



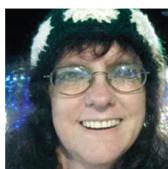
The official newsletter of
San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild

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

Letter from the President

Hello to all our members, I want to thank you for all those that participated in our recent board election, and would like to introduce you to your new board. I John Arnold will continue as President, Camilla Henneman is continuing as our Vice



"Tree" Bartlett. Thank you to all our Board members and committee chairs, and thank you for your support and hard work.

That being said I want to invite all of you to help where you can. I hope we can have your help in sharing our social media so share, like and follow our [Facebook page](#), [YouTube](#) channel, [Instagram](#), [Tiktok](#) and [Twitter](#). Please share with us via email or social media puppet events you are aware of or participating in.

Take pictures of your projects, or reach out to others for help and ideas. Please participate in our monthly programming meetings and share ideas of what you can do, or what you'd like to see. Check out library services for Stan Winston classes, or help us organize our books and materials. If you have a business let us know and we can add it to our resources. If you'd like to help out with any of these let us know. We can use your help for articles, and bookkeeping, and teaching and sharing related to puppetry.

Guild Board and Officers

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We are also looking at improving too so look for more announcements soon on new things to keep and eye on. As we make managing with covid a normal activity and try to continue to work and share with our remote members, here's to another year of fun events, activities, and membership together.

Thank You to Fratello Marionettes

We would like to express our appreciation to Fratello Marionettes, Kevin Menegus and Samantha Lake, for their generosity in sharing their exquisite marionette work, from script writing, design and fabrication, performance and a backstage tour at our May meeting.

The presentation covered their year-long process from concept to completion of their marionette version of "Jack and the Beanstalk." They explained how they developed their script, showed design sketches, fabric choices, molds, casted body

parts, controls, thoughts on stage directing, publicity and much more, which was a great inspiration for all. The cast of characters, with such attention to detail and delicate embellishments, were remarkable to see and members had a special opportunity to meet the marionettes in person and try them out. Fratello then performed vignettes from their variety show "The Vaudeville Follies."

The marionettes were amazing to experience live, and the knife-throwing act was a showstopping finale!



We truly enjoyed and appreciated having Fratello Marionettes as our local professional marionette company present at our guild meeting. Thank you so much for sharing your time and talents with us!

We are all excited to see the premiere of "Jack & the Beanstalk" at our Guild meeting, Aug 27th at the Fairyland Day of Puppetry <https://fairyland.org/>.

The Programming Committee



Jim Henson's "Imagination Unlimited" Exhibit in SF + Guild Event July 24th[The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited](#)

Mar 31, 2022–Aug 14 at the Contemporary Jewish Museum

The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited celebrates the legacy of Jim Henson (1936–1990), trailblazing puppeteer, animator, cartoonist, actor, inventor, and filmmaker. Featuring more than 150 objects drawn from the beloved worlds of Sesame Street, Fraggle Rock, The Dark Crystal, Labyrinth, and more, the exhibition highlights Henson's groundbreaking work for film and television, his indelible mark on popular culture, and the profound social impact of his work. It also includes material from Henson's experimental film projects and his early work, presenting him as a restlessly creative performer and technical innovator. Discover how Henson and his team of builders, performers, and writers created an unparalleled body of work, sharing characters and stories that represent diverse backgrounds and abilities. These stories continue to delight audiences and inspire people of all ages to look beyond differences and cultivate a more compassionate, inclusive world.



Jenn Kruss has already seen the exhibit and said it was great, with so much to see!

