



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



Puppet Fair at Children's Fairyland

Guild Board and Officers

President

Lee Armstrong

president@sfbapg.org

CO-Vice Presidents

Ilene Kennedy

ikennedy@sfbapg.org

Glynn "Tree" Bartlett

gbartlett@sfbapg.org

Secretary

Valerie Nelson

secretary@sfbapg.org

Treasurer

Valerie Nelson

treasurer@sfbapg.org

Membership

CE Choy and John Arnold

membership@sfbapg.org

Programming

Marisol Himmel

programming@sfbapg.org

Hospitality

Euel (Sammuel McGinnis

Judy Roberto

jroberto@sfbapg.org

Library

Lee Armstrong

library@sfbapg.org

Newsletter

Michael Nelson

newsletter@sfbapg.org

Add your own colors, above (thanks, Moddy)
Did you know that next year SFBAPG will
celebrate 70 years? Get ready to PARTY!

SEPT 15th Open Studio Puppet “SHOW & TELL” on Zoom

The original Show & Tell a couple of months ago was popular and other puppeteers wanted to join in. This Sept Show & Tell from 7-8 pm PST is a new opportunity to share your work. What have you been doing... building a puppet, working on a puppet design, writing a puppet script, building a puppet set or props?

Share your project in whatever stage it's in. Explain your project, share tips and tricks you used, answer questions, get advice if you want it. etc. Time will be shared and is usually 3 minutes. After all presentations, we will open it up for questions, comments, and additional feedback. We'd love to see what you've got cookin'!

The 1st signup slot has gone to Glitter Wizard who will be showing their new puppet music video “Glitterati”. Come with questions. Where did their puppets come from. How long was their production process. What did they learn from designing a puppet set? That and more will be revealed. Guild puppeteers on this project were Art Grueneberger, Marisol Himmel & Lee Armstrong and the video was shot at the Images in Motion Studio in Sonoma.



Don't miss this action-packed Puppet Open Studio. Sign up as a presenter or audience at <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showRSVPSignUp/8050E4BAEAB2AA7FC1-open>

Greetings Puppet Friends

Kudos to **Marisol Himmel and her Programming Committee** for the great activities provided by the Guild for Fairyland's Puppet Fair. And to **Membership Chairs John Arnold and Beth Choy** for manning the Guild Info table. I wish I could have been there but had a family reunion in Nova Scotia that same weekend. I hate missing Puppet Fair, as it's a great way to connect with other puppeteers.



Join us for “Show and Tell” on Friday, Sept 15th at 7 pm. (Zoom link to be shared via email) Breaking news, **Greg Downing of the glam rock band Glitter Wizard** will be showing their “over-the-top glam-metal puppet extravaganza” (Revolver magazine-photo to right). Three Guild members puppeteered on this project. Check it out at “Show and Tell.”

And in Nov., learn pro puppet building skills at the Puppetathon workshop with master puppeteer Mary Nagler. Her credits include work with The Puppet Kitchen, Rick Lyons Studio, The Puppet Heap, Furry Puppet Studio, and many more!

I'd like to invite you to come to our **Programming and Board meetings**, both this month. Programming is Tues., 09/05 at 6:30. Please contact Marisol at programming@sfbapg.org for zoom link. Curious how programs are selected? Or tell us what you'd like to see for programs and help us make that happen.

The Board Meeting is Tues., 09/12 at 6:30. It's a great way to see the inner workings of the Guild and hear early about some exciting plans for the future. All are welcome. Please contact me at president@sfbapg.org for zoom link.

The strength of the Guild is in its membership. Please help us spread the word about the Guild. Do you know someone who has puppets, makes puppets, is interested in puppets in education, or...? Let them know about the guild and/or invite them to a Guild event soon. Our membership year is from Jan 1st to Dec 31st, but if a person joins after Aug 31st, they get 2024 membership and the last quarter of this year FREE! See newsletter notice.

