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## From the President

Dear Guild Members,

I keep finding myself wanting to start these articles with, "There's a lot going on in our Guild this month!" It seems that we are an active group of puppet enthusiasts! Instead of listing all the things you should find in this newsletter, I'll let you explore on your own. This month I will propose a question: Ask not what you can do for your Guild, rather ask what the Guild can do for you.

We all, for the most part, lead very full lives. When it comes to puppetry, for some of us that means producing and performing puppet shows throughout the year. For some of us, puppetry is a hobby we pick up now and then. For some of us, we just love puppets and being around puppeteers.

Whatever your level of interest and involvement with puppets, we'd like to hear from you. What is the Guild doing well? Where could we improve? What do you wish you could find here? What do you hope we never change?

Your Board and cadre of super volunteers stand at the ready to continue to make this Guild a dynamic resource for everyone involved in the art of puppetry. Take a moment and let us know how we're doing!

Talib Huff

President, SFBAP

[president@sfbapg.org](mailto:president@sfbapg.org)

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## October Meeting at Fairyland

**Sunday, October 27th, from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM.**

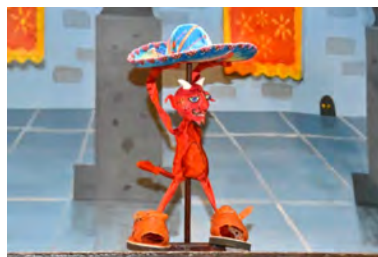
**Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland.**

Free for Guild members; non-members must purchase tickets (\$19 for adults).

Members need to sign up for tickets by October 24th at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A44ACAE2AA7F49-51892280-free>. Click on Sign Up, then Save &

Continue to enter your name and email. Additional tickets for non-members can be purchased on-line or at the gate. Attendees must arrive between 12:40-12:55 PM to check in and receive nametags for the group entry at 1 PM. It's very important to be on time.



#### Performances:

- 1:30 PM "Rumplestiltskin" (Dia de los Muertos version) by The Puppet Company
- 4:00 PM "Tricks & Treats – A Halloween Spooktacular" by Nick Barone & performed by the Storybook puppeteers

#### Additional Activities:

- 2:20 PM Puppet Parade & Meet & Greet
- 2:30 PM. in-person Show 'N Tell featuring puppet projects
- Guild Social time with treats and library access after the Show 'N Tell.

#### Arrival & Parking Instructions

- Parking on Bellevue Avenue is \$10 per car; consider carpooling or public transit. Due to special events parking may be challenging.
- Remember, we all enter together at 1 PM!

#### More Details

Admission: Fairyland has graciously offered to host our Oct Guild meeting. We value their long-term relationship with our Guild and the many years they have hosted Day of Puppetry at Fairyland. Admission to Fairyland (normally \$19 for an adult ticket) will be free to Guild members, but we hope that you will consider volunteering during their Halloween Jam. There are volunteer opportunities Oct. 19-20 and 25-27. For more info, please read "Volunteers Needed at Fairyland."

#### Important Information

- We will all be entering Fairyland as a group at 1 pm. Do not be late! Arrive at the front entrance between 12:40-12:55 to get your nametag.
- Signup for a free (members only) fairyland ticket at (signup link) on or before Thurs. Oct 24. If your membership is not current, please renew your membership before Oct 20 so you are on the Guild Roster. If you are not a Guild member, but would like to be, signup now and get the last months of 2024 free with your 2025 membership.
- Members who want to bring a friend, spouse, or child will need to buy tickets for them. Tickets are available online at: <https://brushfire.com/childrensfairyland/fairyland/583935> if they'd like to have their ticket in advance. Otherwise, tickets can be purchased at the gate. Please come early to do this, so you'll be ready to enter at 1 pm.
- Getting there & Parking: Carpooling or public transit are wonderful options. Bart & AC Transit bus can take you to Fairyland. Additional info on directions, parking, etc. is at <https://www.fairyland.org/visit-us/directions/> Fairyland is having a special event that day and parking may be extra challenging. The city of Oakland charges \$10 per car to park on Bellevue Ave.

- Allow enough time to park, etc. Please don't be late, as it requires 2 people to get you in. If you are late because of an emergency, you can call or text Lee at 707-738-5906, and ask any of the front gate staff to call Maria on the radio. We'll come out to get you. But please note, no one will reply while a puppet show is in progress

IMPORTANT: This is an outdoor event. Please wear layers and check the weather. In case of rain, this meeting will be canceled.

