can outsmart Wily Liam the leprechaun? Puppets and script by Randal Metz, performed by The Puppet Company.

The Puppet Company was created by Randal Metz, and has been producing imaginative family entertainment for close to 50 years. It strives to present quality children's productions that appeal to all ages. Each tale or well known "puppet classic" is told with humor and delights the eyes with well-crafted puppets and colorful scenic effects. "Combining theater and puppetry is the key to a successful and creative production."

Randal has been pulling the strings of the Puppet Company since the age of ten. With a B.A. Degree in Theater and Children's Theater



from San Francisco State University, he is well prepared for the vigorous job of entertaining families. After 20 years of apprenticing with Master Puppeteer Lewis Mahlmann, of Children's Fairyland, he became partners with his "at one-time" teacher and currently produces seven different puppet shows a year for Fairyland.

### **2:00 (repeat at 3:00) "The Vaudeville Follies" at the Emerald Stage**

This marionette variety show is presented in the spirit of the old-time music hall. Our puppeteers perform in full view of the audience. Each performance is designed to engage and enthrall: an opera singer, a trapeze artist, Pierrot and his balloon, a trained dog, and featuring The Amazing Cutlarini are just a few of the acts you might see.

The Fratello Marionettes has been entertaining audiences through the art of marionettes since 1989. The company continues the tradition of classic marionette performances. All the puppets you see in The Fratello Marionettes'



repertoire are conceptualized and built by the puppeteers themselves, with painstaking attention to detail. Each marionette takes two to three months to create.



The company also collaborates with local symphony orchestras to produce unforgettable performances blending live classical music with the storytelling art of puppetry.

Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, The Fratello

Marionettes has performed in locations around the world.

### **Volunteers Needed**

Our Guild will also be helping with the festivities. Please consider signing up for a slot or two to share your love of puppetry. Each slot is 30 minutes and you won't miss a show, as each of the two shows is repeated once.

### **Volunteer Positions**

**Puppet Greeters:** Please bring a puppet and greet families. You can walk around or pop up behind a hedge or simply find a shady bench for your puppet to welcome visitors. 1 puppeteer per half hour. 1 greeter is the minimum, however, all are welcome to participate at any time, the more the merrier!

### **Puppet Demos**

Bring a variety of puppets to demo, or your specialty (hand, marionettes, etc.) or a puppet you are making and share your talents. Table, chair and shade tent will be provided. You can do solo or ask a friend to join you. 1 puppeteer per half hour.

### **Supervise the Puppet Display and Share Guild Info**

Give out guild info & keep an eye on the puppet display. If children want to touch a puppet, direct them to the Puppet Demo or Puppet Greeters

Please look at the volunteer opportunities at (will add signup genius) and sign up for a short shift to add your talents to this enjoyable afternoon. 1 puppeteer per half hour.

**How do I sign up to help out? Go to Sign Up Genius!**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A44ACAE2AA7F49-volunteers>

Click on the slot you want to sign up for, then scroll to the bottom of the page and click Submit and Sign Up, which will take you to a page where you can enter your name & email address.

Fairyland will be hosting the Puppet Fair both Sat. and Sun. 08/28-29<sup>th</sup>. For more information, go to <https://fairyland.org/events-and-performances/schedule-of-event>.

## August 15, Special Event – Puppet Highlights, TikTok & Social (Zoom event)

Sun., Aug. 15 th 4-5ish pm on Zoom.

Sign up at <https://sfbapg.org/2021/august-online-event>

Join us for an exceptional hour combining 3 areas of interest for puppeteers including an award-winning Zoom show performed by teens, highlights of July's Puppet Experiment submissions and a look at the current trend of short clips on TikTok, Instagram Reels and YouTube shorts.



**Covid & Me** - Inventive teens tell it like it is in - This 15-20 minute sketch is performed by Sharon Clay's (former Guild Board member) 4-H youth group. These 5 young ladies won Gold at Regionals and performed at the State level. It's a well-crafted show telling the story of a family of 5 and how life was for them during the height of Covid. Designed for Zoom, the piece is particularly powerful as puppets show the family

struggles, fears and triumphs during the pandemic.

**Puppet Experiment Highlights** - You won't want to miss a compilation of visuals gathered from our current Puppet Experiment. See what creative ideas are sparked with the summertime theme of "Found Materials from Your Natural Environment." **NOTE: If you want to participate, you're in luck. The deadline has been extended to Aug 10 th ! You can find info in the August Newsletter.**

**TikTok** - An overview of video sharing and publicity in social media - What they are, how to sign up and create an account, how to get started, where to find out more, etc. How does the guild use these platforms? Bring your questions.



## Stan Winston School of Puppet Building

Moddy Himmel

I had the privilege of enrolling in the online class thanks to the Guild Scholarship and I have the goal of tackling one puppet build project a month for the next few months.

In February I was able to exact revenge upon the foam balls I was never quite able to dodge in gym class. I carved a playground foam ball into a pig puppet head.