Wishing you a joyful month of creativity.

Lee Armstrong, President SFBAPG

Early Bird New Member Discount

Do you know someone who wants to join the guild, but hasn't gotten around to it? While our membership year is from Jan 1st to Dec 31st new members can enjoy this Sept thru Dec for free if they join now as an Early Bird for 2024 at <https://sfbapg.org/membership/join/>. Also, Guild memberships make great gifts!



The Annual Day of Puppets

By Moddy Himmel

Aug 1, 2023

Page 4 of 14

The morning mist of the bay was just beginning to clear as I wheeled my cart full of craft supplies in through the pink doors of the gift shop at Fairyland on Saturday, August 26th.

Glynn (Tree) Bartlett, Michael Kennedy and Uel McGinnis were already setting up tables and prepping the area. We soon got to work putting up colorful flag bunting, taping down table covers and arranging the materials for visitors to create a colorful foam caterpillar puppet. Only a couple of minutes after the park officially opened at 10am we got our first visitor to the booth. They tried out our tester puppets: a Czech-style marionette Doweling created by David Stevens of All Hands Productions and a hand puppet Brook Sprite created by Mandi Bevando of Dabbling Brook.

Then the crafting began! Crayons, color pencils, and markers were used for coloring a picture of Willie the Jester holding up his Magic Key, and chalk pastels were used to color on foam caterpillar puppets. This project was a special request from Randal Metz in 2022 and was such a hit that we decided to do it again this year. The 50 puppets we had ready last year were gone by lunch! So this year we prepped 75 and spaced out our caterpillar craft times by shutting down while there was a puppet show happening... and they were all still all gone by lunch!

There were walk-around puppets courtesy of Uel McGinnis, Hugo Shum, and Judy Roberto; and a fabulous display of puppets curated by Randal Metz and featuring the SFBAPG's own Hugo Shum's Puppet creations. Way to go Hugo! (And shout out to Hugo's Mom, Wing, for hanging out with us and puppeteering a walk around puppet too!)



To top it off, we got to enjoy cream puffs courtesy of Beth Choy who, along with John Arnold, managed the information table and the Guild Library which Barbra



Schora was kind enough to bring. I believe they even signed up a new Guild member!

My neighbor across the street drove out to see us all the way from Sacramento with a friend and they both had nothing but good things to say about their experience. Thank you so much to all the volunteers! There was such a great turn out and it was because of you that the day ran smoothly, even when we did run out of caterpillars. Guess we'll have to double it for next year!

News from our most distant member-Herbert Lange in Germany

My partner Martin and I have just finished working on a remake of THE FISHERMAN AND HIS WIFE. Martin as the director, stage and set builder, sound and light engineer, Herbert as the puppetman doing all characters and voices ranging from hand and finger puppets to object and huge rod puppet.

Our show based on the classic fairytale by the Brothers Grimm opened at the Homestead Valley Community Center, CA, on October 31, 2008. It was followed by a series of shows in CA and in Germany until early 2012. We even had a nice performance at one of the SFBAPG meetings back then - and got rave reviews, of course 😊!

Earlier this past month of August, we were finally doing it again, and it was both a lot of fun and hard work. Everything's become bigger, bolder and better! The original pvc pipe stage graciously donated by fellow puppeteers Ellen Schulze and Kim Lunning from Long Beach got replaced by a solid 3-level wooden construction. A mysterious piece of tree trunk that once floated across the Pacific Ocean and that we took home from a Californian beach still makes a fine fishing dock for the fisherman.

We were carefully exploring all 3D options in space when manipulating the hand puppets from below at different levels. One interesting new aspect we added is that the fisherman nearly drowns in the wild sea during the final chapter of the story, before he gets rescued by the magical fish.

