



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

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Membership Renewal Time!

It is a new year, and the time to renew your membership for 2023! We are looking forward to sharing each of our unique talents, ideas, learning, resources and opportunities for this fresh year with you!

To Join/Renew membership, go to our website

<https://sfbapg.org/join/>

You can pay for your membership online with PayPal, or by check.

General Membership \$25

Family Membership \$30

Senior (+65) Membership \$20

Junior (-18) Membership \$15

We also will be sending our Membership pins so renew today to get yours. Pins are 1.25" wide.

Recently purchased a new membership? Look for an email confirming your membership renewal date.

For further questions, please feel free to contact
membership@sfbapg.org



UNIMA-USA Presents Images of Power: Puppets and Masks in TV/Film

3 experts in puppetry for a screen talk about their experiences in the media.

SUN, Jan 8, 2023 **2:30 PM PST, 5:30 ET-Note time correction from last email**

Free and open to all, but you must register in advance [HERE](#) to get the link.

Two of the experts for this Zoom are from the SFBAPG, Camilla Henneman & Lee Armstrong.

Camilla Henneman, Santa Cruz, <https://www.camspuppets.net/> is a past President of the



SFBAPG. She is a puppeteer/creator and was the costume/fabrication shop supervisor from 1980-1987 for Rick Baker, credits include **Thriller, Harry And The Hendersons, Gorillas In The Mist, The Great Panda Adventure**. For ILM, **Ghostbuster's 2 , The Hunt For Red October, Back to The Future 3, Godfather 3, Akira Kurosawa's Such Dreams As I Have Dreamed**, and several commercials. Other shops credits include **Cocoon, Werewolves**, and more.

"Fooling the Audience; Creating Realistic Gorilla

Puppets for Gorillas In The Mist" Camilla will share her experiences with puppets used to replicate live animals from **Gorillas In The Mist**, including rare footage of the puppet process.

Lee Armstrong, Sonoma, is a Past President of the SFBAPG. She has been a TV puppeteer and producer at Images in Motion Inc. www.imagesmedia.com (IIM) Sonoma since 1989 with credits including the original **Fraggle Rock, Follow That Bird, Being John Malkovich, Monkeybone, Pushing Dead**, numerous commercials and through Images in Motion, puppet videos for clients such as Leapfrog Toys, Livewire Media, Genetech, USDA Forest Service and more.

Lee will share some of IIM's video work, looking at low and high-tech puppet building (including 3D print, mold & cast) and video production.



Colette Searls is associate professor of theatre and head of performance at the [University of Maryland, Baltimore County \(UMBC\)](#) where she teaches acting, directing, and puppetry, and has devised award-winning object theatre performances. She has received grants from the [Jim Henson Foundation](#) and [Puppeteers of America](#) for her original works in object theatre. Other directing credits include [Noah Haidle's Vigils](#) at [The Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company](#) (four Helen Hayes Award nominations), and *Fixed Boundary* (with Leibe Wetzle's Lunatique Fantastique) at San Francisco's Exit Theatre ("Best of the San Francisco Fringe Festival").



Colette will share her work and her forthcoming book from Routledge Press [A Galaxy of Things: the Power of Puppets and Masks in Star Wars and Beyond](#)

Art Grueneberger teaching workshop for puppet companies



I'm teaching a three session workshop in January geared toward jumpstarting business for 2023.

We are calling it Ready, Set, Go! and the cost is \$75.

Workshop Description: Opportunities abound as the world continues to emerge from the pandemic. Are you ready to thrive in 2023? This workshop will help you (READY!) establish the necessary mindset required for success, (SET!) set goals worth reaching and (GO!) launch your plan of action to rapidly and efficiently prosper both artistically and financially.

Sessions will be recorded so if you can't make one of the dates you'll have access to the recording of the workshop.

<https://puppetpie.com/collections/scheduled-workshops/products/workshop-ready-set-go-running-a-prosperous-entertainment-business>

Images in Motion Ends the Year - Onward to 2023



2022 has been busy at the workshop and studio. We had a very fun summer studio shoot with Joe and Ronna Caterpillar Puppets, Benicia. They provided the puppets and content, and we provided the studio, crew, and editing.

