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*Above and below:*

*Guild members Fred Riley and Lisa Zagone create the Ghost of Christmas Future for Christmas Carol.*

## **The Bay Area's longest running Christmas Carol!**

### **About A Christmas Carol**

By Charles Dickens

Adaptation by Cynthia Caywood & Richard L. James

Directed by Scott Denison

Choreographed by Jennifer Perry

December 12 - 22, 2024

Return to bustling Victorian London—and the gloomy office of miserly old Scrooge, who dismisses the cheerful sounds of the holiday season with a “humbug!” When he is visited by three spooky spirits, the curmudgeon is forced to face his past, present, and his potential future, unless he comes to believe the true meaning of family, and the magic of the holiday season. Brimming with carols, music, dance, spectacular special effects and a multigenerational cast of nearly two dozen, Center REP’s annual production has been hailed by critics and audiences alike as “THE Christmas Carol to see in the Bay Area!”



*And if that wasn't enough Dickens, Lisa Zagone also worked on the same character for the ACT Whynot Christmas Carol*

## **A Whynot Christmas Carol**

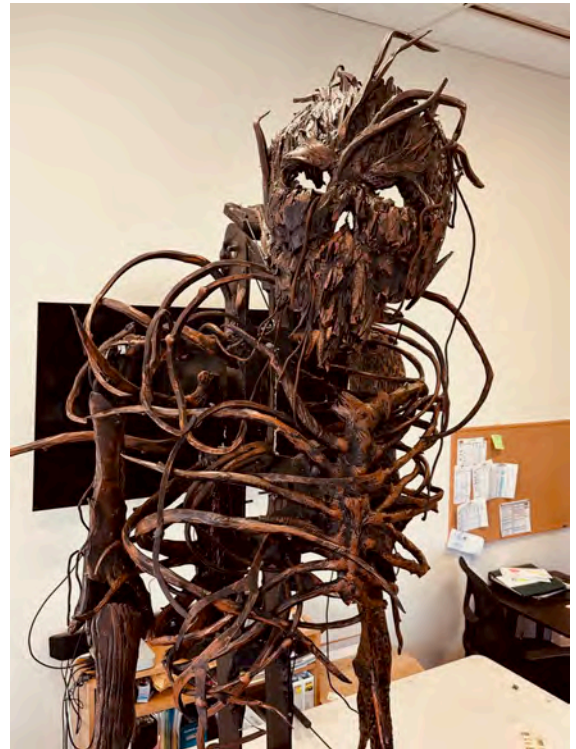
NOV 26–DEC 24, 2024

[GET TICKETS](#)[Subscribe](#)

From Obie-winning playwright Craig Lucas and Tony Award winner and A.C.T. Artistic Director Pam MacKinnon comes a joyous and puckishly funny adaptation of Charles Dickens’s beloved classic. A small theater troupe in the town of Whynot has gathered to put up their director’s new version of A Christmas Carol. From the first rehearsal to opening night, we follow these sometimes-reluctant comrades on their quest to put on a great show with too little time and money but no shortage of opinions.



*Lisa said that this puppet is the stuff of nightmares. Below are more images of puppets from the play.*



For this project Lisa Zagone and Fred Riley received puppet parts started by a puppet maker that had to pull out. They had to figure out what the parts were and how to complete the puppets.



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## **Save The Date - Holiday Party Jan. 12**

“Name Your Favorite Holiday” Party

Sunday, Jan. 12, afternoon (hours to be announced in Jan newsletter)

Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum, 734 Marin St., Vallejo

A Holiday party in January? Traditionally, the Guild waits until the new year to celebrate the holidays, as Dec. is sometimes the busiest time of the year for puppeteers. So come to the Name Your Favorite Holiday Party, where we'll celebrate all the holidays. There'll be a great show, refreshments, raffle, Guild library and other fun. There's even a rumor of a Puppetathlon. So, bring friends and family to this great holiday celebration! More details in the January newsletter.