The show had its dress rehearsal, premiere and second run on three consecutive days from August 4 through 6. We were opening in a real old farmhouse that is part of the

Hoesseringen Museum Village in Northern Germany (Lueneburger Heide). Another true dream location. So heartfelt wishes can come true!

Wishing all of you a splendid summer, fall and holiday season wherever you may be, Herbert Lange, and Martin (Photos of the show, below)



The National Festival Part 2

By Camilla Henneman (you can see Part 1 in the August newsletter)



As always, there is never enough time to do and see everything at a festival. This was particularly true with the National Festival in Baltimore.

Something that really stood out to me about this festival was the diversity of the presenters as well as the participants.

One of the most touching and beloved shows at the festival was **“Aanica’s Elephants.”** The show was written by Annie Evans and produced and directed by Pam Arciero. The story is about a young African girl who bonds with an orphaned baby elephant named Little at the elephant sanctuary where her father works.

After her father dies, She is forced to flee from an abusive uncle. The baby elephant, Little, follows her. The little girl, and the baby elephant are adopted by an elephant family.



The beautiful life-size stylized elephant puppets, were designed by Martin Robinson. They were performed Bunraku style by hooded and black clothed puppeteers.



Charm City Cabaret was a showcase of Baltimore puppetry artists and musicians. **Katherine Fahey’s** beautiful crankie show gave a view of a city she remembers growing up in Baltimore where fruit sellers, called “arabbers” drove horse drawn carts filled with fruits and other wares for sale.

String Theory Theater from Dirk Joseph and daughters

Koi and Azaria was a fun and touching rod marionette about family and the possibilities that open up for them when they put down the electronic devices and start collaborating on storytelling. The sets are illustrated on the pages of a book. The show was funny and also inspiring.

D r Schroeder Cherry did a wonderful show about a boy who tells the history of his grandfather and his participation in civil rights demonstrations that led to children his own age being detained in jail during the “children’s crusade”.



Free Giant Uncle Sam Puppet!

Although like his namesake, he's seen better days. But there's still a lot he can do. With a little love and care, he could be restored to his former glory. Or a little creative paint and he could become a giant zombie for Halloween. Or strip him down to bare bones and make him into whatever you'd like!

We gave up our storage space and so no longer have room for him. His underlying structure is intact, some of the body has holes and tears, and he's missing his hat. But he can be yours for the low, low price of FREE!

Pick up in the Sacramento area. Contact Talib Huff at tahuff@dcn.org for details.



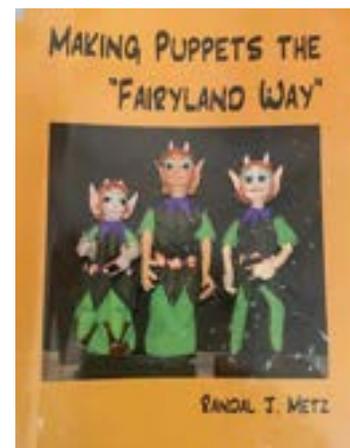
Did You Know?

Did you know that the guild has a library and you can check out books, videos, etc.?

The Guild Library List is Online & Stan Winston Subscription Series is Available!

