



Puppet Patter

The Official Publication of the Chicagoland Puppetry Guild

A Quarterly Publication

September 2019

The Chicagoland Puppetry Guild Annual Banquet 2019

by Mel Biske

On Sunday, September 15, 2019, twenty members and guests gathered for the annual observance of founding the CPG. It was the time to recognize the past years efforts of promoting and preserving the art of puppetry. For the fourth year the locations was Pizanos Pizza and Pasta in Glenview, Illinois. We would like to thank Jill Frederickson once again for arranging the date and setting the procedure for members to make reservations on line. She was also the “Hostess with the mostess!”



Dinner was set for 4:00 p.m. allowing the guests to take the short drive from the Book Market following the 2:00 p.m. performance by Dave Rozmarynowski and his Roz Puppets production of *The Boy Who Saw Martians*. Performing with Dave we were delighted to meet Dave’s new bride of one year, Carolyn. When she was asked, how did you two meet she replied, “Why, at a puppet show of course!” (See the performance review by Dave Herzog in this issue)

While it is the custom of the guild to hold a swearing in ceremony for newly elected officers, it was postponed at this time. Our guild, under the guidance of President, Connor Asher, is currently under going the process of re-organization.

Highlight of the day were guests Tim and Rose Dunworth, the parents of Marc Dunworth. It was about a year after Marc’s untimely death that his family decided to launch a foundation in his name for him to be remembered. It was named *The Marc Dunworth Foundation for the Performing Arts*. It is a non-profit organization to promote and encourage the performing arts, especially the puppet arts, through grants, scholarships, performances and education.



Their efforts proved to be a success. Members of the Dunworth family were present as well when Tim and Rose presented an oversize check in the form of a grant addressed to the Chicagoland Puppetry Guild in the amount of \$1000. Connor graciously accepted the generous offer and assured the Dunworth family that one of the uses would be to complete and produce Marc’s unfinished production of *The Ugly Duckling* in the name of the CPG. When complete it will be toured in his name.

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Darling Grenadine

A New Musical at Marriott Theatre

Book and Lyrics by Daniel Zaitchik

Reviewed by Dave Herzog

This summer, Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, Illinois, as part of its new works series, presented *Darling Grenadine* - a new musical by David Zaitchik. Many Chicago area and Midwestern puppeteers attended this excellent new work in no small part because one of the stars of the show was none other than the remarkably talented master marionette artist Phillip Huber in the role of Paul the Dog.



Originally fully staged at the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Connecticut, in 2017. *Darling Grenadine* is set in New York City, and is the story of Harry (played by the smooth voiced Heath Saunders) a talented Millennial age composer who has made an early name for himself by writing a four note Jingle for the fictional nation wide Betty's Burger chain. The jingle, while allowing him financial stability, has also stifled his creative output, much to the frustration of his agent who keeps leaving him unanswered voice mails for more jingle trade work.

Harry's financial stability has allowed him to help his adopted brother Paul (played by the very talented Nick Cosgrove) open a trendy Manhattan bar where Harry plays standard tunes on Monday nights. The show opens in Harry's apartment where we see Harry saying goodbye to his dog (also named Paul) as he leaves to play at the human Paul's bar. This first scene is crucial in that it introduces

the audience to the fact that Paul the Dog is portrayed by a remarkably life-like, life-size silver Labrador Retriever marionette created and manipulated by Phillip Huber. Once this scene is accomplished the audience is completely invested in the character Paul the dog, and Phillip Huber blends completely into the background.

At the bar Harry confides through the lilting song "Swell" that he has met a young lady that he is very interested in. The young lady in question is a Broadway chorus performer named Louise (played by the beautiful and golden voiced Katherine Thomas) currently appearing in the revival of the fictional Broadway Show "Paradise". Louise is also the understudy for the show's leading lady who is an old friend of Paul and Harry's.

Harry and Louise have an almost instant chemistry, but as their relationship develops we come to understand that Harry while always willing to encourage others, is unable to motivate himself, and hides his insecurities in ever increasing amounts of alcohol. After a night spent together Harry forgets to set an alarm because he is too drunk to remember and causes Louise to be very late for an important understudy rehearsal. Unknown to Louise in an attempt to regain her good graces Harry and Paul concoct a scheme to let her go on for the leading lady of "Paradise" a situation Louise is not mentally ready for and despite a great performance Louise is furious with Harry for being so selfish as to not recognize her insecurities and forcing her into a situation that has made her feel like a fool.