Tommy's Space Adventure by Puppet Art Theater/Art Grueneberger Embark on an out-of-this-world journey with "Tommy's Space Adventure," a spellbinding puppet show that blends the magic of live performance with captivating digital sets and animations. Meet Tommy, a young explorer whose love for outer space and extraterrestrial tales knows no bounds. His wildest dream? To encounter a genuine space alien. Little does he know, his wish is on the brink of becoming reality.

Afterward, Art will give the Guild a "behind the scenes" tour, demo his cutting edge technology and answer questions.

Art Grueneberger of Sacramento has become a master at developing marvelous puppet shows that delight audiences of all ages. His company boasts eighteen family productions that tour across California and beyond, performing over 500 live shows annually. The pandemic inspired creative expansions, leading to online programs featuring digital sets and animations that engage family audiences worldwide.

**If you'd like to be a part of the holiday party planning, you are welcome to join the Programming Committee on Tues., Dec 3 at 6:30. Contact Programming Chair Samuel "Uel" McGinnis, [3rd.eyed.lion@gmail.com](mailto:3rd.eyed.lion@gmail.com) or Guild Secretary Lee Armstrong, [larms@sfbap.org](mailto:larms@sfbap.org) for the Zoom link. Every month we do a programming zoom call. Starting in 2025 we will be moving the meeting to the second Tuesday of every month. This is a great opportunity if you would like to suggest possible programming and events or just learn more.**

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**Director Mary Zimmerman once again inserts puppetry into Berkeley Rep's Matchbox Magic Flute**

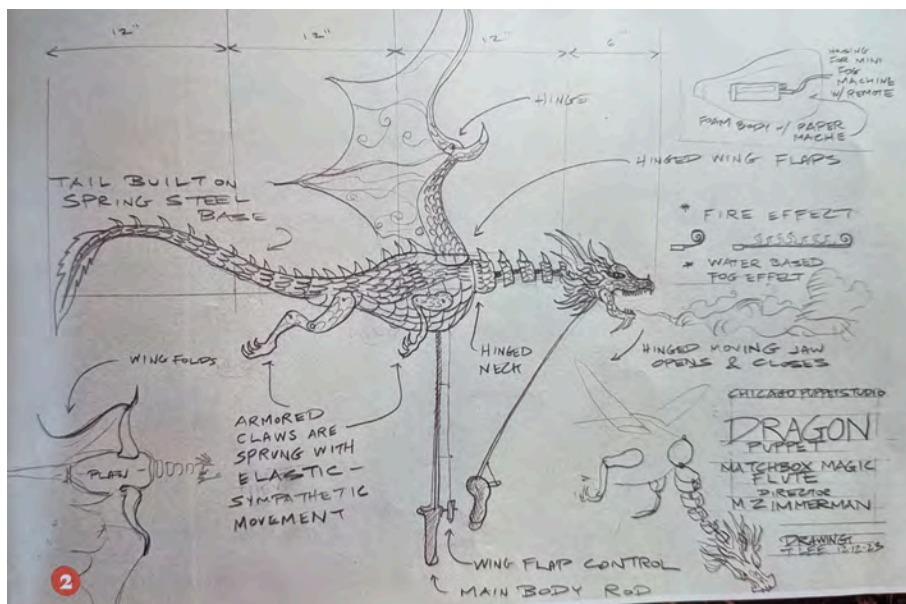
Michael Nelson

The set is a toy theatre writ wonderfully large with a proscenium that looks like it could have been printed and unfolded to set up, and flat set pieces that the actors move to create scenes. The colors of the sets and costumes are brilliant and vibrant And there is a puppet, a dragon. I am a fan of Ms. Zimmerman and she often uses puppetry and puppet-like effects in her plays. The puppet in this one, however, was a bit of a cameo and could have been more featured and effective (from my puppeteer point of view.) Nonetheless, hats off once again to Zimmerman for mixing puppetry and actors in her work.