Masks are mandatory. Info at <https://www.thecjm.org/>

Guild Event: Join us for the Muppet Exhibit, which includes [Labyrinth: Film Screening and Talk with Karen Prell](#) on Sunday, July 24, 2022 | 1- 3 pm

Join us for a Guild tour of the Muppet Exhibit AND enjoy a special screening of *Labyrinth*—the beloved whimsical musical from the mind of Jim Henson. When moody teenager Sarah's (Jennifer Connelly) baby brother is abducted by the Goblin King (David Bowie), Sarah embarks on an epic quest through the labyrinth to rescue her brother, meeting strange and fantastical creatures along the way. Puppeteer Karen Prell, performer of Firey 2 and the Junk Lady in *Labyrinth* and Red in *Fraggle Rock*, will present the film and lead a post-screening Q&A.

ADMISSION: In Person. Free with Museum admission. You can also tour the exhibit independently, but if you want to tour the exhibit with the Guild, a time will be posted in the July newsletter, and will be either before or after the screening).



Karen Prell recently puppeteered Red Fraggle on the new and wonderful “Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock” on AppleTV+. Karen lived in the Bay Area for a number of years and is still a SFBAPG member and supporter.

More info on the Guild tour of the Exhibit and Screening will be in the July newsletter but if you want to see the film, purchase your tickets early. Use this link, [The CJM](#). Lee Armstrong, Guild Librarian is organizing this event. The museum is open 11-5. You can arrive at a time that suits you. If you want to attend the screening, plan to be in the museum no later than 12:30. If you have any questions, contact Lee at sfbaplibrary@gmail.com.

You may also be interested in...

"The Best Idea Wins": Dave Goelz and Larry Mirkin on Creativity and Collaboration

Sunday, June 26, 2022 | 11am

When it comes to collaborating with Jim Henson, Muppet veterans Larry Mirkin and Dave Goelz know that it didn't matter who it came from—writer, producer, stagehand—all ideas were equal in Jim Henson's workshop. From Sesame Street to Fraggle Rock, collaboration and creativity were the guiding principles of Henson's philosophy. Today, Mirkin and Goelz believe that innocence, generosity, seeing the best in others, acting in good faith, and celebrating diversity are even more essential to creating a better world. Converse with Goelz and Mirkin in this lively conversation exploring the magical chemistry of collaboration and creation.

ADMISSION: This online program is free with advanced registration. Go to <https://www.thecjm.org/programs/1029>.

Sell! Sell! Sell!: The Commercials of Jim Henson

Sunday, July 10, 2022 | 1-2:15pm

Jim Henson created hundreds of television commercials in the 1950s and 1960s for advertisers across the country, honing his craft and introducing such irresistible and enduring characters as Rowlf the Dog, Delbert the La Choy Dragon, and Sir Linit. The Jim Henson Company's Archivist Karen Falk presents a selection of these irreverent and award-winning spots, providing a window into Henson's creative development.

ADMISSION: In person. Free with Museum admission. Go to <https://www.thecjm.org/programs/1030>.

Guild Library News

The Stan Winston School is now available through the Guild Library. Our Guild purchased a one-year subscription to the Stan Winston School of Character Arts. If you aren't familiar

with this site, it's the world's premier online destination for learning the art and technology of character creation from Hollywood's leading artists and technical wizards. It has a puppet section with notable builders and performers. To get familiar with the puppet tutorials available, go to <https://www.stanwinstonschool.com/>. Then click on the search feature (magnifying glass on the upper right) and type in "puppets."

Our 1st checkout was to a new member, Samuel McGinnis (welcome to the Guild!). He viewed the Scott Land marionette course and discovered the importance of body language. He also watched the Bill Diamond TV puppeteering course, "I learned the importance of character and eye contact."

Each Guild member can request use of this subscription for up to 2 weeks. This access time may change, depending on usage. Contact the Guild librarian, Lee Armstrong at library@sfbapg.org, and she will provide you with the password, on a first come, first served basis. If the subscription is checked out, you'll go on the waitlist for the next available check out. Don't delay, contact Lee today!

If you'd like to get started right away with these amazing tutorials and the Guild subscription is already checked out, you can sign up at <https://www.stanwinstonschool.com/> for a free 7-day trial.

