



Happy April Fools' Day

The fool has been a common puppet subject for centuries. Our own guild logo features a jester/fool puppet image. An early April fools jest took place in 1698 when people were tricked into going to the Tower of London to see the lions washed.



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Next Guild Event (for real, not a joke)

Join us **Friday, April 4th, 6-7 pm PST** via Zoom - Show any project or share ideas for Puppet themed pranks! (Especially if you filmed it 🤪) Now is the time to show what you've been working on.

You are welcome to present or simply join the audience and offer feedback and stick around for a Q&A. Presenters may share their project (at any stage of completion) for three 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'!

Signup now [Sign Up Genius for Apr 4 Show & Tell](#) to receive the link to this virtual event.



Call for Nominations for Guild Board of Directors, April 5 deadline

Do you share our common goal of promoting the art of puppetry in the Bay Area? If so, you might be interested in serving on the SFBAPG Board. **Please contact the Nominating Committee at nominations@sfbapg.org by April 5th for more information.**

Eligibility: Candidates must have been members of the SFBAPG for at least one year prior to the elections.

Term limits: Each Board member shall serve for three years. Each Board member shall be allowed to serve no more than two consecutive three-year terms. Each Board member must want to be an active volunteer, taking on such positions as President, V.P., Secretary, Treasurer, Programming, Membership, Publicity, Social Media, Hospitality, etc.

Candidates need to provide a short bio and photo to the Nominating Committee, prior to April 20th , to be published in the May newsletter.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Your Nominating Committee

Barbara Grillo, Michael Nelson, Lee Armstrong

A Magical Puppetry Experience Unfolds: Meet Matthew Purdon

Something truly enchanting is taking shape in Mill Valley, and at the heart of it is one of the Guild's newest members, Matthew Purdon. His storefront, Woander (pronounced *Wohn-dr*)—a family play store—offers storytelling, fantasy games, puppet workshops, children's holiday camps, and more. But beyond the shop's doors, Matthew is crafting something even more ambitious: Wylding Wood, an immersive fantasy adventure set amidst the towering oaks and fern groves of Marin.



Photo: Matthew hugging his childhood hero

With a strong commitment to quality, Matthew has assembled a talented team of designers, builders, actors, and puppeteers to help bring his vision to life. Matthew was drawn to Hobey Ford's work, puppets full of life and movement, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2clNdbwPYw>, particularly a small gnome puppet that captured the essence of the world he wanted to create. Hobey was open to collaborating and created gnomes, fairies and animals native to California to inhabit this magical realm.

Adding to the vision, Eric Wright of Puppet Kitchen, <https://www.puppetkitchen.com/> was commissioned to build several large-scale puppets, including a 12-foot walkaround unicorn, a gentle forest tree puppet that wraps around an ancient oak, and a troll child, whose "hair" blooms with California poppies and ferns.

Matthew has been developing his aesthetics and approach to immersive performances for two decades. About five years ago, Matthew began developing the world of Wylding Woods, and over the past year, he has meticulously designed interactive encounters to spark joy, curiosity, and lasting memories. Unlike traditional theater where audiences remain separate from performers, Wylding Woods adventures blur the lines between spectators and the fantasy realm itself. Fairies may leap through the air to greet children, a troll might guard a bridge that must be crossed, and puppets and actors will seamlessly mingle with their audience, creating a truly immersive storytelling experience.

The goal is to bring puppetry deeper into the world of immersive entertainment. “I’m interested in the development of immersive entertainment as a new genre that synthesizes techniques from multiple artistic forms” notes Matthew. “I think puppetry should be one of these key forms because they invite a kind of imaginative play that helps audience members participate as players in the experience.”

Matthew would like to connect with local puppeteers, puppet builders and educators. And, as this magical adventure comes to life, he invites us to step into the Wylding Wood, where fantasy and reality intertwine in new ways.

For more information, visit [Woander’s website](#).

“Neverland” by DLUX Puppets

Sun., Apr. 6 at 3 pm, Bankhead Theater, 2400 1st Street, Livermore

[DLUX Puppets Neverland - Livermore Valley Arts - Pleasanton Dublin CA Concerts Tickets](#)

[Home](#)



Experience the magic of Neverland at the Bankhead Theater with DLUX Puppets' spectacular adaptation of Peter Pan!

Join *Wendy, Michael, John, and Tinkerbell* on an adventure to meet Peter Pan and face Captain Hook. Enjoy state-of-the-art digitally projected scenery, life-sized puppets, talented actors, and a nostalgic soundtrack featuring hits from the 50s to the 80s.