Act one ends with Harry finally deciding through the song "No good for Me" that he needs to go on the wagon, as Paul the dog joyfully leaps around him as he pours his liquor down the sink.

Act Two finds Harry sworn off booze, and trying to win back Louise who is still good friends with Paul the human brother, with the song "Grenadine". Harry is gradually winning Louise back when tragedy strikes. Paul the Dog is terminally ill, and Harry does not notice until it is too late. Unable to face up to the reality of the situation Harry escapes again into alcohol, and Harry and Louise have to take Paul on his final journey. The remarkable moving accapella "Say Something Paul" followed by Paul's slow painful walk into the vets treatment room is as gut wrenching a moment as you are ever to see in a play and is handled with great sensitivity by director and cast alike. The emotional reaction of the audience is palpable and visceral with many people openly weeping.

With Paul's life in a shambles, he is now estranged from Louise and his brother Paul and faces New Years Eve utterly alone. Several months go by when Harry receives a call from Louise. It seems it is her opening night as the permanent replacement for the lead of the

musical "Paradise" and seeking reassurance, calls Harry who she knows, despite his own problems can calm her. The phone call is a healing moment for both Louise and Harry. Louise goes on to give a smash hit performance in the show (and here Katherine Thomas stops the show with and powerful rendition of the torch Song "Paradise" with her voice soaring to star quality heights), and Harry finds the strength to begin writing again, and, at least for now, stay sober.

Several years go by and Harry and Louise meet as friends. Louise is now a big Broadway star, married and about to give birth to her first child. Harry while still estranged from Paul hopes for reconciliation, and presents Louise with a portfolio of songs that he hopes will soon become a musical. Over a cup of tea the two cement what we now know will be a life long friendship.

As Harry is about to enter his apartment building he looks up and says are you lost?, and is approached by a lovable labradoodle played now by a real dog. Harry's healing while not complete at least is full of hope.

Darling Grenadine is a complex, modern, innovative and thoroughly engaging musical acted and sung by a superb cast. David Zaitchik has created a compelling story partly based on real people in the world of music and theater in New York. The show was beautifully produced by the Marriott Lincolnshire Theater, and in 2020 will play an off Broadway black box theater presentation produced by The Roundabout Theater Company.

A shout out must be given to actors Allison Sill, and Brandon Springman who play all the other characters in the show, ranging from a Broadway chorus, waiters, bar patrons, and in general the entire population of Manhattan with incredible skill. David Zaitchik (who has been nominated for a Jeff Award) has written music ranging from Broadway show stoppers, to pop standards, to torch songs, and a delightfully silly song moment in "Everytime a Waitress Calls Me Honey" and a heartfelt tribute to the Big Apple in "I'll never leave Manhattan"

Of course of most interest to puppeteers is the work of Phillip Huber. In Paul the dog, Phillip has created the true masterpiece of his career with a dog marionette so skillfully crafted that a legitimate theater audience

is completely invested in the character, not as a puppet playing a dog, but as a real dog invoking all the heartfelt love humans feel for man's best friend. Phillip's brilliant performance is supplemented by Mike Nappi providing Paul the Dog's very effective voice in the form of a muted trumpet. Another tribute to Phillip's artistry is the cast's willingness to be fully invested in Paul's character, and act with the puppet as naturally as they would with a real dog. Phillip Huber has also been nominated for the prestigious Joseph Jefferson (Jeff) award in the category of best puppet design.

With a glass of Grenadine, I toast *Darling Grenadine the Musical*, with the hope that Broadway looms in its future.



Talkback with Marionette Master: Phillip Huber

by Connor Asher

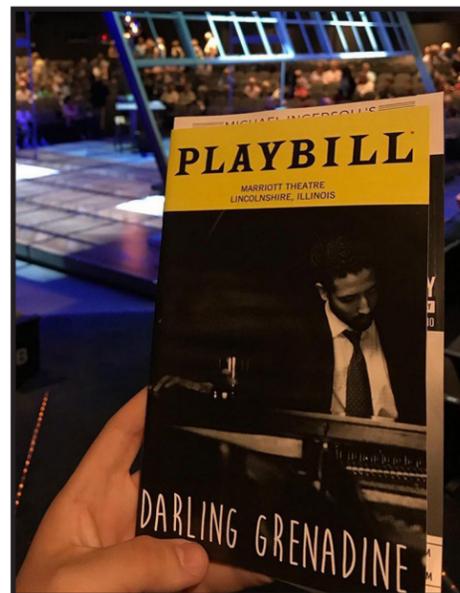
The Chicagoland Puppetry Guild hosted a special “talkback session” following the 7:30 p.m. performance of *Darling Grenadine* on August 8th, 2019, with Marionette Master, Phillip Huber at the Marriott Theater in Lincolnshire, IL.