Nao Kobayashi headed up the puppet building department with Sventoonie and a duplicate puppet for MeTV out of



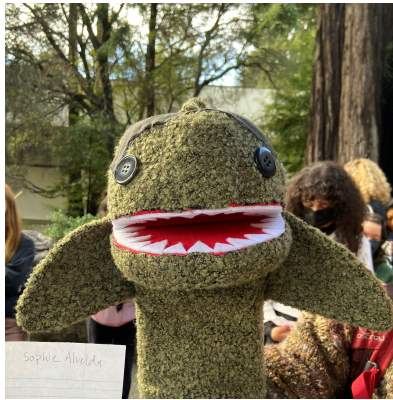
Chicago and a new puppet for Stinky Tales. We even shipped foam mochi balls and waffle bellies to our friends at Swazzle where they were working on the puppets for Waffles +Mochi for Netflix.



We started making models for the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Education Dept. last January and we're finally finished! Six different sea creatures were made, with detachable body parts to help students understand what protective feature help their survival. Then, they were molded, and nine copies of each made in a rubberlike plastic and realistically painted to capture their natural beauty. Soon, the creative team, Kieron Robbins, Adie Valavanis and Nao Kobayashi will deliver sixty sea

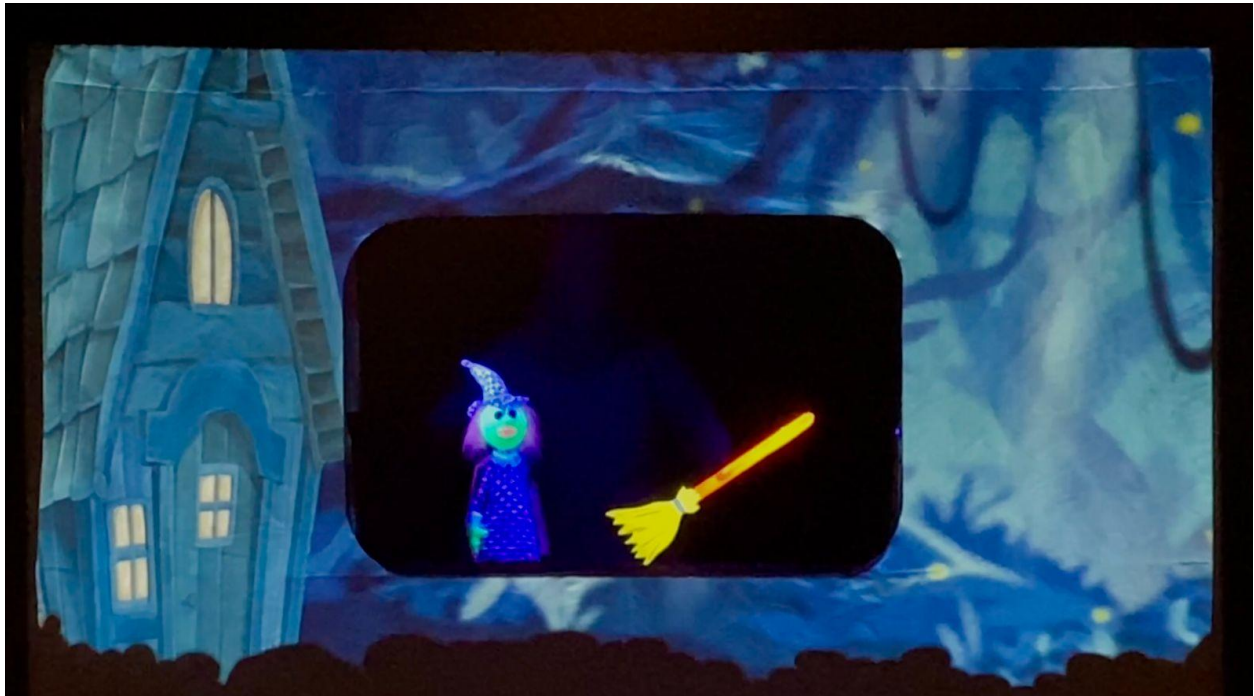
creatures and visit the real ones at the Aquarium.

Since we've added an Einscan 3D scanner, we now are providing 3D scans for five animation companies including Netflix. Our 3D print service is also popular, as well as the traditional mold making and casting in resin of clay sculptures for film studios.



Lee Armstrong taught a series at the Sonoma Community Center in July, then at the Seattle Puppetry Festival in August. Both workshops used puppets provided by our friends at Folkmanis Puppets. Lee then set up a "Lend A Puppet" Library with these Folkmanis puppets in her course "Jim Henson and the Art of the Muppets." Two hundred and fifty students completed a creative project, either making their own puppet or puppet video. The creativity, especially using recycled materials was inspiring.