The "Book Bonanza Give Away" at the May meeting in Vallejo was a huge success! For years, there have been many books in the Guild Library on topics like acting for actors, stage lighting for large stages, etc. that were outdated or could be found at any public library. We'd like to have books for our members that are specific to puppetry, which we can catalogue and put online. With the help of Michael & Valerie Nelson, Judy Roberto and Barbra Schora, these books were removed from the Guild Library and offered to Guild members at the May meeting. All the books found good homes.

Now the cataloguing can begin. Oliva Huff has offered to help. If you like research and typing, and would like to volunteer, please send an email to library@sfbapg.org. The Guild library is a treasure trove of puppetry information, and we'd like to make it more accessible to all members.

Challenges of Leading A Virtual Youth Puppet Team

by Sharon Clay

For those of you who might be new to the Guild - the 4-H Puppet Team is a group of kids who learn puppetry through 4-H. If you have heard of or have been in 4-H in your youth, you might have thought of it as for animals - like the pigs, goats, steers or sheep you have seen at local fairs. BUT PUPPETRY? Yes, puppetry. 4-H can be just about anything that kids



want to learn or adults want to teach, and puppetry is a wonderful form of Public Speaking - which is something 4-H is known for. (Citizenship, Leadership, and Public Speaking).

Public Speaking, in 4-H, is usually a competition at the county, sectional and state level. In order to go on to the next level, you must receive at Blue or Gold award at the previous competition. So, to go on to Sectionals you must receive an adjudicated award at County, and so forth to State Field Day.

For the past two years, our 4-H Puppet Team has performed virtually. Those of you who have been doing shows via Zoom know what challenges that can provide. How about having 5 members perform one puppet show from 5 different locations? You may have seen our show last year. The kids did a show on the effect of COVID on families. This year, I had almost an entirely new team. Only two remaining members, plus three new members, who had never done puppetry before. This year we did an environmental skit, called "It's a Plastic World", told by sea creatures, and a duck and a frog, about how the Pacific garbage patch impacts different sea and shore creatures. We tried virtual backgrounds - which offers its own challenges - of puppets disappearing into the background when you don't want them to, or objects that are not supposed to show up suddenly appearing in your scene. And then there was timing - and entrances and exits. How to get your puppets to move as sea creatures, and kids to understand the space they were working in. We had no curtains, no scrim, just kids with their own computers at home with different lighting and different puppets in each location.

The first performance was in February - at Alameda County Virtual Presentation Day. They were assigned a time, and had to show up with proper virtual background, at the right time. They got a Gold Award. That allowed them to go on to Sectionals. We did practice in between to try to refine the timing and voices, and even props. At Sectionals, they also got Gold. Now on to State Field Day - which again was virtual, and held last week. I was on vacation, and couldn't even tune in on the zoom presentation. But awards were announced tonight - again via Zoom. After all the other categories of speeches, demonstrations, illustrated talks, interviews, educational displays, interpretive readings, even Fashion Revue and Photography Awards were given, they finally got to the Share the Fun Skits. That's the category for a puppet show. Our team was given a PLATINUM award. That is about as perfect as you can get.

Next year, it will be back to setting up the stage, getting everyone together at the same time after commuting to the practice location, getting kids to settle down, etc. You know, a zoom show can actually be easier.

New Life for Giant Puppet Project in Vallejo

Michael Nelson

For 12 or so years, giant puppets have paraded through the streets of Vallejo on July 4, with exception



of the last 2 pandemic years. Many guild members have participated in building, repairing, and parading with the the giants over the years. This year the parade is back on, and we are looking for two separate areas of participation:

1. We are looking for folks who are interested in participating in this year's parade, which will be held on the 4th of July in Vallejo. Each giant requires several people to bring it to life and we have had crews of up to 30 in the past, with the number of participants helping us determine how many puppets to bring out. If you are interested in joining us or in more information, email us at mail@magicalmoonshine.org and put "July 4" in the subject.
2. We are looking for folks who would like to join us in looking to the future of this project including development of inspirational figures and ways to get these giant puppets out into the community beyond the Vallejo 4th of July parade. This might become more of an ongoing project including creative and organizational work and community building, etc. If you are interested in joining us in this endeavor, please email us at mail@magicalmoonshine.org and put "giant puppets" in the subject line.