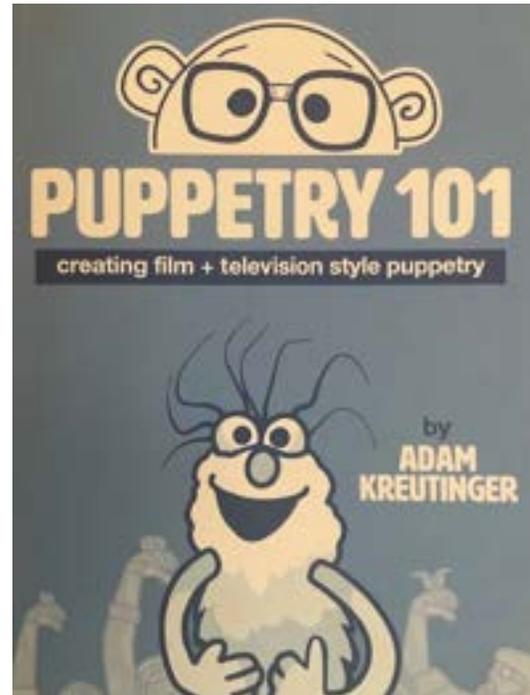
by Lee Armstrong, Guild Librarian

The Guild Library is a treasure trove of hundreds of books on puppetry. History of puppets, construction, stages, puppets in education, etc. It's now easy to see what books are available by going to <https://sfbapg.org/library-online/>. Or if at www.sfbapg.org select Resources, then Library. Popular new books include Puppetry 101 creating Film + TV style puppetry by Adam Kreutinger and a very helpful book with plenty of hand and rod puppet patterns is "Making Puppets the Fairyland Way" by Randal Metz.



Library borrowers need to have been members for at least 6 months. You can peruse the catalogue then request books by emailing sfbapglibrary@gmail.com. They will be brought to the next “in person” event. If you have a library book to return, please return it at the next “in person” meeting or mail it back ASAP to Lee at 720 Ladera Dr., Sonoma, CA 95476.

The Stan Winston School of Character Arts is again available through the Guild Library. 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.” However, you can also visit videos on creature fabrication, stop motion armatures, wiggling, making eyeballs and all sorts of interesting crafts!



Each Guild member can usually request a 2 week check out unless there's a wait list. If so, checkouts are 1 week, but you can always check out multiple times in a year. Contact the Guild librarian, Lee Armstrong at library@sfbapg.org, and she will provide you with the password. 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 immediately 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.

100's of courses available. Check out Pathways, <https://www.stanwinstonschool.com/pathways>, with groups of courses: Basic Design, Basic Painting, Puppetry, Molding and Casting, Mechanical and Animatronics, Filmmaking, Fabrication Basics, etc. These courses open new doors and possibilities!

SEE GLAM-METAL PUPPETS ROCK IN GLITTER WIZARD'S FUN NEW "GLITTERATI" VIDEO

Song inspired by Alice Cooper, video inspired by the Muppets

By Revolver (revolvermag.com)

Glitter Wizard — as their name suggests — are a glam band. The members boast stage names like Wendy Stonehenge and Lorfin Terrafor, and call San Francisco their home. They released the six-song EP *Kiss the Boot* in March, and today (August 19th), they've teamed with *Revolver* to unveil its epicly fun music video.

It's an over-the-top glam-metal puppet extravaganza produced with help from puppeteer Lee Armstrong and lighting designer Bill Ferguson, both of whom worked on Jim Henson's *Fraggle Rock*. Plus, Spike Slawson of *Me First and the Gimme Gimmes* voices the host of *Pop Toppings*, the fictional TV program in the clip.



"'Glitterati' is one of my babies and the first song I wrote when formulating Glitter Wizard's 'Seventies glam' approach for *Kiss the Boot*," bassist Kandi Moon tells us. "It's a sneaky little pop song based on the songwriting approach we learned from playing an Alice Cooper cover set for our annual Halloween cover showcase — aptly named the Hallorager.

"The Alice Cooper Band were geniuses at being able to write songs that sound approachable and repetitive to the listener, drawing you in with the hooks and not wasting time with too much added fluff. Take 'Under My Wheels,' for example — it sounds like a straightforward song, but when you start to learn the parts you quickly

realize almost nothing repeats itself exactly the same way. It's not the usual verse/chorus/verse/chorus/bridge/chorus arrangement by any stretch of the imagination. It's both linear and repetitive at the same time, and to me that's why it is always interesting to listen to.

"I tried to emulate that approach with the structure of 'Glitterati,' whether or not I achieved that is up to you."