DLUX Puppets, a nationally acclaimed Las Vegas-based company, stars the real-life Lux family in this visually stunning and highly entertaining show. Guild members Derek and Lauren Lux created DLUX as a Bay Area company before they moved to L.V. They are joined in this production by their 2 sons, Dexter and Dylan. Derek said "Come to meet and greet and photo ops in the lobby afterwards." Let him know you are Guild members and Derek will be happy to answer any questions about their production. This show is perfect for all ages, a performance you won't want to miss!

Woander Presents: Puppet Workshop with Donovan Zimmerman

April 7 - 11th, 9am - 4pm (lunch break at noon)

[O'Hanlon Center for the Arts, 616 Throckmorton Ave, Mill Valley](#)



Join Woander as we host Donovan Zimmerman, Artistic Director of Paperhand Puppet for a master workshop in the art of puppetry. For 25 years, [Paperhand Puppet Project](#) has been

creating multi-scaled multi-disciplined puppet productions featuring: Giant puppets, masks, stilts, painted cardboard, shadows and illuminated puppets. The puppets are used in parades, marches, roving events and much more. Donovan has passionately dedicated his life to this engaging, interactive and inspiring artform.

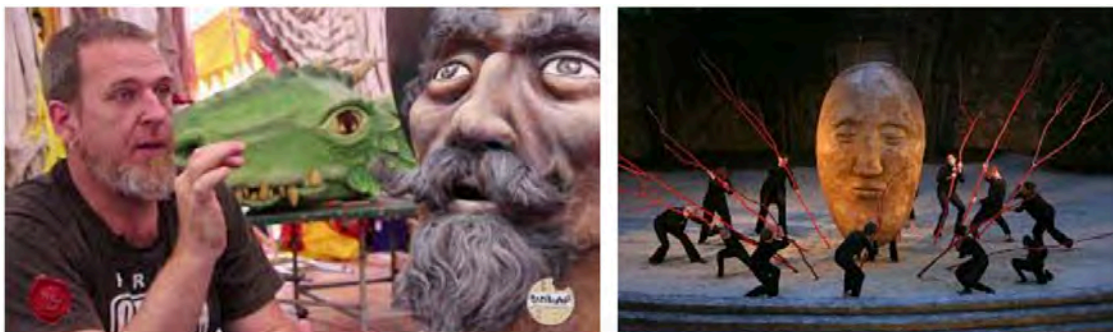
In this workshop, we will be learning these techniques as we create puppets related to the world of The Wylding Woods to be used in Woander's community events and future shows.

Adult participants will contribute to creating the large scale puppets as well as make a puppet or mask of their own. For child participants, we will spend time making puppets and masks as well as playing theatre games and learning about puppetry. On Friday, we will take our newly created puppets to the local farmer's market for a showing.

Full day workshop \$450, Half Day workshop \$250. Sign up at <https://woander.store/puppet-workshop>. Limited partial scholarships are available. Please email matthew@woanderworld.com with a bit about your interest and need.

Woander Presents: Donovan Zimmerman & the Puppetry and Art of Paperhand

Wed. April 9th, 7pm at O'Hanlon Center for the Arts in Mill Valley



Join us for an introduction to and talk with the co-founder and artistic director of this award-winning puppet troupe from NC. Donovan Zimmerman is a maximalist possibilitarian who will share his companies creations, speak about themes that move the company, and answer your questions in an intimate and informal setting. For 25 years, Paperhand has created giant puppets, masks, painted flats and banners, costumes, shadows, and illuminated puppets that come to life in giant productions all set to live music! Come meet and share some time getting inspired and sparking your sense of wonder. \$10 Donation

Grand Opening of Woander Store in Marin

April 19, Noon- 5 pm (Ribbon cutting at noon)

73 Throckmorton, Mill Valley



Join us for a day of fun, creativity, and magic! Whether you're a tabletop gaming fan, love hands-on crafts, or just want to see the magic happen (literally!), we've got something for everyone:

- Puppet Greeters - meet the characters from The Wylding Woods
- Puppet Making – bring your own character to life
- Open Gameplay – Try out new board games or play your favorites
- Live Magic Show – Experience surprising tricks!

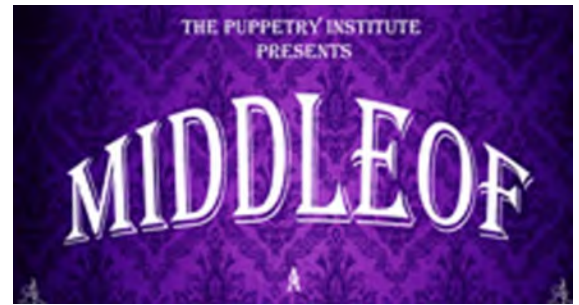
This is a family-friendly event, and we can't wait to welcome you to our new space. Mark your calendar, bring your friends, and get ready for an unforgettable day!

