

The Atlanta Puppetry Guild Newsletter

Chartered by the Puppeteer's of America, Inc.

Free to All Members

Summer 2001

What's Inside

by Evy Berman

Just in time for the next guild activity, this issue comes to you full of useful information, important news, and really neat stuff!

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Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of the newsletter. Remember, I can't do it alone, so please send articles to me at home or at ecberman@bellsouth.net. If you're stuck for an idea, call me, or just let me know what you've been doing lately for the *Buzz*. And feel free to send pictures, too!



Meeting Information

The next Atlanta Puppetry Guild activity will be a workshop on Saturday, June 23. Originally scheduled as a rod puppet making workshop, the activity has been changed.

Christopher Hudert of Applause Unlimited is in town performing his marionette and shadow puppet show, "Puss in Boots" at The Center for Puppetry Arts, and he is eager to meet the guild members from Atlanta.

All guild members are invited to attend the performance at 2:00 on Saturday, June 23 and to stay afterwards for an exclusive behind the scenes lecture/demonstration with Christopher Hudert.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity! Discounted tickets are in the works.

WHAT: PUSS IN BOOTS PERFORMANCE AND DEMONSTRATION

WHEN: SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2001, 2:00 PM

WHERE: CENTER FOR PUPPETRY ARTS THEATRE

QUESTIONS: CALL LEE BRYAN
(404) 315-1363

**New Atlanta Puppetry Guild Logo is
Here!!**

Our new guild logo, soon to be worked into the newsletter banner:



Minutes from the Meeting



Our last meeting took place on May 12, 2001 at the home of Betsy and Walter Stark. A total of 16 members attended. After a delicious pot-luck, we got down to business.

Old business included a recap of the National Day of Puppetry event (including photos!) and news of the Mayor's proclamation about the NDP. See page 2 for details.

Due to scheduling problems, Alan Louis' June/July rod puppet making workshop will have to be rescheduled. Suggestions were taken on what to replace the workshops with. Guild officers are making plans for July.

Virginia Petersen displayed her hard work on guild nametags. The new nametags will be printed on muslin and colored and decorated individually. A workshop may be planned to decorate nametags.

The guild can apply for a grant to sponsor a puppeteer from outside of the guild to teach a workshop or do a performance. Suggestions are still being taken on possible candidates.

Jeff Cornett now has a list of camps who might be interested in summer puppet workshops. Work is still in progress on this project which will bring puppeteers into needy camps for free workshops. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Lee Bryan.

Welcome New Members!

The Atlanta Puppetry Guild would like to officially welcome our new members:

Jeff Cornett

Kendra Nan Skellen

Daryl Hawes

Welcome to the guild! We hope to see you at our next event on Saturday, June 23. (See page one for details.)



Alan Louis suggests this beautiful Chinese Shadow Puppet CD-ROM from Pentewa Interactive (a multi-cultural software company founded by Native Americans). Makes a great gift. Here is the link:

<http://www.pentewa.com/>

What's the Buzz?

★ **Bob Hintz** is working on a guild banner featuring our new logo, which he designed.

★ **Reay Kaplan** recently performed with Blue's Clues at the White House as part of their Easter celebration. She also recently returned from a trip to China where she visited the

★ **Curious Moon Puppet Theatre** was recently added to the Georgia Council for the Arts Touring Roster as well as the South Carolina Arts Commission Artist Roster.

★ **Betsy Stark** is making fabulous pillow puppets and is experimenting with dryer hose.

★ **Gail McKay** showed the guild her puppets from her show, "King Bounce" as well as her beautiful new puppets from a Chinese Folktale she is currently working on. Gail will be performing 5 shows of "Over in the Meadow" at the Discovery Museum in Chattanooga in September.

★ **Gregg Wallace** will be attending Eric Bass' workshop at Marlboro College this summer.

★ **YOU** could be featured in this slot! Please let the newsletter editor know what you've been up to!

Puppeteers of America Information

Join the P of A!

If you are a member of the Atlanta Puppetry Guild, but not of the Puppeteers of America, Inc. (the national guild which charters our local guild), then you don't know what you're missing! To find out about the many benefits of membership, go to www.puppeteers.org. You can even get a membership form online, or you can contact: The Puppeteers of America, Inc., Joyce & Chuck Berty, PO BOX 29417, Parma, OH, 44129-0417
PofAjoin@aol.com PH: 888 568-6235 You can get a coupon for \$5 first time membership at the next guild event!