All attendees were asked to meet in the upstairs lobby following the performance. Phillip offered each attendee a backstage tour, demonstration & Q/A session on the Paul the Dog Marionette. Built, designed, and performed by the Huber Marionettes.



In attendance for the talkback was Connor Asher, Kathy Valdivia, Lyssa Tromell, Rachel Appelbaum, Susan A. Witek, Fred Putz, Marilyn Putz, Eric Frederickson, and Jill Frederickson.

Special thank you to Phillip Huber and the Marriott Theater, Lincolnshire for hosting this event.



The Ugliest Duckling

by Connor Asher

Creventive Puppet Company is honored to announce our involvement in the remount of *The Ugliest Duckling*, originally created by Marc Dunworth that premiered at Tears of Joy Theatre in Portland, Oregon in 2011.

“Set in Australia and starring a cast of vibrant and colorful creatures, *The Ugliest Duckling* adds a twist to an old tale. Imagine mother duck’s surprise when an egg in her nest hatched into a platypus! Yuckay the platypus gains self-confidence as he uses his talents to help others and bravely faces Kurreah the Crocodile. *The Ugliest Duckling* teaches children that everyone is unique in their own right.”

This remount will be created in partnership with the Marc Dunworth Foundation for the Performing Arts for release in 2020. More details to come...



You are invited to visit The Marc Dunworth Foundation for the Performing Arts

The Marc Dunworth Foundation for the Performing Arts, is a non-profit organization founded to promote and encourage the performing arts, especially the puppet arts, through grants, scholarships, performances and education.

Please visit our web site for more information
www.dunworthfoundation.org



2019 Great Lakes Regional Puppeteers Potlatch November 1 - 3, 2019 Potawatomi Inn, Pokagon State Park, Angola, IN

Potlatch is almost here! Make sure to register early. Visit the Puppeteers Potlatch website to register and save \$10 on the cost of the conference. You must make a separate reservation with the Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park. Call 877-563-4371 (toll free) or 260-833-1077 direct. Tell them you are with the Great Lakes Puppeteers. PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WITH THE INN BY OCTOBER 1 FOR BEST CHOICE OF ROOMS.

www.puppeteerspotlatch.org

2019 O'Neill National Puppetry Conference

by Connor Asher



I wanted to share a few experiences from my time at the 2019 O'Neill National Puppetry Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center.

Before I go into the specifics let me tell you a little bit about what the National Puppetry Conference is.

The National Puppetry Conference is an annual puppetry conference held in June at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, Connecticut.

Every summer they host week long intensive for all areas of theater including playwriting, acting, puppetry and more with a large site/campus to house all their participants, staff and teachers. In addition to housing, the conference provides food from their dining hall during your entire stay. The staff is extremely helpful and always around the corner.

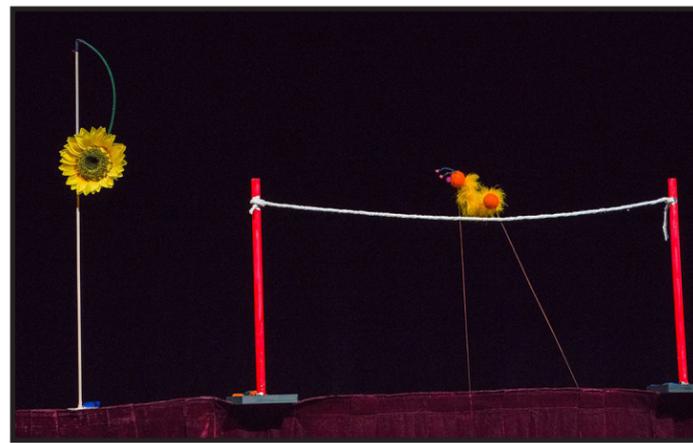
All the shops are on-site including the puppet building workshop, rehearsal halls, theaters and more. (Including the famous pub. Woot woot.)