### HALLOWEEN GUILD PROGRAM

While waiting for the show, or at any break, you are welcome to stroll around Fairyland. If you or your puppet want to wear a non-scary costume, you are welcome to do so.

1:30 Show at the Emerald Stage

“Rumplestiltskin” the Dia de los Muertos version by The Puppet Company

This is the story of a little spirit that does not wish to be remembered. The classic Grimms Brothers tale comes to life with a Mexican twist. Isabella's father has told the King that his daughter can spin straw into gold.! And if she doesn't, her father will suffer. Along comes a little sugar skeleton that does the job for her...if she gives him her little baby girl. But, to be fair, he gives her three days to guess his name. Will she succeed in time for the Day of the Dead celebration? Filled with colorful scenery and authentic Mexican music.

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. Randal has been the Director of the Storybook Puppet Theater since 1991.

Walk over to Aesop's Playhouse (This pavilion is open air with canopy)

2 PM Welcome by Talib Huff Guild President. Brief Board meeting to keep you current on Puppet Happenings in the Bay Area

2:20 Halloween Parade! If you have a Halloween Puppet or puppet decked out for Halloween, bring it on up to the stage.

2:30 In Person Show & Tell. We have had many successful Zoom Show 'n Tells, where people have presented a wide range of puppet creations. However, people have asked for an “in person” opportunity, so here it is! Our Master of Ceremonies will be Talib Huff. He'll do the introductions and keep the ball rolling. You can have up to 5 minutes to show off anything puppet related. There will be one 6” table available, if you want to use it during your presentation (setup and removal might be part of your 5 minutes if we have a lot of signups.) In up to 5 minutes, you can also ask members for advice. Come be a part of this experience and share your work!

- Show off a puppet that you've made, or one that's a work-in-progress
- Got a puppet design and wondering best approaches, or a query about best materials and where to find them?
- Want to share a bit of dialogue from a show you're working on and get input.
- Have you discovered a great tool, or fabric, or method that you can demo?

Here are our first two “Show 'n Tell” participants.

- Lisa Zagone, <https://lisazagone.com> who did 2 successful workshops at the Northern CA Puppet Festival in Aug. will be teaching at Guild meeting in the future. She'll show two possible workshops,

her popular Eyes & Eye Mechanisms and How to Build a Portable Shadow Stage. Which one intrigues you most? Come see and vote!

- Lee Armstrong of Images in Motion, [www.imagesmedia.com](http://www.imagesmedia.com) will demo some quick tips and tricks in mocking up a quick foam puppet, to help you, or a client visualize the final puppet.

Only 10 spots left. Sign up soon by emailing Talib at [president@sfbapg.org](mailto:president@sfbapg.org)!

The sky's the limit on what you may see, learn and/or share at Fairyland!

Any time after the Show 'n Tell will be used for a Guild Social. Meet other puppeteers, learn who is doing what and where. Bring your own (non-alcoholic) beverage. There is also a canteen at Fairyland, but lines may be long. Hospitality will provide some Halloween treats. Also, the Guild library will be available for checkout.

Guild Library will be at Fairyland

The Guild library has hundreds of books covering a variety of topics. Books & DVD's will be available for checkout for people that have been members for at least 6 months.

If you have a book checked out, please return it at Fairyland. If you can't make Fairyland, please mail it to...Guild Librarian, Lee Armstrong, 720 Ladera Dr., Sonoma, CA 95476.

3:45 We will walk over to the Storybook Puppet Theater

We ask that you allow children and parents to be seated first. If you have mobility issues, please email [larmsstrong@sfbapg.org](mailto:larmsstrong@sfbapg.org) by 10/24 and she'll have a seat reserved for you. However, the show is 20 minutes and if seats are full and you can stand for that amount of time, we hope that you will let others sit first.

This is a special show, as Nick Barone was a beloved Guild member, the Nick Barone Memorial Scholarship is in his honor, and some will remember seeing this show performed by Nick.

4 pm show Tricks & Treats – A Halloween Spooktacular

Master puppeteer Nick Barone brings his special brand of Halloween magic to the Storybook Puppet Theater. Nick, a popular Bay Area performer who passed away in 2014, has left this gift for the children of the Bay Area. The Storybook Puppet Theater is happy and proud to recreate this original tale for our theater's 68th anniversary. What do you do when a group of monsters meet and greet in Fairyland? Put on a variety show, of course! Filled with lovable and friendly monsters, this comical show is designed to delight. Puppets, story, and songs by Nick Barone, performed by the Storybook puppeteers. Additional scenery by Warren Moten III.



