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EDITOR'S NOTE: This is very newsy newsletter, so use the 'view this email in your browser link at the top or use the 'view the rest of this email' link at the bottom to see the whole newsletter! (It now says "End of Newsletter" at the end so you know you saw it all.)

Fairyland's Historic Storybook Theater's 70th Anniversary and 2 Day Puppet Fair

Join us! SAT. AUG 29 & SUN. 30

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Every summer since 1956, Fairyland has been proud to host a world-class celebration of puppetry. This year, Fairyland is celebrating its Storybook Puppet Theater's 70th anniversary, with a 2-day Puppet Fair event on Aug 29th and 30th. Fairyland is an important hub for the puppet community and the training ground for many now famous puppeteers, including Frank Oz, Jerry Juhl (Muppets) Tony Urbano (Men in Black, etc.) local artists Randal Metz, Kevin Menegus, and many others. Puppet Fair is a wonderful opportunity to meet other puppet enthusiasts, see great shows, and share your love of the art with others.

Volunteer! For decades, the SFBAPG has volunteered for Puppet Fair. Because this is their anniversary celebration, we will participate on both Sat & Sun, with a Make-a-Puppet booth, walkaround puppet greeters, and a Guild Puppet Info booth. Please help by signing up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4BAEAB2AA7FC1-64724134-fairylands> . We hope all Guild members will volunteer a bit of time.

Membership: Admission to Fairyland is **FREE for Guild members**. The SFBAPG membership list is given to Fairyland for admission. If your membership has lapsed, please renew before 08/20 at <https://sfbapg.org/membership/>.

Entry Info: Our host, **Maria Rodriguez** of Fairyland, will meet us at 9:30 am both mornings at the front entrance by the Big Shoe to check Guild Volunteers' names off her list. Please arrive 5 min early. If you miss the guild entrance, your name will be on

a list at the box office for entry. If you have any trouble, ask the park attendant at the entrance to call **Maria**, who will get you.

If you are bringing guests, they should buy tickets in advance, and their tickets will be scanned at the gate when the park opens.

Contact: If you have problems or questions, especially at Puppet Fair, contact Heather Gobbie or Marisol Himmel by phone or text:

Heather: (646) 436-2689

Marisol: (916) 847-1856

Guild Meeting: After our quick setup, we will have a brief Guild meeting on Saturday at 10 am in the Cinderella Party Space (or the Merry Meadow if a party is booked) right next to the Puppet Theater.

Lunch: Guild members are welcome to spend their hard-earned dough at the Fairyland snackbar or to bring their own lunch and water for the day.

After Hours: Instead of a potluck, the crew will head over to a local beer garden (tbd) for food, connection, and other such puppet shenanigans.

Join us for one magical weekend of puppet fun!

More info on transportation, parking, etc. at <https://fairyland.org/visit/#hours-admission>

More info on Puppet Fair shows at <https://fairyland.org/event-calendar/puppet-fair-weekend/>



Saturday, August 29:

All day: A magical display featuring hand-made puppets from the last 70 years of Fairyland shows!

11:00 - 2 Arts and crafts in the Merry Meadow

11:00 - CFL - "The 3 Little Pigs in the 1920's" (PT)

11:20 Puppet Play Date in the Merry Meadow

11:20 Backstage Sneak Peak of our famous Storybook Puppet Theater

12:00 - The Puppet Man (ECS) <http://www.magicalmoonshine.org/our-shows.htm>

1:00 - Puppet Art Theater Co. "The Boy Who Cried Wolf!" (Aesops) <https://puppetarts.com/>

2:00 - Luce Puppet Co. - "Splashy Sea Saga" (ECS) <https://lucepuppetco.com/>

2:30 Puppet Play Date in the Merry Meadow

2:30 Backstage Sneak Peak of our famous Storybook Puppet Theater

3:00 - Bob Baker Marionette Theater - (Aesops) <https://www.bobbakermarionettetheater.com/>

4:00 - CFL - "The 3 Little Pigs in the 1920's" (PT)

Sunday, August 30:

All day: A magical display featuring hand-made puppets from the last 70 years of Fairyland shows!