I had been using a box cutter for my projects thus far, but I finally got my hands on some Personna brand blades and my goodness, what a difference! After lightly sketching the snout and eyes on the ball using a sharpie, I made my first cut and instantly decided never to go back to using the box cutter again if I can help it. The cut was so smooth and easy! I must admit I got a bit carried away and ended up with a different shape than the one I originally sketched. The class instructions were not specific to a character, mostly guidelines to create any character, so it wasn't too bad that the carved foam didn't match the sketch.

While hollowing out the inside to fit my hand in I made an accidental cut that ended up giving me an idea! I had given my pig puppet a prominent brow. The accidental slit lined up with the inside of that brow area. By working my middle finger into this slit I am now able to raise and lower the brow and further emote with this pig character!

I can't in good conscience recommend this method, however. First because I'm not sure exactly what I did or how I did it. Also because each time I work my finger into the slit the foam tears a little more. Still, this was a fun build with a funny little discovery with plenty of play potential.



## Join our August Programming Meeting on Zoom

Ongoing: Tuesday, Aug 10 from 7-8 pm (and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month)  
Open to all Guild members.

We are passionate about having excellent programs for Guild members and welcome your input. What would you like to see at a Guild meeting?

- Join us for interesting discussions about program possibilities for Guild meetings
- Help us seek out exceptional performances and useful workshop ideas.
- Pitch in to organize meetings, events, puppet experiments and more.

For the Zoom link, please contact Nao Kobayashi, Programming Chair at [programming@sfbapq.org](mailto:programming@sfbapq.org).

# From our Members...

From Judy Roberto -Brought out this OLD puppet (right) for a friend's 2.5yr old. He worked it well immediately (head stretches out, back pulls together, repeat) walking on walls, counters, rugs, furniture, Mommy, etc.



(1 small Slinky, buttons, black felt over foam ball, 2 rods. A wooden bead glued over rod ends is safer and makes climbing walls fun and challenging for him. The skin is a silk brocade scrap which is supple and the fringe on 3 sides gives convincing movements.



Flower Child (left) -from Bonnie Remsberg-This is what a puppeteer forced to stay at home FOR DAYS AND DAYS has come to. I call her Pinky Tescadero.



From Ilene Kennedy- This is Gingy (left) on a homemade cookie sheet. "I'm not staying on this cookie sheet you're not going to cook me!"



This was a project that my daughter Hope Rodriguez helped to make (right).

She did the back drop and painted a tube with straws and paper mache and duct tape to make the tree. I made all the books and animals and I did the base decorations. This is the tree of knowledge and the animals all seek his wisdom.

# The Life of Mexican Ventriloquist "Don Carlos"

Moddy Himmel



Actor, composer, scriptwriter, and one of Mexico's best ventriloquists, Jose Carlos Alejandro Sanchez Monroy made a name for himself in the 60s and 70s performing with his dummies, Neto and Titino as "Don Carlos".

Born on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1925 in the state of Puebla in Mexico to parents Guillermo Sanchez and Elvira Monroy, Carlos' interest in ventriloquism began at a young age.

He moved to Mexico City where he began performing in the “Teatros de Carpas” (Tarp Theaters), a popular traveling show, where he honed his craft alongside mentors Tony Pares and Paco Miller and cemented his presence in showbiz in 1949.

He recorded children’s songs and comic skits performing the voices of all his characters. He created toys such as a little mouse that was based on the popular figure, “El Raton Perez” which is like the tooth fairy in Spanish and Hispanic American Cultures. Despite his successful start, he became a street vendor and busker to make ends meet.

He then won a ventriloquism competition organized by “El Teatro Margo” where in later years he would perform to large audiences and enjoy great success.

In his 40s he starred in his own television show “El Show de Carlos, Neto y Titino” on channel Telesistema. He starred in various television shows sponsored by big brands such as Max Factor, Nescafé instant coffee, and even a famous brand of cigars. During that time, he was also performing at night clubs and musical reviews.

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Don Carlos and his dummies, Neto, a straight-man character dressed in suits that was constantly being annoyed by Titino, a childlike character with a high voice that dressed in a sailor suit, also starred in several movies, the first of which came out in 1954. Titino even had a starring role in the movie “El Hombre de Papel” (The Paper Man) in 1963, for which Don Carlos lent his voice.



Don Carlos made several visits to the US, making his characters perform in English to the surprise and delight of audiences that were familiar with his work in Spanish and where he enjoyed some success.

A prolific writer, Don Carlos wrote scripts for television shows and also wrote many songs that were later performed by famous

Mexican artists including Marco Antonio Muniz and Angelica Maria.

He was a member of ANDA (acronym for National Association of Actors in Spanish) of which the National Honor and Justice committee presented him with the Virginia Fabregas medal in 1987 in recognition of his work and his characters, Neto and Titino.

In his personal life, Don Carlos married Guadalupe Buentello with whom he had three children: Elvira Laila, Ziomara and Carlos.

