

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.)

Guild Event: Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock LIVE
Golden Gate Theatre, *1 Taylor St, San Francisco, CA*
Saturday, November 21, 2026 • 3:00 PM PT
Plus a special backstage tour at 12 noon
& Group Discount Tickets



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Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock Live, based on the Emmy winning Apple TV series, brings Jim Henson's Fraggles, Doozers, and a giant Gorg to the stage in a family friendly musical directed by John Tartaglia, packed with songs, comedy, and immersive special effects.

Backstage tour: Joel Morel, puppeteer on this show has invited us to meet the company and get an up-close look at our puppets, built by Jim Henson's Creature Shop.

We will meet in the lobby at noon and the tour will be 30-40 minutes long.

Group Tickets: We have a number of Guild members (and their children) interested in going to Fraggle Rock LIVE. If we have 10 or more people attending, we can get the group ticket discount which is approx 30% off. The group would need to sit in the same section. We have selected the Orchestra/Loge section. These tickets are...

- Regular ticket (blue) $80 Group discount $56 (includes service fee)
- Regular ticket (green) $70 Group discount $48 (incl service fee)

You can look at seat selection at https://us.atgtickets.com/events/fraggle-rock/golden-gate-theatre/tickets

Upon booking, the box office will give us the best available seats and will group all the tickets in the same price range in a group together.

Payment & NO REFUND: Do not email programming for tickets unless **you are absolutely sure you will be attending**. The box office has a **no refund or exchange policy**. However, if you want to sell them or gift your tickets, you can. Lee Armstrong will be doing the group purchase, so if you commit to tickets, **you must pay upon booking** by Zelle, Venmo or check. You'll receive additional info when you email programming for tickets.

Booking Tickets: So that we get good seat selection, we ask that you email back to **programming@sfbapg.org by EOD Monday, 11/2. If we have 10 or more people we'll book this 1st set of tickets. If not, we'll wait until we do. We will keep you informed by email. To book, please email including # of tickets, at $56 each or $48 each & the sentence "I will pay for tickets even if I'm unable to attend."** We can also add to our group later, as long as seats are available, up until EOD Mon. 11/16, it's just that the earlier we request tickets, the better the seats will be. If you have questions, please email programming.

And some have asked what to do between the tour and the show. Wing Shum suggested a fun food court by IKEA and the theater is within walking distance to museums, the Metreon, etc. Beth Choy, VP, will be the group leader for this event. Those attending will have her contact info.

Guild Show 'n Tell Nov 19 on Zoom

Do you have something puppet-related to show, or would you like to watch and cheer for the presenters? Last month we saw everything from patterning a foam puppet, determining size for a puppet mascot, to lively examples using puppets in preschool. All are welcome to this interesting hour, which happens the 3rd Thursday of each month from 6:30-7:30. Signup as viewer or presenter at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4BAEAB2AA7FC1-66800541-november (Passcode is SFBAPG). See you there!

SFBAPG·s Day of Puppetry in Sonoma!

By Briana Yarbrough with additions from Lee Armstrong

Laughter and squeals of delight from young audience members echoed through the Sonoma Community Center's theatre on Saturday, October 24th, as the SFBAPG hosted a packed-house Day of Puppetry! Art Grueneberger kicked off the day with his lively production of *Three Billy Goats Gruff*, which featured a bonus performance of *The Tortoise and the Hare*. Grueneberger's famous orange Cheeto even made an appearance, showing off his zany moves, much to the excitement of the crowd.
After the show, audience members were invited to try their hand at puppet crafts at the guild's welcome table, guided by members Wing and Hugo Shum. Kids were eager to interact with puppets walking around before and after the show, and to check out the creatures in the pop-up Folkmanis shop.
After a lunchtime break and banter, guild members and guests enjoyed two workshops! During his 1:00 p.m. workshop, Art Grueneberger made a compelling case for performing with rod puppets, which he incorporates into his popular one-man shows, with characters like the Troll and goat family from *Three Billy Goats Gruff*. The workshop included a show-and-tell of mechanisms and other features he integrates into his rod puppetry builds, along with a brainstorming session on the pros and cons of incorporating rod puppet designs into your repertoire.



At 3:00 p.m., students gathered around Lisa Zagone, Lead Designer and Fabricator at Odd Savvy, who brought a menagerie of feathers, fur, and flocked puppets and puppet parts, as well as the tools of her trade, to show participants interested in adding all types of fluff to their puppetry and fiber arts projects. Lisa has experimented with some surprising techniques, which she generously shared with the group! One of her tips for the day was to not be afraid to "waste" a lot of materials when trying out new methods. Through that philosophy of fearless trial and error, and with over 20 years of experience in professional theater and film design under her belt, we were treated to learning some of her surprising techniques, seam stitching tricks and "faux pas," and what types of dye and spray paint work to add color to one's puppet pelts. Hint: check out your local florist supply shop! If you missed this workshop, don't fret—Lisa plans on presenting other workshops to guild members in the near future!