Halloween Puppet Spectacular at February Holiday Party

Sat Feb 18 exact time TBA, but will be afternoon to early evening
In Person: Location TBA

A Holiday party in Feb? Yes, as traditional, the Guild waits until the new year to celebrate the Holidays, as it's the busiest time of the year for some puppeteers. And what is more traditional than a Halloween Show to ring in the New Year! **Winnie the Witch** is no ordinary show. It's filled with amazing digital effects created by our own Guild member, Art Grueneberger of Puppet Art Theater Co. After the show, he'll give a "behind the scenes" look at his show and share his tech-pertise. Also, the Guild Holiday party usually has a potluck, Guild library and other fun. So, save the date of **Feb 18** for a great get-together.

Winnie the Witch A Black-Light Puppet Spectacular!

Winnie the Witch Loves Halloween, especially the candy! On her way to pick up sweets on Candy Island she discovers Willard the Wizard trying to ruin Halloween by making the World's Candy Supply taste like Brussels sprouts. With the help of the audience and her trusty broomstick, Winnie must dodge Dancing Ghosts, Batty Bats and Silly Skeletons to save Halloween! Digital sets and animations help enhance this blacklight performance.



Clips: https://youtu.be/1_nSSlaccK40

About Puppet Art Theater Co.

Art Grueneberger founded Puppet Art Theater Co. in 1996. His company has eighteen productions that tour across California and beyond performing hundreds of live and online shows every year. Grueneberger has become a master at developing marvelous puppet shows that charm and delight family audiences. In addition to his work for children, Grueneberger has also produced large-scale theatrical productions for adults that incorporate puppets. He has taught at multiple colleges and was a featured guest artist at the Eugene O'Neill National Puppetry Conference. Currently, he is the host of the Puppeteers of America online program "Meet Our Mentors".

So, watch for a Mail Chimp with more information once we have a location locked down, and more details in your February newsletter.

Do you know of a performing space for this event. We need a central location, reasonable rent, which can be totally dark and can ideally accommodate a potluck too? If so, please contact John Arnold at john@puppetspot.com.

From Your Editor

It was back in 2004 (ish) that it came to my attention that a non-guild member who had no particular interest in puppets had been kindly volunteering to edit the guild newsletter. Even though I was no whizz at editing or computer graphics or any of those useful skills, I offered to give it a try as it just seemed wrong that we should be depending on a non

member for our newsletter. In those days (and, as far as I know, since the beginning of the guild) newsletters had been mailed out to the members each month, so everyone got a hard copy in the mail. The guild officers began to realize, as printing and postal rates got higher, that the cost of mailing out all those newsletters was getting close to the income from dues, and it was decided in 2005 to start offering an on-line newsletter with printed versions for members who did not have access to email or computers or who still preferred the printed version. It turns out this was an excellent decision for the guild finances and allowed color E-newsletters (although the printed versions were still B&W due to cost considerations.)

In those first years of email newsletters, as I recall, about 30 of the members chose to continue to get their newsletters by post. Now, as trends go, we only have 5 or so members who still get the printed version of the email each month.

How does it work? Your editor edits the newsletter (these days on Google documents) and creates a PDF version which is uploaded to the website and then shared with the membership on the website and through the emails through Mailchimp that notify you of guild business. Then, one of our unsung guild heroes, **Pam Wade**, takes the PDF version to the printer to get the printed versions made. She then updates the addresses of who is getting the printed newsletters and addresses, and stamps and mails them out in a very timely fashion. She invoices the treasurer and receives a check to reimburse her for the expense she has taken on for the guild. She has been doing this for many years, and your editor, for one, is very grateful, as I used to have to do all of that myself in addition to editing the newsletter. **A very big THANK YOU to Pam** for her silent but not unappreciated service to the guild for so many years. And **another big thank you to my wife, Valerie**, who proofreads the newsletters before they are published.

Also, FYI I have not been the only newsletter editor in the last two decades; **Talib Huff** took a stint for a number of years, and there was a time when he and I traded off a bit as well, and **Greg Hayes** also was newsletter editor for a short run.

A leftover from the printed newsletter years is that I aimed to have a newsletter of 8-10 (and occasionally 12) pages, based on what size of printed newsletter we could mail out for one first class stamp. Even though that aspect of the newsletter doesn't matter particularly any more, I still have this defunct desire to have an even number of pages (so as not to waste postage mailing an empty side!) For that reason, in this issue, you got this little history of the newsletter's more recent decades (so I could fill this last page) as well as the not superfluous, heartfelt thank you to Pam Wade and Valerie Nelson for their assistance with the newsletter. And a big thank you also to all of you who provide the articles, pictures, notices and reviews that fill these pages. Great work, all of you.

And for those of you still reading, Happy New Year, and don't forget to send your articles, updates, tips and what-have-you of a puppet nature to newsletter@sfbapg.org.