11:00 - 2 Arts and crafts in the Merry Meadow

11:00 - CFL - "The 3 Little Pigs in the 1920's" (PT)

11:20 Puppet Play Date in the Merry Meadow

11:20 Backstage Sneak Peak of our famous Storybook Puppet Theater

12:00 - Fratello Marrionettes - "Jack & the Beanstalk"

1:00 - Magical Moonshine Theatre - "Puppylocks and the Three Bears" (Aesops)

<http://www.magicalmoonshine.org/>

2:00 - Luce Puppet Co. - "Splashy Sea Saga" (ECS) <https://lucepuppetco.com/>

2:30 Puppet Play Date in the Merry Meadow

2:30 Backstage Sneak Peak of our famous Storybook Puppet Theater

3:00 - Bob Baker Marionette Theater (Aesops) <https://www.bobbakermarionettetheater.com/>

4:00 - CFL - "The 3 Little Pigs in the 1920's" (PT)

The Puppet Fair is made possible in part by a grant from the **Cook/Marks Fund**.



*Randal Metz shared this short video
about Fairyland.*

Your Guild Library will be at Fairyland Aug 29th and 30th

The Guild library is a treasure trove of puppet books. Some of these books will be at the Guild Info booth. Come and check it out!

You can also request specific book(s) 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. Email Lee Armstrong by 8/20 at library@sfbapg.org. And she'll bring your book(s) to Fairyland.

Please bring back any borrowed books. If you can't make Fairyland, please mail them back to Guild Librarian Lee Armstrong at 720 Ladera Dr., Sonoma, CA 95476.

Letter from the President

This summer has been a season of travel, conversation, and inspiration. I had the pleasure of traveling up to Seattle and back, and although I did not perform, I found myself in many wonderful conversations with people about the puppetry arts and about the work we each do in our own creative lives. Those exchanges were a good reminder of how much puppetry connects us—not only to audiences, but also to fellow artists, makers, and curious new friends.

As you read through this newsletter, please be sure to look for details on two important upcoming events. One is a workshop on the manipulation of large puppets, which promises to be both practical and exciting for anyone interested in expanding their skills. The other is our guild's participation in the 70th anniversary celebration of the Puppet Theatre at Children's Fairyland in Oakland. This is a special occasion, and I especially want to emphasize that guild members will have free entrance to Fairyland for the event, even if you are coming simply to enjoy the festivities and not volunteering.

Events like this are a great chance to talk with other puppeteers, meet fellow guild members, and share in the joy of the art we love. I hope to see many of you there, and I know it will be a lively and memorable celebration for everyone involved.

Talib Huff

Sunday, August 16th 2026: Nick Barone Workshop Pre-Audition for "Life of Pi" Poly-operator life-size animal puppets practice.

Pre-Audition Workshop for Life of Pi Poly-Operator Puppetry

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Thinking about auditioning for the San Francisco Playhouse production of Life of Pi? Join us for a hands-on workshop designed to introduce performers to the life-size, multi-operator animal puppets featured in the production.

Led by Fred C. Riley III, supported by the Nick Barone Fund, this workshop will focus on the techniques used to animate these extraordinary ensemble-style puppets and help participants gain experience before auditions.

Location

Odd Savvy at Paul Drescher Studios

2201 Poplar Street

Oakland, CA

Schedule

10:00 AM – San Francisco Bay Area Puppetry Guild Meeting (optional)

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Life of Pi Pre-Audition Workshop

Includes a short snack break

Workshop Fee: \$1.50

Important: This workshop is not part of the official audition process. It is an educational opportunity to introduce participants to poly-operator puppetry and develop skills that may be useful during auditions.

The Guild Meeting at 10:00 AM is open to anyone who wishes to attend. There is no registration or fee if you are attending only the Guild Meeting and not the workshop.

Audition Information

The San Francisco Playhouse is accepting video auditions. The in-person audition will take place on August 24.

Video submissions may be made here:

<https://airtable.com/app7pL2Q3UJUlmHN/shrKs1PTEin9aaxkl>

Registration for the workshop is available through the [SignUpGenius](#) link.

Wylding Woods has been on tour this summer with several shows.