*“Staged on a compact set that evokes the candle-lit charm of an 18th-century opera house and the whimsy of a puppet theater, this Flute inhabits a time-spanning music hall with a high-spirited vibe. It’s romantic and grave, faithful (in its fashion) to the original, and puckishly funny...fanciful and slyly self-aware...For Zimmerman fans, the director’s transforming touch will feel both familiar and fresh. With 28 years at Berkeley Rep, including unforgettable feats like Metamorphoses and Argonautika, Zimmerman brings a kinetic and boundless imagination...animating this Flute with humor, grace, and enchanting design.”*

**San Francisco Chronicle**

TICKETS



Above, drawing by Chicago Puppet Studio for the dragon puppet.

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## **Guild Event: Leonardo! A Wonderful Show About a Terrible Monster**

This show on Nov. 17 at the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa was well attended by Guild members and friends. The Guild purchased a block of tickets at a discount, and arrived in time for a well-prepared pre show activity, the creation of a shadow puppet. The lobby was filled with tables and hundreds of patrons making and playing with imaginative shadow monsters.



**Possibly Puppets Presents: Agents of Change: Lizards, Carrots, Noodles, Oh My!**

From guild member Risa Dye

You have another chance to see a puppet show that audiences in Berkeley LOVED! December 7th at 11am at the Marin Theater. Possibly Puppets Presents: Agents of Change: Lizards, Carrots, Noodles, Oh My! A rollicking multimedia puppet adventure that carries the audiences through four interconnected vignettes. One audience member (who came as an adult without children) said: "Wildly creative show from the mind of Risa Lenore. Beautifully crafted puppets, painted crankies, real live actors and brilliant puppeteers. You have to see it to believe it, you'll definitely enjoy it, watching the show unfold. Needed the laughter. Thank you."

*Photo credit: Erin Feller of Airybluestudio.com*



## **The Puppet Company and The San Francisco Chamber Orchestra perform the Nutcracker “Sweet”**

By: Hugo Shum

As the winter holiday season begins, plenty of puppeteers begin doing some more festive and holiday specific shows. Yesterday my mom and I went to a performance of the Nutcracker “Sweet” by The Puppet Company and The San Francisco Chamber Orchestra. The show was a great combination of all sorts of talent whether that be the musical ability of the Chamber Orchestra or the fantastic puppetry from Randal Metz, Rhonda Godwin, and William Lewis. My mom particularly enjoyed the candy animals and we both loved the various more festive themed trick marionettes. There was a snowman who’s limbs came apart, a balloon blowing bear, and a dragon that shot real fire out of its nostrils. As well as that the pairing of dynamic hand puppets made the show a really fun watch. Additionally we found the message of the The



San Francisco Chamber Orchestra really endearing as they want to “Help ensure that world class music belongs to Everyone!”



New episode of Under The Puppet is here!

It's an extended interview with Keith Shubert, the mastermind behind puppet slam legend Toybox, America's Favorite Cartoon Witch. We discuss the creation of Toybox, his thoughts on puppet slam acts that work the best, his passion for fostering the puppet community and much more. You can listen wherever you get your podcasts or at [underthepuppet.com](http://underthepuppet.com)

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## **Our member from Germany, Herbert Lange writes:**

Here are some shots from this year's HALLOWEEN puppetry performance at our door in Suderburg near Hanover in Northern Germany.



The audience watched Mr. Bluebird cook a spooky soup with 7 yucky ingredients such as a spider, a cricket, grandpa's dentures, and baby socks. He was unexpectedly assisted by Mr. Franz, a fun guy in a bath towel, bringing in his rubber duck to complete the cooking. Then with the help of a magical spell the soup was transformed into delicious sweets for the kids to take home. It was big fun for the crowd, for my husband and co-puppeteer Martin, for the puppets and for me and will definitely be continued next year!



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Send newsletter articles to [newsletter@sfbapg.org](mailto:newsletter@sfbapg.org) before the last day of each month.



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