The conference hosts both a pre-conference and the main conference. There are only a certain number of people allowed in per year, so in order to attend each year - you need to sign up and fill out an application on their website.

While signing up, you can select what you would like to be doing during the conference. Every year they provide a variety of different classes and teachers to choose. These are called tracks. Outside of tracks they also have resident company members where people can sign up to audition & work on a particular artist's piece. This year was a whirlwind.

This year, I applied for the Marionette strand to be able to work more with Jim Rose as well as learn marionette technique.

There's something I find very special about marionettes. Especially being surrounded by the energy and love of



them from my fellow friends/mentors: David Herzog, Marc Dunworth, and Fred Putz. It's something that's not very common that I really wanted to help contribute to and learn. I applied with this intention in addition to wanting to develop CPC's "Hands & Strings: A Puppet Variety show" to include marionettes.

This year, I was fortunate enough this year to be accepted into that exact strand and received a scholarship. (Thanks Gene M.)

This would be my first main conference, since the year prior I was only able to attend the pre-conference.

Unfortunately this year Jim Rose wasn't able to attend but chose two very special people to take his place - Kurt Hunter and Ulysses Jones.



Kurt & Kathy Hunter



Ulysses Jones

Before I go into the class, this for anyone who doesn't know of the Rose family.

The Roses (Margo and Rufus Rose) were the world-famous puppeteers who worked and created the Howdy Doody show amongst many more credits. One of their most unique was using string for joints. The string was thread through the various body parts (arms/legs/etc) that joined them together and provided a very natural, smooth movement.

Kurt and Ulysses stepped up big time and worked wonderfully together to help each participant including myself take home completed marionettes in 5 days!

There's so much more to say but I'll leave that for another post.

I'm so grateful to have met and caught up with so many faces while creating new works of art under one roof. Until next time.



Monkey Marionette built during the Marionette Construction strand led by Kurt Hunter and Ulysses Jones using Jim Rose's techniques. Photo by Richard Termine #richardtermine

The CPG is on Facebook, too!
Be sure to check us out!



The Boy Who Saw Martians

The Roz Puppets

Reviewed by Dave Herzog

On Sunday September 15th The Book Market at The Glen Town Center, in conjunction with the Chicagoland Puppetry Guild, presented The Roz Puppets of Mishawaka, Indiana, in *The Boy Who Saw Martians*. Dave Rozmarynowski, assisted by his lovely Wife Carolyn, gave the audience a show not soon to be forgotten.



The Boy Who Saw Martians is of course a take off on the old folk tale *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*. The Roz Puppets version of the story finds the boy trying to get back in the good graces of the Mayor after his unfortunate incident with crying wolf. The shepherd boy is given a second chance only to find his flock of sheep invaded by Martians. The Martians simply need to find a source of warm clothes, so upon discovering sheep's wool is warm, begin to abduct and then shear the sheep with high tech speed. Hilarity ensues with a very quick changes from woolly sheep to a shorn.

The Boy discovers the Martian (a very clever fuzzy blue glove puppet with tentacles that move when he talks) and is invited on board his ship for a trip to Mars. Here, all of the children learn The Martian Hop Dance, assisted by several magnificently tall Martian puppets and the lovely Ms. Carolyn, resplendent in her space themed dress covered in planets, stars, and rocket ships.

The stage manager for the above fast paced hilarity is the often confused, and frustrated Rufus the Dog, assisted by Pete the rat and a very funny chipmunk named Charlie who keeps bringing up a whoopee cushion.

Dave creates his own beautiful "muppet" style hand and rod puppets and has endowed them with very definite personalities of their own. Dave's live voices are some of the best you will find in the business of puppetry today. The stage is a very attractive proscenium hand puppet stage painted in neutrals of brown and beige accented in gold. The pace and energy of show by the Roz Puppets can't be beat.



Charlie the Chipmunk teases Rufus the Dog with his whoopee cushion.

I would like to note here that for personal reasons Dave had to step back from puppetry for a while, but I am happy to report the Roz Puppets are back and better than ever. I look forward to many more shows from The Roz Puppets.



Ms. Carolyn helps teach the audience The Martian Hop Dance.