"Barnaby and the Dragon's Treasure" has been touring Bay Area libraries as part of their summer reading program presentations. This is an original show written, directed and produced by Matthew Purdon and performed by Gabrielle Greenfield & Caitlin Gjerdrum. (2 photos)

"The Wylding Woods" outdoor immersive show was reprised at the Gualala Art Center where we gave 8 performances featuring Eriette Atanante, Caitlin Gjerdrum, Gabrielle Greenfield, Esther de Monteflores, Fred C. Riley III & Michael Weiland. (3 photos)

Gabrielle Greenfield, Ellie Johnson, Uel McGinnis, Esther de Monteflores, Danraj Rajansani and Matthew Purdon also spent a weekend at the Henry Miller Library in Big Sur. There, we performed our kids' show, developed a new concept show the **"Wylding Tickets"** and showcased some of our larger parade puppets.



The Faight Collective

Art Gallery in San Francisco is having an event Aug. 19, 7:00-10:00, called the Sound Pour featuring live jazz, as well as a [special performance by Odd Savvy of the tabletop/shadow/music piece called "Hold"](#).

HOLD is a minimalist tabletop puppet/shadow theater piece for two puppeteers and one live musician. A meditative, sometimes visceral look at grief. It is a piece of sonic/visual poetry unconstrained by narrative and set free by raw emotion. [Details Here.](#)



Calendar

As you can see, there are lots of items on the guild calendar for August in addition to what is listed in the newsletter. Check it all

out on the guild website [calendar page](#)

[HERE!](#)

Big thanks to Jason Lee for calendar entries!

Today < > August 2026							Month
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1	
Beauty and The Beast The Musical: North American Tour							Puppet Show: 12pm Mother G
11am The Art of	10:30am Puppet: 6:30pm Jack & 3 more		10:15am Summe 2 more				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Beauty and The Beast The Musical: North American Tour							
Puppet Show: 11am DMTC Fairytale Puppet Theatre Camp							
9am FINDING THE LIFE: PUPPETRY FUNDAMENTALS FOR THE WORKING ACTOR W							
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Beauty and The 3pm Jack & the	7pm SFBAPQ: P: 1pm A Visit with		11am Caterpillar 3pm Save the D 6:30pm String &				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	1pm "Dance, M
7:30pm Little Sh							
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
11am Possibly P			6pm Film Screen		Steve Whittine at GalaxyCon San 9pm Puppet Par		Puppet Fair Web

Water for Elephants will be coming to Sacramento on October 13-18. An interview was published in the Spring 2024 edition of the Puppeteers of America Journal which is available on the PofA website for all members of the PofA. ([link for more information.](#))

Olivia Huff





Join us on August 19!

Please join Arion Press at the Magic Theatre for an exploration of the world of puppetry as the third installment of the 2026 Craft Talk Series!

Artist and educator Risa Lenore will share her practice, puppets, sets and performance philosophies, exploring puppetry as living visual storytelling. The audience will also be invited to try creating a simple quick puppet!

Don't miss out on this exciting next event—Reserve your tickets today!

Wednesday, August 19, 2026 6:30 PM

The Endless Possibilities of Puppetry

Tickets

Magic Theatre

From our Farthest Flung Member (Germany!)

Dear folks,
Anybody traveling in Germany
these days?

Martin and I (Herbert) are working on a 20-minute surprise outdoor show that will open this upcoming Sunday. PUNCH & JUDY staged at a granary of a beautiful open-air museum in Hoesseringen, Northern Germany.



Yes, it's a true surprise show. The audience will not know in advance what they are going to witness:

Mr. Punch at his best neglecting the baby, being vulgar, beating up his wife who is doing the same to him, all in German, all in rhymes, with lots of funny sounds and noises. More news to follow in the September edition of our Newsletter.

Guild Event, July 4 Parade, Vallejo



Guild members joined community members for the Vallejo Giant Puppet Project in this year's Vallejo July 4 parade. The overcast kept the parade route cool and the crowds were enthusiastic as the giant puppets romped, swam, and swooped through the streets, followed by a celebratory lunch at the nearby home of Valerie and Michael Nelson at parade's end. Big thanks to guild members Beth Choy, Lisa Zagone, Fred Riley III, and Ruth Berggren, who joined Michael and Valerie and community members for this annual event.

End of Newsletter. A big thanks to all our newsletter contributors. Send your articles, photos, reviews, classifieds, updates, tips, etc., to newsletter@sfbapg.org before the last day of each month.



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