## Volunteers Needed at Fairyland

What could be more fun than playing with puppets and handing out candy?

Fairyland is hoping for willing hands to help hand out treats on Oct. 19-20 and 25-27. What a great way to get in the Halloween spirit. You are welcome to wear a non-scary costume if you'd like, and bring a non-scary puppet to assist you in this goodwill opportunity. No need to write a script, make a stage, or practice a performance. Just show up and make kids (and adults!) smile.

Here is the information from Fairyland:

Fairyland's most festive fall event that is more kooky than spooky and delightfully fun! With five days of outdoor fall festivities at Fairyland, we need your help at the treat and game stations.

Child-friendly costumes are highly encouraged. Please, no masks or scary costumes!

October 19, 20, and 25 (9:30 - 12:30 p.m.) or (12:00 - 4:00 p.m.) October 26 and 27 (9:30 - 1:30 p.m.) or (1:00 - 5:00 p.m.)

If you'd like to sign up please email Vicky at [vicky.chen@fairyland.org](mailto:vicky.chen@fairyland.org)

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## "Twinkle" Shines Brightly at 2024 Telly Awards

Stinky Tales, in partnership with Images in Motion Media Inc. (IIM) is thrilled to announce their remarkable success at the 2024 Telly Awards. Their latest project, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, a heartwarming video short, received three prestigious accolades, spotlighting the synergy between IIM's puppetry production excellence and Stinky Tales' dedication to creating stories and music that nurture social-emotional learning in children.

Twinkle was honored in three categories: Video Short (Producers: Lee Armstrong & Kieron Robbins at IIM and Anne and Doug Zesiger at Stinky Tales), Music Direction (Anne Zesiger, Stinky Tales) and Lighting Design (Bill Ferguson, IIM). A big thank you to Guild members Hugo and Wing Shum and Uel McGinnis, who assisted in this video shoot. The Telly awards celebrate the highest achievements in video and television production, with over 13,000 entries annually from top-tier content creators.

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star reimagines the beloved lullaby, transforming it into a dreamy adventure featuring two enchanting puppet characters: Stinky the Cat and Dillard the Dragon. Combining captivating puppetry,

visual effects, and a beautiful melodic score, the short creates a soothing, bedtime journey for children. "Puppets have a unique ability to captivate and engage audiences of all ages," said Lee Armstrong, Co-owner and Producer at IIM. "Whether it's a major production or an intimate project like Twinkle, we bring the same level of craftsmanship, care, and a bit of magic to every shoot."

Anne Zesiger's original arrangement of the classic Twinkle lullaby, is a fresh and inviting rendition, appealing to all ages. Twinkle was recorded at The Fort Recording Studio in Point Richmond and performed by Anne and her two adult children Will and Katie Zesiger.

"The song's universal charm, paired with Anne's touching arrangement creates the ideal soundtrack to complement the whimsical visuals," Armstrong explained. "We aimed to create something that not only helps children wind down at bedtime but also showcases the unique talent and versatility of both companies."

The ethereal lighting, which brought the magical cloud-filled set to life, was designed by Bill Ferguson, whose puppet credits include Fraggle Rock and The Jim Henson Hour. "For over thirty years, Bill has lit all the productions at Images in Motion. People underestimate what good lighting can do to enhance the look and feel of a production," commented Kieron Robbins.

For more information on Stinky Tales whose mission is to grow caring and compassionate kids one story at a time, please visit [www.stinkytales.com](http://www.stinkytales.com).

For more information on Images in Motion, TV puppet fabrication and productions, please visit [www.imagesmedia.com](http://www.imagesmedia.com).