Safari Adventure

Mr. Kipley's Puppets and Magic

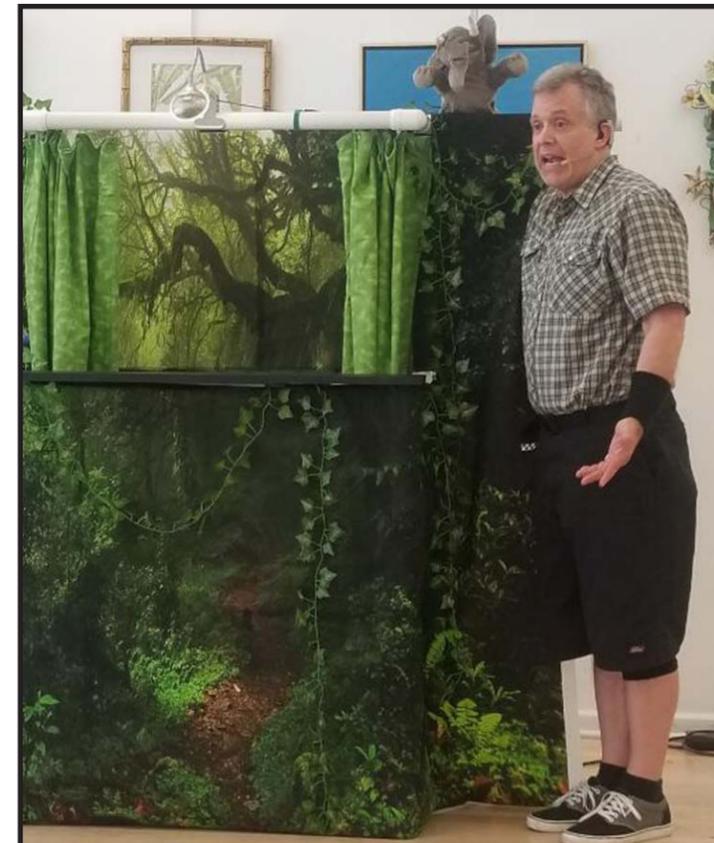
By Dave Herzog

The Glen Town Center Puppet Theater Series at The Book Market presented Mr. Kipley's Puppets and Magic in *Safari Adventure* on July 13th, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. CPG member Kipley Wentz is an amazingly skilled children's performer, deftly combining puppetry, magic, live music and lively crowd pleasing audience participation in his shows. Each of Mr. Kipley's shows is a journey or quest with puppets appearing out of, on top of and around a visually appealing puppet booth decorated with very slick computer generated masking appropriate to the theme of the show, not only providing the masking for the stage but a visually striking backdrop for the entire performance.



During *Safari Adventure* we meet many animals played by deftly operated commercially made high quality hand puppets. An orangutan, lion, and parrot are but a few of the animals encountered in *Safari Adventure*, each with his own clearly distinct and well acted character. Each of the characters play off of Mr. Kipley's excellent stage persona, which is that of a somewhat bumbling, self-deprecating and often confused everyman who, try as he might, never seems to be able to win the day from the more wise and headstrong puppet characters. This character works especially well in the audience participation moments in the show, where once again the children are skillfully guided in helping to solve Mr. Kipley's problems.

Kipley Wentz is a master at audience participation, possessing a natural ability to guide children while always letting them appear smarter, and more adept than the stage persona Mr. Kipley, who although somewhat inept, is always a remarkably likable fellow who has great appeal to children. Watching Kipley work so naturally and skillfully



with children is a rare treat. Despite a very small audience of very young children Kipley was able to hold their attention though out an almost 45 minute presentation that resulted in thoroughly entertained entertained children, and delighted parents.

I've had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Kipley's Puppets and Magic perform three times, and while he was a very good performer to begin with, he just keeps getting better, and better. *Safari Adventure* is a gem of a show, that is sure to be pleasing Mr. Kipley's audiences for years to come.



Standing in the Wings!

THE GLEN
TOWN CENTER

PUPPET THEATER SERIES

Performers and performances subject to change. Dates and showtimes subject to change. Check CPG website /events page for updates.