<https://woander.store/>

Middleof Event by The Puppetry

Institute

**May 3rd, 4 pm, 1855 41st Ave D-06 ,
Capitola**



Step into a realm where puppetry meets technology and imagination reigns supreme. Middleof invites you to dive into a surreal experience where every corner unveils a new enchantment. As you wander through it's 5000 sq ft multisensory landscape, prepare to interact with larger-than-life mythical beings that come alive through touch, movement, artwork and light.

Operated by The Puppetry Institute, a local non-profit dedicated to the arts, Middleof not only promises a feast for the senses but also supports young artists through its scholarship program. A third of the installation's profits will fund these initiatives, fostering creativity and providing employment opportunities for Bay Area actors and artists.

Tours begin at the top of every hour, ensuring each group of up to 12 guests enjoys the full immersion of this unique experience. Prefer a more traditional visit? Explore the museum tour on Tuesdays through Thursdays from 12pm to 4pm.

Tickets for Middleof go on sale starting April 5th at noon. Don't miss your chance to be part of this magical journey! Message us for more details and join us as we redefine the boundaries between reality and fantasy. See you there! For more info

<https://www.facebook.com/ThePuppetryInstitute>

Paly Theatre presents Spongebob the musical

Paly Theatre presents Spongebob the musical, coming to Palo Alto High School April 24-27! This lively show is suitable for all ages with a fun twist on the classic cartoon, with a timely theme about the power of community. Many puppets are featured in this show, from a chorus line of sea anemones to everyone's favorite pet snail, designed by **Dahlia Yarbrough**.

Buy tickets

here: <https://www.palytheatre.com/tickets>



PALY THEATRE PRESENTS
nickelodeon
THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL

ORIGINAL SONGS BY
Panial At
The Disco
Lady A
Yolanda Adams
John Legend T.I.
Sara Bareilles
The Flaming Lips
Cyndi Lauper
Jonathan Coulton
Plain White T's
Steven Tyler & Joe Perry of Aerosmith
Alex Ebert of Edwards Sharpe & the Magnetic Zeros
They Might Be Giants

AND SONGS BY
David Bowie, Tom Kenny & Andy Paley
ADDITIONAL LYRICS BY Jonathan Coulton
ADDITIONAL MUSIC BY Tom Kitt

Based on the series by Stephen Hillenburg
Book by Kyle Jarrow
Musical production conceived by Tina Landau

GET YER TICKETS HERE!

APRIL 24-27

TICKETS: PALYTHEATRE.COM/TICKETS
STUDENTS/SENIORS \$10, ADULTS \$15
7PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY 2PM SATURDAY, SUNDAY
PALO ALTO HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



SHTERNA & THE LOST VOICE – A NEW YIDDISH FOLKTALE

Wed., May 28, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

JCCSF, Kannbar Hall, 3200 California Street, San Francisco



Be transported into the rich world of Yiddish folklore by this refreshingly new immersive storytelling production featuring live original klezmer music and an exquisite papercut crankie.

"Shterna and The Lost Voice" is a research-based original folktale rooted in the Jewish mystical tradition and folklore of Eliyahu Hanavi, accompanied by a custom-made handcrafted "crankie" (a visual storytelling device) with shadow puppets and live klezmer score. The project has played well to a wide range of audiences, including toddlers, children, and elders. We have received outstanding feedback and [reviews](#) so far (with many attendees returning to see the production two or three times!).

More info, video trailer & tickets (\$20) <https://www.jccsf.org/event/shterna-the-lost-voice-a-new-yiddish-folktale/>

Adam Kreutinger 02/28/1988 - 02/27/2025



Adam Kreutinger shared his love of puppetry with all. Countless people, including many of our Guild members called him friend, followed his work and viewed his "how-to" videos. His

life was short, but his influence was far reaching. His obituary, below, was published by Buffalo News on Mar. 21, 2025

When George Takei and 35 million of his followers discovered the story of an art teacher who designed and sewed his wife's wedding dress in just 15 days, they learned what so many in Western New York already knew: Adam Kreutinger is one of the most talented and courageous artists who ever lived.

Adam passed into rest at 9:43 a.m. on Thursday, February 27, at Niagara Hospice, just a day short of his 37th birthday. He shared his last moments with his wife Maria and loved ones around him.