Talib ran a lively Guild meeting, where Talib announced that the Guild is now a nonprofit, people introduced themselves, and members learned about upcoming events. The meeting ended with refreshments and conversation.

We'd like to thank Art for an outstanding show and Art & Lisa for providing such excellent workshops. We'd also like to thank the Sonoma Community Center for providing a welcoming space and friendly staff. So many Guild members made this a success. Thanks to our Programming Committee, Social Media, Hospitality, the Treasurer, and in no particular order: Talib Huff, Moddy Himmel, Heather Gobbée, Beth Choy, Hugo & Wing Shum, Bill Ferguson, Brie & Dahlia Yarbrough, Peter Fallon, Doug & Anne Zesiger, and Lee Armstrong. If we've left someone out, we apologize. And kudos to our farthest-traveling participants, Elizabeth Luce and Victoria Johnson, who came all the way from Grass Valley for this Day of Puppetry.

Events

Check out the upcoming events below and visit the guild calendar HERE



Paly Theatre Presents: A Wrinkle in Time!

Performances November 7-8, 13-15

Palo Alto High School

Submitted by Dahlia Yarbrough

PRINT-FRIENDLY WEB ADDRESSES

Guild events calendar:
https://sfbapg.org/events/calendar/

The Muffin Man Puppet Show:
https://events.sonomalibrary.org/event/muffin-man-117153



Based on a beloved children's book, *A Wrinkle in Time* follows Meg Murry, her little brother Charles Wallace, and her classmate Calvin as they search for the truth about what happened to Meg's physicist father, who vanished over a year ago. Guided by the enigmatic Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which, the kids travel through time and space to save Dr. Murry - and the whole galaxy - from the powers of darkness threatening to overtake it. Paly Theatre invites you to a dazzling technical spectacle, featuring choreography, projections, mechanical wings, and otherworldly giant puppets built and performed by guild member Dahlia Yarbrough.





This production is recommended for ages 7 and up due to some scary elements, and will run 2 hours, including a 15-minute intermission. Please note that this production also makes use of flashing (non-strobe) lights, and contact us if you have any questions or concerns!



Buy Tickets Here: https://www.palytheatre.com/tickets

Poly-Op Puppetry

November 14th 11am-2pm 2026

Learn to work as a team, with many hands bringing life to a single puppet figure. The best way to learn is by doing. This class will teach the basics of puppetry as well as how to bring those practices to a 2 and 3 person team. The puppets we will learn on are prototypes for the upcoming 2027 production of "Life of Pi" for San Francisco Playhouse. Odd Savvy's own Designer, Lisa Zagone has designed these beautiful life sized animals, and they are being built by her and Artistic Director Fred C Riley III.

- Learn the importance of finding and working within the inherent rhythm built in to each puppet
- Learn to "see" the whole figure from the audience by working in the mirror
- Learn to signal each other and breath together
- Learn the basics of walk, leaping, focus and gesture

Fred C. Riley III brings years of Poly-op puppetry performance and directing expertise to this exciting class. His passion for collaborative storytelling and precision movement make this a must-attend event for artists, educators, and theater enthusiasts alike.
WHEN: *November 14th* 2026
11am-2pm
WHERE:
Paul Dresher Ensemble Studio 2201 Poplar Street, Oakland
COST: $40-60





Possibly Puppets in Sonoma Country Libraries

[The Muffin Man Puppet Show]



Healdsburg Regional Library: Sat. 11/21 - 11:00am–11:45am
Sonoma Valley Library: Sun. , 11/22 - 2:30pm–3:15pm

Children and their families are invited to enjoy the performance of The Muffin Man by the contemporary puppet theater company Possibly Puppets, and participate by pretending, singing, and dancing with the puppets. Grades PreK-3. https://events.sonomalibrary.org/events/month

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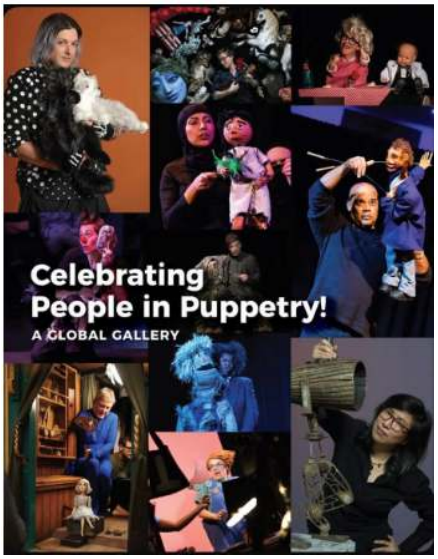

The Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival has launched **People in Puppetry**, an online gallery celebrating puppetry artists around the globe. It includes puppeteers, designers/builders, curators, teaching artists, directors, filmmakers, and more. They're aiming to feature as many people in puppetry as possible. Give them info about you, representing the SF Bay Area. Fill out the form at https://chicagopuppetfest.org/peopleinpuppetry/ to add yourself to the gallery!