## **Under The Puppet Celebrates 100 episode with puppeteer Russ Walko!**

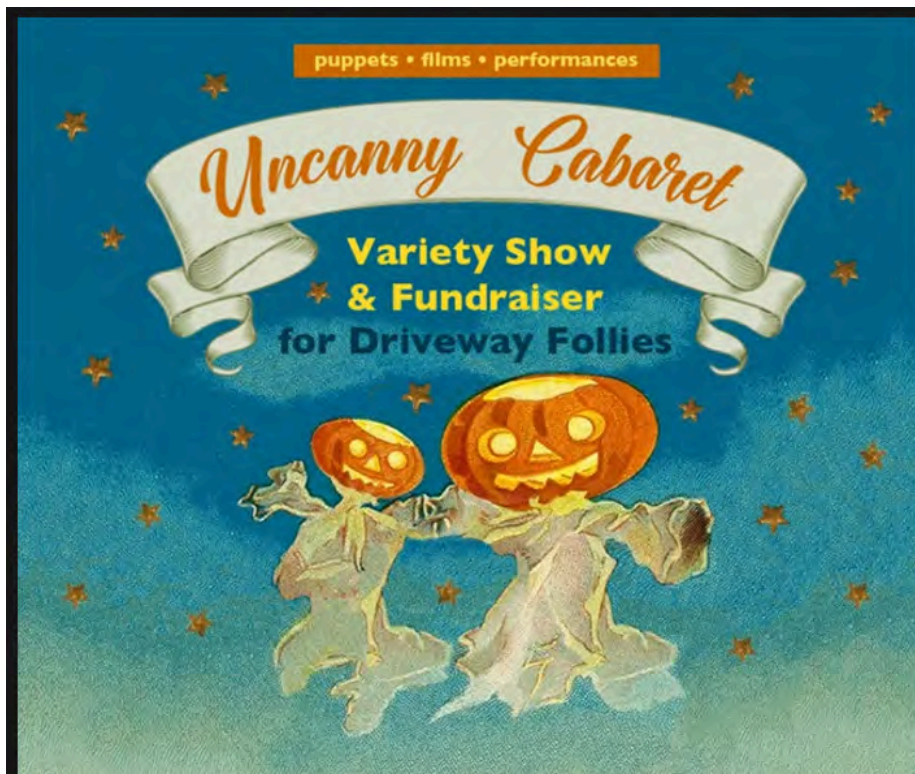
Russ Walko has worked with The Muppets, The Jim Henson Creature Shop, Mystery Science Theater 3000 and more. He's an incredible puppeteer and builder and it was so fun to sit down with him for the 100th episode of Under The Puppet. This special extended interview is available wherever you get your podcasts or at [underthepuppet.com](http://underthepuppet.com)

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**Guild Member Silvia Gonzalez Scherer writes:**

Hi there,

I keep missing the newsletter submissions, but maybe you will be interested in the film version of THE TRIAL OF BOOKUS, a musical puppet show that we just finished filming.



**It's Driveway Follies Time!**

# Uncanny Cabaret: Variety Show & Fundraiser

Sunday, October 6, 2024 5-7pm

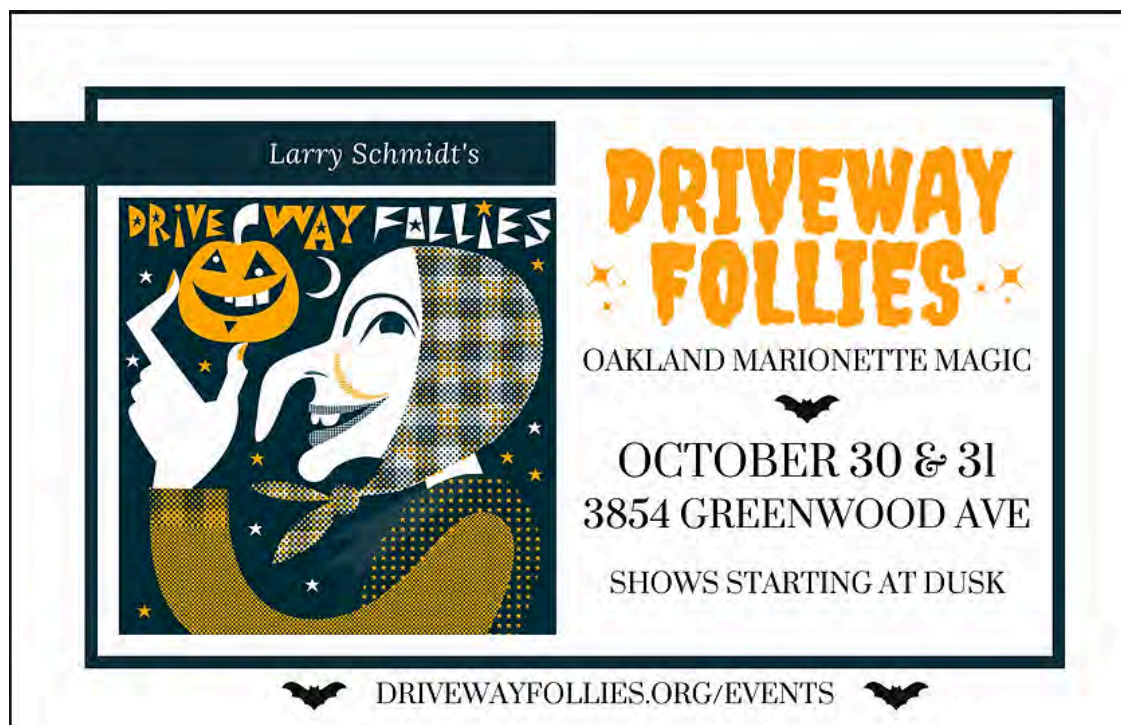
Come one, come all to revel in frights and delights at the Uncanny Cabaret — a special variety show and fundraiser for our friends at Driveway Follies, the long-running and beloved Oakland Halloween puppet show tradition.