In the final chapter of his life Don Carlos battled with Alzheimers, which affected his motor skills, effectively ending his career. He died on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1994, at the age of 69.

Don Carlos is remembered for his elegant style of speaking, far removed from foul language or double entendres, for which he enjoyed wide acceptance with audiences of all ages.

With his quick wit and vivacity, he managed to capture the Mexican audience, always including topical references which kept his performance fresh and endlessly rewatchable.

<http://todoennoticia.com.mx/entidades-federativas/a-25-anos-de-su-muerte-casi-nadie-recuerda-al-gran-ventrilocu-mexicano-don-carlos/>

## Did You Hear That? Free Music Resources

Talib Huff

One of the most frequently asked questions at our guild workshops is, "where did you get the music?" As puppeteers we understand that the soundscape for our shows is as important as the lighting, costuming, and scenery. In fact some of the best shows I've seen have been told without words using music to weave the story.

Unless you have a musician friend who is willing to work with you on the show or a budget that can afford paying royalties, you probably are looking for inexpensive ways to add sound effects and musical scores to your production. As it turns out, if you are willing to do a little searching, there are a number of sources of music and sound effects that are available for free use.

Now, although I won't be covering sound mixing, I do want to mention the GarageBand app for Apple. It comes preloaded with sound effects, jingles, music loops and more. If you have access to it, I definitely recommend checking it out. It's available on the iPhone and iPad as well as the desktop, so you might be able to find something that works for you.

So, on to the music resources. First, let's head over to the Free Music Archive (<https://freemusicarchive.org>). Here you will find a number of compositions organized by genre. Many are covered by a Creative Commons licence that allows commercial use with attribution. There are even some that say

"The person who associated with this deed has dedicated the work to the public domain by waiving all of his or her rights to the work worldwide under copyright law, including all related and neighboring rights, to the extent allowed by law. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission."

You can't get more free than that.

Another site to visit is Free Stock Music (<https://www.free-stock-music.com>). As with Free Music Archive, the songs are searchable and arranged by genre. This site allows for multiple filters when searching, so for example, you can search for mood: adventurous, style: cinematic, tempo: medium and choose from the results. It also has an effects section where you can download files like "spooky ambience," or "comedy boing."

Both of these sites allow you to download in MP3 format which is commonly used in many applications. The one drawback I've found is the "overwhelm" factor given the number of choices.

## New York Puppet Fringe goes Digital

*Editor's note: I have condensed some of the text below to allow for space. You may be able to find more about streaming these at: <http://puppetfringenyc.com/performers/> I am guessing that times listed are Eastern Time (not California!)*

The International Puppet Fringe Festival NYC is a biannual puppet theater fringe festival hosted by Teatro SEA and The Clemente in the Lower East Side of New York City. The Puppet Fringe Festival is the first ever international fringe festival dedicated to puppetry. This year the puppets are outsmarting the Pandemic by being outdoors, for those in NY see [puppetfringenyc.com](http://puppetfringenyc.com) and the **UNIMA general membership meeting will be streamed from there on Teatro SEA's Facebook Page at 3 pm Eastern Time on Friday Aug 13.** Bay puppeteers however you can also partake of the digital offerings through the end of the month. Here is a sampling of some of the events.

Tuesday, August 17 --7pm – A Conversation with Vincent Anthony, founder of the Center for Puppetry Arts hosted by Manuel Morán and John Ludwig- A look through the career and legacy of Vincent Anthony, founder of the Center for Puppetry Arts.

Saturday, August 21--12pm – Puppetry Museums around the World Panel--A conversation with representatives from the Center of Puppetry Arts (Atlanta,U.S.A.), TOPIC (Tolosa, Spain) and the Museum of the City of New York (NYC, U.S.A.).

Tuesday, August 24--7pm – *Puppetry and its healing properties in therapy* Hosted by Erica Scandoval and Karen Ciego, Drama Therapist to participate in a discussion about the use of Puppetry and its healing properties in therapy.

Tuesday, August 26--7pm – UNIMA-USA Symposium: *Conversations on Puppetry, Social Justice, and Diversity: Part 2* Presentations and discussion on issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion in US puppetry past, present, and future by scholars and artists in the field.

Saturday, August 28--12pm – Conversations with Puppet Fringe Artists and Troupes in English- Meet 2021 International Puppet Fringe NYC National and International participants and learn more about their performances.

Tuesday, August 31 --7pm – “Glocal” *Rethinking, American Puppetry: Opening Eyes Wider* by UNIMA-USA's World Encyclopedia Puppetry Arts. How do we think globally and act locally, (going glocal) to shape thinking about puppetry? Join UNIMA-USA Board members considering how we present American puppet heritage nationally and internationally. What is our Intangible Cultural Heritage of puppetry and how are we sharing it? Can widening our vision about puppetry's history and future promote diversity and inclusion as we push ever toward the highest standards of our art?

**SEND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES TO: [newsletter@sfbapg.org](mailto:newsletter@sfbapg.org)**