Giant puppets are great community builders and great fun! There are engineering and performance challenges which is part of the excitement and we would love to see these puppets having more of a life throughout the Bay Area. Contact us and let's make some big magic!



Explore Puppet Performance with Lee Armstrong

July 18-24 at the Sonoma Community Center (SCC) <https://sonomacommunitycenter.org/>

Explore the joy of puppet performance with TV puppeteer Lee Armstrong. Puppetry is an art form that allows for vast creativity and this 3-part series focuses on the question “What do you do once you have a puppet on your hand?” This workshop is ideal for puppeteers, actors, teachers, librarians, youth group leaders and teens interested in art and performance. You’ll leave this series of workshops with more confidence and skill in your puppet performance!

Session 1: Puppet Building - Monday, July 18, from 3:30- 6:30pm

Price: Sliding scale (\$15, \$35, \$55, \$75, \$110)

Session 2: Stage Puppetry - Tuesday & Wednesday, July 19 & 20, from 10:00am - 2:00pm

Price: Sliding scale (\$20, \$45, \$75, \$110, \$155)

Sessions 3: TV Puppetry - Thursday & Friday, July 21 & 22, from 10:00am - 2:00pm

Price: Sliding scale (\$20, \$45, \$75, \$110, \$155)

Great puppets will be available to use thanks to the generous folks at Folkmanis Puppets



<https://www.folkmanis.com/146/home.htm>, or BYOP (Bring Your Own Puppet) if desired. Please bring a bag lunch for Tues-Fri classes.

Students may register for one, two or all three sessions in this series of Workshops.

Note: Those participants interested in Session 3: TV Puppetry should attend Session 2 **or** must have experience with puppet performance.

Lee Armstrong is an Emmy awarding winning TV puppeteer with credits including the classic Jim Henson "Fraggle Rock," "Being John Malkovich," "Monkeybone," PBS shows and numerous TV commercials. She has taught workshops for thousands of people, in schools, libraries, colleges, fire safety groups, national, regional and local Puppet Festivals, and is a Lecturer in the Theater Department at UC Santa Cruz, teaching "The Art of Jim Henson and the Muppets." She is co-owner of Sonoma-based Images in Motion Inc.

www.imagesmedia.com, which has created puppets and videos for a variety of clients, including Cartoon Network, METV, Insurmi, Leapfrog Enterprises, USDA Forest Service, University of CA, Sonoma Safety Pals, Kaiser Educational Theater Programs and more.

The Sonoma Community Center,
<https://sonomacommunitycenter.org/> exists to enrich the lives of the people of Sonoma Valley – and beyond, by fostering a broad range of cultural, educational, recreational and community service activities.

Note: More information on this course will be found on the SCC website in the next week or so. Check for it here, [ALL CLASSES - Sonoma Community Center](#). However, if you have questions before registration is posted, contact Lee at images@vom.com. Session 2 is a beginning course, so it may be too basic for an experienced puppeteer, but if you know of a teen or adult who is interested in storytelling, theater, etc., please share this info with them. I love that fact that this is sliding scale, which makes it accessible. There are only 15 spaces for each session.



The Puppets of Captain EO

Camilla Henneman

From the years 1980-2000 I worked in the film industry making puppets and creatures for the film industry. In 1986, Michael Jackson collaborated with Disney Studios to create a 3D film, exhibit, for the Disneyland theme parks. Jackson built a miniature theme park on his property; Neverland, inspired by Disneyland. I worked



on several puppets including body puppets for the project. Most of the puppets were built at Lance Anderson's shop. Fuzzball (the puppet on Michael's shoulder) was fabricated at my shop and mechanics were done at Rick Baker's shop.