This family-friendly event will include puppets of all shapes, sizes and dimensions + films, live music and more by Lisa Van Wambeck, Fred C. Riley III, Lydia Greer, Cindy Webster, David Wallace, Leonora Taylor-Wallace and Jacqui June Whitlock. Proceeds to benefit Driveway Follies. Tickets at [ShapeshiftersCinema.com](http://ShapeshiftersCinema.com)

Driveway Follies is looking for dedicated and enthusiastic artists to join our team as marionette puppeteers or as stage managers. We perform 3 nights of shows October 29-31 from about 6pm-10pm in Oakland, and require availability for an average of 7 rehearsal dates that take place evenings and weekends (also in Oakland). There will be opportunities for assisting with stage building, fundraising events, etc. (Priority will be given to cast and crew that intend to join the team long-term.) We are asking anyone with interest to please fill out this Google Form: [Join Driveway Follies](#) or to email us at [info@drivewayfollies.org](mailto:info@drivewayfollies.org) with any questions.

Cheers!

Adrienne Suzio



Our 2024 shows will take place on October 30th & 31st starting at sundown and running continuously through the evening. We encourage everyone to wear CDC-approved masks with their costumes, and encourage our adult fans without children to come to the later shows.





## Giant Dancing Dia De Los Muertos-style skeleton puppets at

### “Trick or Treating at Burke Junction”

Guildmember Elizabeth Leonard has been hard at work creating two giant dancing Dia De Los Muertos-style skeleton puppets for the “Trick or Treating at Burke Junction” event in Cameron Park. These eight-foot-tall backpack puppets will be dancing around this wonderful family-friendly Halloween event from 6-7pm on Friday, October 25.

Burke Junction is a historic landmark in the little foothills city of Cameron Park. The old-west style buildings in this shopping center add festive fun to every event. Whether you’re excited about giant puppet construction, crowd work or just a big fan of Halloween, come visit Burke Junction on October 25 and find what you’re looking for!



Forbidden Puppet Cabaret is back for the last puppet slam of the year at Bay Area Stage at 515 Broadway, Vallejo on November 2. In the spirit of Dia de Los Muertos, Eugene Rodriguez will present a puppet tale of his ancestors who came from Mexico to the U.S. The Nelsons and Lisa Zagone will premier Poe and Pinocchio, a haunting tale of puppets, coffins and love. FPCabaret favorite Brian Narelle will bring canine poet Warren Peace, who just might read selections from his new book. Dalrymple MacAlpin is bringing a magical musical selection, Nao Kobayashi returns to FPC with another butoh inspired puppet performance and David Garden has a story of a little skeleton's adventures. And there's more (come and find out!) Tickets and info at <https://www.bayareastage.org/> -Space is limited and these shows generally sell out in advance, so get your tickets now.

## Thank You

A few last thank yous to people who helped make the N. CA Puppet Festival such a success.



Gale Warshawsky, a long-time Guild member who now lives in Hawaii packed a very large box with many wonderful "muppet-styled" puppets from her collection, paid for shipping and sent them to the Guild. They were sold at the Festival store and all the proceeds went to our scholarship fund. Thank you Gale for your very thoughtful contribution.

And thank you to Corner 103, who donated cases of their amazing red, white and rose wines. These were enjoyed at our very popular Puppet Slam and helped raise funds to help the Festival and performers. Their beautiful tasting room is right on the square in Sonoma, at 103 W Napa Street.

**Send future newsletter items to [newsletter@sfbapg.org](mailto:newsletter@sfbapg.org) by the last day of the month.**