National Puppetry Festival, July 8-14 2001

from the official festival website

The University of Tampa campus will be the site of the Puppeteers of America National Festival, "A Puppet Odyssey." Bring the entire family!! Tampa offers Busch Gardens, The Florida Aquarium, Lowry Park Zoo, and beaches nearby! One hour to Disney World, Sea World, and Universal Studios in Orlando! Two hours to the Kennedy Space Center!

So far, we have lined up some exciting acts including:

New Hampshire's Perry Alley Theatre
Canada's Puppetmongers
Ohio's Marionette Legend Jim Rose
That Puppet Guy Lee Bryan
Olympic Gold Medalist (well, he's from Australia at least) Richard Bradshaw.

It's not too early to register for this festival. Be one of the first to register and get early entrance to the festival's puppetry store. Puppet Festivals are a bargain at any price, but there is a registration fee, so here is a breakdown of costs:

Full Festival Registration: P of A Members \$305.00
Non P of A Members \$350.00
Youth Members \$275.00
Single Day (might not include evening events) \$80.00
Rooms: (Sunday night through Friday night) Double Occupancy (per person) \$138.00
Additional Nights: (July 6, 7, or 14) \$23.00
Meals: Meal Tickets \$125.00

For a registration form, visit the festival web site at <http://www.puppetlove.com/2001festival/index.htm>

Are you planning to attend the National Festival in Tampa? Volunteers from our guild are needed during the opening night event which all guilds from the Southeast Region are hosting. Please contact Lee Bryan if you can help during the opening night event. Hey, you're going to be there anyway, so why not demonstrate your southern hospitality??!

Mayor's Proclamation
by Bill Campbell

Normally, this space hosts a guest author from another guild. This issue, we give space to Mayor Bill Campbell and reprint his official (it has the Mayor's Seal and everything) proclamation from the City of Atlanta.

National Day of Puppetry

Whereas, The City of Atlanta is pleased to join the Atlanta Puppetry Guild as it celebrates the 3rd Annual National Day of Puppetry on April 28, 2001; and

Whereas, The Atlanta Puppetry Guild, chartered by the Puppeteers of America, Inc., is a group of artists, educators, librarians, hobbyists, professionals and everyday people devoted to preserving and encouraging the art of puppetry through innovative workshops, social functions, and regional and national puppetry; and

Whereas, Current activities of the Atlanta Puppetry Guild include field trips to view and discuss adult puppetry presentations, pot-luck socials, rod-puppet making workshops, and advice on puppetry related business issues; and

Whereas, Founded in 1937, Puppeteers of America, a national nonprofit organization, provides information, encourages performances, and builds a community of people who love puppet theatre; and

Whereas, We commend the Atlanta Puppetry Guild and the Puppeteers of America for their priceless contributions to the cultural fiber of our community:

Now, Therefore, I, Bill Campbell, Mayor of Atlanta, and on behalf of the citizens of Atlanta, hereby proclaim April 28, 2001 as "National Day of Puppetry" in our city.



Bill Campbell
Bill Campbell
Mayor

From the Prez: Recap of the National Day of Puppetry

by Lee Bryan

On March 25, 2001, in anticipation of the 3rd annual National Day of Puppetry celebration, members of the Atlanta Puppetry Guild were treated to an insightful hands-on workshop for creating giant parade style puppets. The workshop was led by Claire Ritzler, former Education Director for the Center for Puppetry Arts. Claire used a clever paper mache technique using liquid starch to apply colored tissue paper to corrugated cardboard forms. Many thanks to the seven guild members who sacrificed a beautiful Sunday afternoon to participate.

On April 28, 2001, five hardworking members of the Atlanta Puppetry Guild instructed a three-hour, continuous, giant puppet making workshop to help celebrate the Third Annual National Day of Puppetry. The workshop was held at Centennial Olympic Park where interested participants of all ages helped create large parade puppets including Fluttering Flowers, Bouncing Birds and several large "human" characters. At precisely 3:00, the parade officially began...right down the middle of the Centennial Park! Crowds gathered to cheer as the colorful parade, complete with puppets, bubbles and kazooes marched by. At precisely 4:00, the Atlanta Puppetry Guild packed it all back up and headed for home...a little weary but satisfied!