Adam occupied the eclectic center of many intersecting worlds of creativity, learning, and performance. As an art teacher for more than a decade in several Western New York schools, Adam inspired and empowered thousands of students. He drew on his passion for teaching, storytelling, illustration, and cinema to create memorable characters like Arlo, Hubble, and the Snoofs, who jumped from his classroom into YouTube videos and several children's books. He was also a beloved member of the Buffalo theater community, which knew him as an Artie-winning performer, set designer, playwright, and puppeteer.

But this last talent of puppetry and puppet-making earned him the greatest worldwide renown. Adam believed puppetry was the most "complete" art form drawing on design, sculpture, storytelling, performance, video, and more. He performed with his own puppets in countless productions while his sought-after pre-made puppets and patterns appeared on stages and other performance venues all over the world, including the Food Network, Comedy Central, Adam Savage's Tested, and Broadway's Winnie the Pooh. Adam's talent, charisma, and infectious energy earned him the love of the global puppetry community; his Puppet Nerd YouTube channel amassed hundreds of thousands of followers and millions of views, and with his friend Cam Garrity he regularly interviewed the industry's biggest stars on the Puppet Tears podcast.

Hailed for "guiding the puppetry community into the 21st century" by Torn Space Theater's Dan Shanahan, Adam found endless avenues for his evangelism, which expanded to include a worldwide summer Puppet Camp, the Nimalz Kids educational YouTube channel, and the all-ages book Puppetry 101. "Puppetry for Everyone," his career retrospective at Daemen University's Tower Gallery, showcases 45 of his puppets, costumes, stage sets, paintings, and more. The opening night saw record-breaking attendance and featured video remarks from former collaborators from Sesame Street, The Muppets, and Being John Malkovich. Adam appeared at the exhibition weekly to meet with fans.

On July 13, 2022, Adam experienced a seizure that led to a diagnosis of grade 3 anaplastic astrocytoma. After receiving the news, Adam went immediately to his Kreutinger Puppets studio and hit record. Adam shared his diagnosis, talked about treatment options, and processed his feelings in real time for more than half a million viewers. In the months that followed he would intersperse his familiar lessons, interviews, and unboxing videos with updates on his surgeries, clinical trials, and rehabilitation. He slipped easily into the role of superhero, becoming a model of courage and indefatigable creativity: he built and filmed puppets from the ICU and his hospice bed barely more than a week before his passing.

The enormous community of family, friends, students, and fans who knew Adam will forever feel the gravitational tug of his personality and example; a calling to dream bigger, be better, have fun, and make it happen.

Adam leaves behind his wife Maria and children Winifred and Ernest. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Those wishing to attend may reach out to the family for details. In lieu of flowers, please donate to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/aid-for-adam-and-his-family>

If you haven't already, check out some of his enthusiastic and knowledgeable clips at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1F3305D1FDE99B01>.

New episode of Under The Puppet is now live!

My guest is the multi-talented Stoph Scheer. Stoph Scheer is a puppeteer, writer, and director who has worked with The Jim Henson Company, The Muppets, and even Banksy. Stoph is also a writer, producer and puppeteer for the surreal and nostalgic web series The Creatures of Yes, and has performed in Slumberkins, Puppet Up! Uncensored, and The Muppets Mayhem. I sit down with Stoph to talk about her journey in puppetry and much more on this episode of Under the Puppet. Available wherever you get your podcasts or at underthepuppet.com



Your Guild Library News

The Guild library is a treasure trove of puppet books. You can also request a specific book from the hundreds of books, from the history of puppets, construction, stages, puppets in education, etc. It's 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. Email library@sfbapg.org.

Puppetry 101 by Adam Kreutinger

This book is a great addition to any library in my opinion. I intend to add it to my own personal library. Adam Kreutinger covered everything from what is puppetry to how to use your puppet that you may have created. He does a great job talking about television puppetry from Build a Show to Finding a Story. It's a must have book, like a puppetry Bible. He definitely was a great teacher.

It has a lot of great resources to get anything from patterns to supplies, as well as other websites to go to for things pertaining to all of our puppetry needs. I hope you find the book as enjoyable as I have. Even if you are a long time puppeteer or a new beginner of puppetry, it's worth going back through and reading again and refresh your brain. Adam Kreutinger was a great teacher, mentor and designer. He is truly going to be missed. I can say as any puppeteer if you liked any of his work you should own the book in honor of his memory.

Ilene Kennedy, Vice President

Yearning for the blue flowers of life

This is the caption to go with my recent puppet on a string pic attached.

From Herbert Lange, our far away guild member in Germany.



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