The film was to be called Captain EO and would be an installation in Disneyland, Epcot and some of the overseas Disney theme parks. The film tells the story of Captain EO, played by Michael Jackson, and his alien crew of goofy misfits who are on a mission to deliver a gift to an evil witch queen played by Angelica Huston on a polluted planet of twisted metal and wreckage. In the story, Captain EO and his crew are sent to the "Dark Planet" to bring the gift of beauty and music. Francis Ford Coppola was brought onboard to direct it and George Lucas produced it.



I had been working with Rick Baker running his costume shop. Rick had created the zombies for Michael Jackson on Thriller and Michael wanted Rick to create the puppets and creatures for Captain EO. This was to be my second time working with Michael Jackson. (I had worked on Thriller and also played a zombie in the video) Rick Baker was only interested in creating the puppet that sits on Michael's shoulder, Fuzzball. (originally named Flutter) The remainder of the characters were built at Lance Andersons shop. I went back and forth between the two shops working on characters at both.

I was in charge of fabrication for the creature called the Geex. The Geex was a birdlike creature that had two heads with separate personalities, Idy and Odie. It also had 3 legs. When the Geex's entire body had to be seen Idy and Odie were played by suit performers,

Debbie Carrington, and Cindy Sorenson whose legs were tied together like in a 3 legged race. Much of the action was performed with a half body puppet puppeteered by Terri Hardin.

Hooter, an elephant like creature, was fabricated by Marc Tyler. Hooter was a person in a foam fabricated suit named Tony Cox.

The creature that sits on Michael Jackson's shoulder is called Fuzzball. He was created at Rick Baker's shop. The brilliant puppeteer, [Bruce Schwartz](#) performed Fuzzball. Watching Bruce's performance was like watching an intricate ballet dancer. Bruce Schwartz was suggested to Rick Baker for the role, by Jim Henson. The only time that Fuzzball was not a puppet was for a brief scene where a spider monkey was used to scamper up Michael Jackson's arm to his shoulder.



Major Domo was a peg legged robot, performed by Gary DePew as the suit performer, and puppeteered by Steve Slep as an upper body puppet. Minor Domo is a little robot that looked like a cross between a vacuum cleaner and a miniature tank, which attached to Major Domo's back. Major and Minor Domo were constructed by Ken Myers, Al Coulter,

and other crew at Lance Anderson's shop. Other puppeteers for various characters included: Tim Lawrence, Tom Hester, and Lisa Sturz.

After the suits and puppets were built, rehearsals began. Francis Coppola decided to have his performers do an improvised scene similar to what you would do in a high school acting class. At one point the puppeteers and actors improvised a summer camp scene where the mischievous campers were played by the puppeteers. Michael played a camp counselor who was trying to keep from being fired by the stern camp director played by Angelica Huston. This was very entertaining to watch. Some of this is in the Making of video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpwEwoauxkU> You can see some of the improvisation footage at 6:10.

During the filming, the set was constantly visited by celebrity friends of Michael Jackson, Francis Coppola and George Lucas. I remember standing next to Elizabeth Taylor during

filming and trying to sneak glances at her eyes to see if they really were violet. (I'm still not sure)

The final cost of Captain EO was about twenty three million dollars, which at the time made it the most expensive film per minute ever made. Captain EO ran for 10 years at Disneyland and closed down in 1996. After Michael's death in 2009 plans were made to reopen Captain EO as a tribute to Michael Jackson.

This is a video of the full movie, Captain EO.



[http://cinearchive.org/post/30133234666/francis-ford-coppolas-captain-eo
MJuniversHD](http://cinearchive.org/post/30133234666/francis-ford-coppolas-captain-eo_MJuniversHD)

Below, some additional photos from the May meeting (see article earlier in this newsletter.)



Send future newsletter articles to newsletter@sfbapg.org by the last (or even the second to last) day of the month.