Many thanks to the guild members who made this event possible:

- To Alan Louis and the Center for Puppetry Arts' Education Department for the generous donation of cardboard tubes
- To Bob Hintz who provides a constant source for ideas and SUPPLIES! (And to Joyce Hintz, for allowing Bob get rid of some of his "collectables.")
- To Evy Berman who somehow manages to juggle these little extra projects while maintaining a full touring schedule.
- To Tim Koeller for your focus and drive - who said accountants aren't creative? (And to Kathy Koeller for letting Tim come out to play!)
- And also to PofA member Claire Ritzler for going above and beyond the call!

We had a really nice sized group working on the puppets, however it was unfortunate that more guild members chose not participate in this unique endeavor. It has been brought to my attention that perhaps the needs of guild members are not being fully recognized. To this end, I'd like to recommend that all members jot down a few ideas to bring to the next meeting (or mail them in) so that the planning committee can attempt to accommodate the needs of our members.



Book Review: Schattentheater/Shadow Theatre Vol II

by Ray DaSilva

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Author: REUSCH R

Published: 2001

Deals with contemporary shadow technique. Complete text in both German and English. 13 leading shadow puppet artists generously describe their production methods. Richard Bradshaw details the labyrinthine thought processes involved in producing an apparently simple shadow puppet item. Stefan Fichert describes the design and making of scenery and figures with transparent plastics, and the technique of 'light figures' produced by reflected designs on flexible mirrors. Larry Reed explains the use of special transformation masks Other contributors are Nikolina Georgieva, la Elua, Ilya Epelbaum, Mercè Gost, Alba Zapater, Norbert Gotz, Georg Habermann, Fabrizio Montecchi, Herta Schönewolf, Hansueli Trüb, Tadeusz Wierzbicki. Subjects covered include multiple projections, creating body shadows, transformation figures, construction and use of a portable Linnebach, different staging techniques, etc. 158 A4 pages with many photographs, explanatory diagrams, some colour plates and an extensive bibliography.

Editor's Note: Mr. DaSilva warns that the English translation is, at times, a bit rough. This book, along with a treasure trove of others, can be purchased through his web site. The link is listed above. On a related note, Richard Bradshaw will be at the Center for Puppetry Arts this summer and will present a shadow puppet making workshop. Details on time and date TBA. -eb

Atlanta Puppetry Guild Schedule of Events

June - December 2001

Saturday, June 23, 2001: 2-4 pm, Performance of "Puss in Boots" by Applause Unlimited of Richmond, VA followed by backstage lecture/demonstration. Exclusively held for guild members. Center for Puppetry Arts theatre. Cost TBA.

Sunday, July 8, 2001: Opening night celebration of PofA National Festival in Tampa, FL. All guild members attending the festival are asked to participate in hosting this party.

Sunday, July 8 - Saturday, July 14, 2001: Puppeteers of America National Puppetry Festival in Tampa, FL. See page 3 for more details.

Saturday, July 21, 2001: 2-5 pm, Workshop and location to be announced.

Sunday, August 19, 2001: 5-7 pm, Meeting/pot-luck social. At the home of Daryl Hawes.

Sunday, September 9, 2001: 4-6 pm, Business of Puppetry Workshop. Bring your questions and your suggestions to this round table discussion which will cover anything related to puppetry business, bookings or promotions. Location to be announced.

Saturday, November 10, 2001: 5-7 pm, Meeting/pot-luck social. Location to be announced.

Guild Field Trip: Lion King in NYC

The Atlanta Puppetry Guild is organizing a trip to New York City to see "The Lion King" on Broadway.

Daryl Hawes is not only a new member of the guild, but he is also a travel agent and is able to negotiate a group rate for a one day trip to NY to see a Wednesday or Saturday matinee of Disney's "The Lion King." Possible dates are October 10 or 17, 2001. All travel would take place on one day (fly up in the morning and back the same night).

Airfare would cost approximately \$100.00, show ticket \$90.00, plus ground transportation. If you are interested in participating in this trip, please contact Lee Bryan and let him know which date is best for you.