Video director and editor Gregory Downing adds: "The idea for the video came when my girlfriend, Dani, and I went to the Jim Henson exhibit at The Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco. I was totally blown away by the amount of creativity that man had, a true powerhouse. He was DIY to his core, when he had an idea, he instantly set out to bring it to life. I was so inspired by the exhibit, I told my girlfriend I wished I could make a puppet music video paying homage to *The Muppet Show*, Dr. Teeth & the Electric Mayhem and the iconic 1970s pop music showcases like *Top of the Pops*, *Old Grey Whistle Test*, *The Midnight Special*, etc. Dani asked, "Well, why don't you then?" I had no decent excuse other than I had no idea what I was doing, and that can be easily fixed.

"Glitter Wizard contacted me about making a music video for 'Glitterati' via my production company Bad Acid Presents and it seemed like a perfect fit. I knew nothing about puppets, but Wendy Stonehenge, singer of Glitter Wizard, told me there was an SF Bay Area Puppets Guild. I got in contact with Michael Nelson of Vallejo, and started gathering info about the various studios that exist in the bay area. The studio that seemed like the most feasible option and worked with Muppet-style puppets was Images in Motion in Sonoma, California.

"It was by chance that the owner, Lee Armstrong, and the lighting designer, Bill Ferguson, of Images in Motion worked on Jim Henson's *Fraggle Rock* in the 1980s, Lee as a puppeteer and Bill in the lighting and grip department. Sometimes things just line up that way and I knew we had to make the video with them.

"With Lee's help, I sourced and recruited a team of puppeteers from the bay area and enlisted Andy Falkner as our Art Director. With some guidance from Lee, Andy single-handedly designed and created all of the puppets and set for the shoot. It was great to work with people who had such a deep lineage in the puppet world and could help guide me on my first venture into puppets.

"Spike Slawson of Me First and the Gimme Gimmes is a longtime friend. During the pandemic his wife, Audra Angeli-Morse (Dino & Luigi Presents), produced two streaming-only variety show specials called *Gimme Gimme TV* that I directed and edited. Spike is a great showman and is always down to have fun in front of the camera. He has several cameos in various Glitter Wizard social media videos, most recently he has played a doctor and a reporter. When I was tossing around ideas for the host of *Pop Toppings*, the fictional pop music tv show in the 'Glitterati' video, he was my first choice. Andy's puppet version of Spike looks so much like Spike it almost gave Spike and Audra a heart attack. I constantly aim for heart-attack adjacent."

See behind-the-scenes photos from the video shoot throughout this newsletter and chat with them during the guild show and tell on September 15 (see article, page 2.)

It's Happening: Puppetathlon for the Guild's 70th!



The fantastic Puppetathlon is coming to SFBAPG and WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Step one: We need to make the athlete puppets.

To that end the guild has engaged puppeteer and puppetbuilder Mary Nagler to guide guild members in making these puppets in a 2 day workshop. The workshop is scheduled for the weekend of November 4-5. Two days of fun building with your fellow puppeteers and you can create one of these top athlete table-top puppets. More details to follow, but mark your calendars.

There will be further steps, such as designing and creating the obstacles to challenge these hopefully talented puppets. More news to follow, but BE AWARE!



**Fred C Riley III**

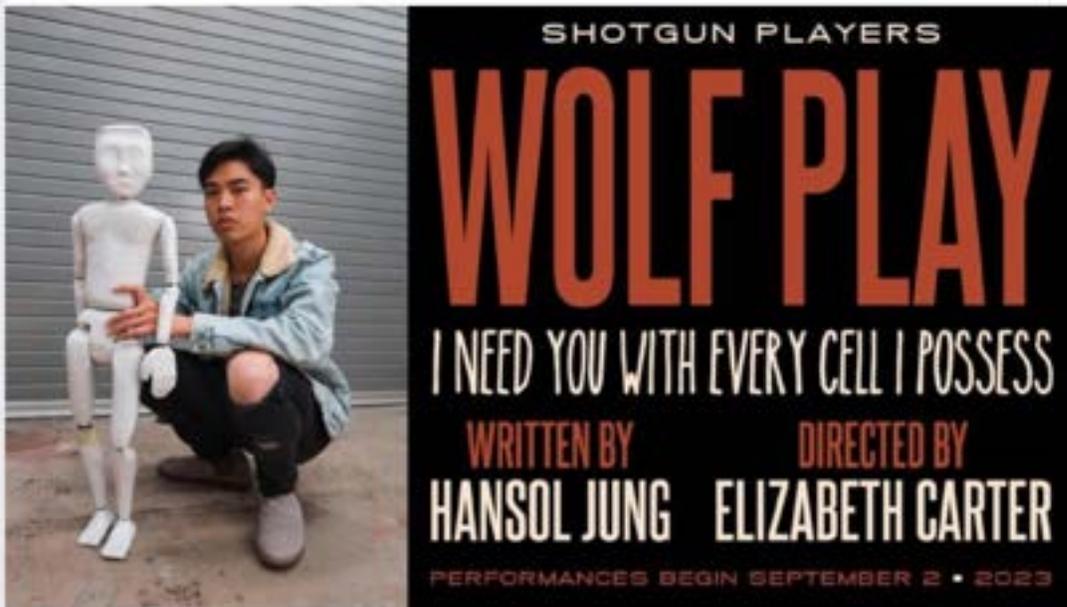
27m · 🌐

If you are in the Bay Area, come out and see this show. It'll break your heart. The cast is fantastic and the direction is inspired. I loved seeing the show find its legs, and now it's running full steam ahead with all technical elements in place. The sound, lights and set came together beautifully. Such a talented crew. (This photo is before the last layers were put on the puppet. Great photo...)

**San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild Group**

Kristi Deprin · 1d · 🌐

Come see **Fred C Riley III's** Wolf Play puppet in action at Shotgun Player's Ashby Stage in *WOLF PLAY*. Use code PUPPET5 for \$5 off tickets <https://shotgunplayers.org/Online/default.asp>



Come see [Fred C Riley III's](#) Wolf Play puppet in action at Shotgun Player's Ashby Stage in **WOLF PLAY*. Use code *PUPPET5 for \$5 off tickets

<https://shotgunplayers.org/Online/default.asp>

PARTING SHOT: I was clearing out some old files and found this budget page from the early '80s. I thought I would share it in case any of you wondered what it was like to start a puppet company (Magical Moonshine Theatre) in 1979. A little bit of MMT financial history. I recall calculating that Valerie and I could live off of \$6000 a year back then.

Past Budget Analysis - MMT				
	1981	1982	1983	1984
Materials	2294.79	1263.37	1844.45	1654.39
(overhead)				
Prof. services			40.00	357.69
Advertising	711.72	484.46	639.32	465.3
Bank Charges	32.00	28.00	18.00	
Auto	954.75	1626.00	2006.14	1925.00
Dues & Publisher	178.00	98.00	111.13	50.00
Postage	12.81	85.40	53.28	100.10
Freight	23.02		6.89	
Laundry	12.50	25.00	50.00	50.00
Office supplies	152.48	179.79	189.56	175.75
Rent	740.00	1200.00	356.35	1383.26
Repairs	31.84			
Taxes (sales)	24.00	24.00	2.34	13.62
Travel/ent.	68.13	32.56	341.77	1659.45
Utilities/phone	96.45	101.12	236.60	430.76
Conventions	250.00		510.00	300.00
Contracts/labels	315.00	120.00		
Misc.	143.19		221.48	117.50
Commissions	19.00			
Income	3365.31	5331.00	3892.46	5466.63
Shows	selfish Giant gift Magi Bret Rabbit fish/wife?	forestry puppets No New show	Mummy Boney Kasper	Kasper

Send future newsletter articles to newsletter@sfbapg.org