Newsletter Needs New Name

To compliment our new guild logo, our newsletter needs a new name. Please e-mail suggestions to newsletter editor, Evy Berman, at ecberman@bellsouth.net.

Suggestions will be voted on at the next guild meeting, Sunday, August 19. Our logo contest inspired 18 submissions! Let's see if we're as good with words as we are with pictures.

Susan Suggests

by Susan Kinney

Do you...(like me)...find yourself missing your favorite Center show after its gone? Maybe it was the best rendition of Cinderella you ever saw. The puppeteers were just perfect! Oh there have been several Cinderellas since but that one back in '89 really touched your heart. And what about the Jungle Book of '86 Staring Alan Louis as Baloo? Were you around the Center did a production of The Wizard of Oz? Well all you have to do is make an appointment with the Center for Puppetry Arts' Library and you can re-live these gems from the past! All these and MORE can be found in the video archives! Call Susan Kinney at (404) 873-3089 extension 130 or Suzanne Kopko at ext. 135 to make your appointment.

Kids on the Block Need YOU!

By Jaehn Clare, program coordinator, KOB

Do you like kids? Do you want to make a difference in your community? Are you a puppeteer-wanna-be? Then the Kids on the Block need you! VSA arts of Georgia's newest program, Kids on the Block, is currently under development, and we need puppeteers. This diversity awareness program provides information about people with disabilities in a fun, entertaining format. Kids on the Block is a great way to teach audiences of all ages what it's like to be a person with a difference. It's all part of VSA arts of Georgia's mission of bringing arts education and cultural arts experiences to people who are disabled, disadvantaged or institutionalized, and to educate the general public about the value of inclusive arts experiences.

Each Kids on the Block performance consists of several (2 - 4) short but lively scripts, followed by brief Question & Answer periods with audience members; the entire program normally runs from 30 to 45 minutes in length. Current programs feature Mark Riley - a child with Cerebral Palsy who uses a "cruiser" - and Renaldo Rodriguez, a blind kid on the block, with Melody James and Brenda Dubrowski in supporting roles. The work is based on Bunraku style puppetry, in which the puppeteers are dressed in black, masking their manipulation of the Muppet® type puppets.

Our goal is to develop a strong core company of 6 puppeteers, in an effort to meet a rising demand for Kids on the Block performances. We anticipate at least two bookings per month during the 2001-2002 school year; we will also accept bookings during the summer months when puppeteers are available. Puppeteers will be scheduled on an "as available" basis, depending on their own schedules and other commitments. The majority of our requests for performances come from organizations in the metro Atlanta area, but some travel to venues in outlying areas may also be required. An audition call will be sent out later this year; for further information, call Program Coordinator Jaehn ("jane") Clare at VSA arts of Georgia, 404/221.1270, ext. 12. For more information about VSA arts of Georgia, visit our web site at: www.VSAartsGA.org.

WORKSHOPS Offered by the Ko Festival of Performance at Amherst

JUNE 25-30: GIANT PUPPETS AND OTHER PARADE CREATURES, Led by Alison Heimstead, (Bread & Puppet and Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theatre's Mayday Parade in Minneapolis) students will design puppets, build them, and choreograph a sequence for the Midsummer Parade. The making and performing of large puppets can empower communities to come together and create their own images for celebration or protest. This workshop we will look at a variety of large puppet forms including backpack puppets, three-pole puppets and dragons.

JULY 2-7: VIDEOTAPING LIVE PERFORMANCE: for Directors, Choreographers and Performers; Michael Billingsley, video artist, audio engineer and Executive Director of ACTV will cover single and multi-camera shoots, camera techniques, technical and aesthetic considerations in working with theatrical sound and lighting, postproduction and presentation.

JULY 23-28: INTERACTIVE THEATRE AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE Michael Rohd, author of Theatre for Community, Conflict, and Dialogue, will share his work as founder of Hope Is Vital, an international theatre and community dialogue resource. Explore performance process and issue-based dialogue with groups; work On facilitation, improvisation, movement, ensemble, and generating performance material. Make art while learning tools to take back to your group.

Each workshop costs \$300 with optional room and board available at Amherst College for an additional fee. To register, or for further information call (413) 256-6385 or email Sabrina.H.Hamilton@williams.edu or visit www.kofest.com.

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Got a problem? Need information? Got suggestions? Drop us a line.