October

THE GLEN
TOWN CENTER

PUPPET THEATER SERIES

Dave Herzog's
Marionettes
presents

**Halloween
Hi-Jinks**

Family entertainment
Saturday, October 12, 2019
11 -11:45 am
The Book Market at Hanger One
2651 Navy Blvd. • Glenview



Space is limited. Register online for this performance

November

THE GLEN
TOWN CENTER

PUPPET THEATER SERIES

Jeannie M
Crecente
PUPPET SHOWS
presents

Pinocchio

Family entertainment
November 2019
The Book Market at Hanger One
2651 Navy Blvd. • Glenview



Space is limited. Register online for this performance

December

THE GLEN
TOWN CENTER

PUPPET THEATER SERIES

The Melikin Puppets
presents

**the Shoemaker and
the Elves**
and
**the Night Before
Christmas**

Family entertainment
December 2019
The Book Market at Hanger One • 2651 Navy Blvd. • Glenview



Space is limited. Register online for this performance

Outreach Program

in Action

by Jill Frederickson

On September 24, 2019, the Chicagoland Puppetry Guild put on a free "Make and Take" workshop at the Elmwood Public Library. This library graciously hosts us every month for board meetings and other gatherings and this event was a thank you for that support. Susan Fulcher of Suzette's Puppets brought the fun, providing the materials and know-how to make pool noodle puppets. These are a variation on pop-up stick puppets with mouth moving action. About 12 patrons came and created wonderful and individual puppets. There was a lot of laughing and the librarian was very pleased with the turn out for this evening event. Guild participants including Connor Asher, Dave Herzog and Jill Frederickson provided hot glue and design assistance as well as a couple of other puppets to interact with the public.



Connor Asher and Librarian Carol Loughnane



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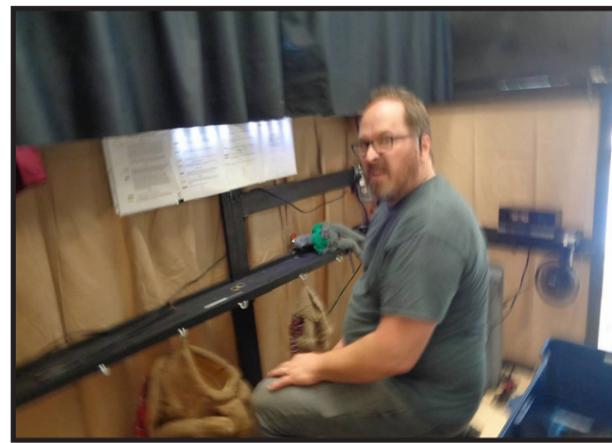
Wait! There's More!

by Mrs. Silence Dogood

More than 130 pictures were taken on September 15th at the Glen Town Center performance and the banquet that followed. Although we cannot put *all* of them in this publication, we wanted to share some of the highlights of the day. Thank you to Jeff Biske and Kathy Validivia for these pics from that day!



Sheperd Boy and the Mayor



Dave in pre-show mode. "Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain!"



Dave and Carolyn warm-up the audience



Demonstrating puppet manipulation



Dave and Pete the Rat



Dave Herzog and Billy Bob (from Pumpkin Patch Review) make a new friend



Connor and Dave greet the guests



Dave Herzog and Travis McClendon



Debbie Potts (Fred's daughter) and Fred Bertchold



Steven Widerman and Linda Bookheim



Kathy Validivia and Alfredo Donatre



Eric and Jill Frederickson



Rose and Tim Dunworth



Sue Dunworth



Susan Fulcher



Fiona Wilson



Mel Biske and Connor Asher



3/4 of the Melikin Puppets
LaVerne, Jeff, and Mel Biske



Our guests of honor
Dave and Carolyn Roz(marynowski)

Have You Checked Out the CPG Website Lately?



Be sure to visit our guild's web site on a regular basis for the latest postings on what's happening in the Chicago area, the latest on the Great Lakes Regional Festival and a roster of active and newly added puppeteers. Events and Shows page has the latest posting of local performing companies, their current production and a link to their web sites, current and past issues of the Puppet Pater, and more!

Our address is:

www.chicagopuppetguild.org

...and while we're on the subject, the CPG site will be going through a few "cosmetic" changes in the coming months so keep watching!



Welcome to the new look Puppet Patter!

For those of you that read the Patter on a regular basis, you may notice a little design change. The Patter was relaunched in December of 2013 sporting the new CPG logo and a new masthead (what you see at the top of the first page). In the grand scheme of things, six years is not a long time, but in the design world it can be an eternity. Having a little time on my hands, I began "playing" with the layout and came up with this. The new design is a little cleaner and up to date. The design (fonts, colors, etc.) will be carried through the Patter providing a continuity in the design and look of the publication (not that it was lacking over the past six years). If you're anything like me, I don't really like change but every now and then, it's needed to stay fresh. I hope you enjoy the "new look" Patter.

Jeff Biske
Publisher

Leave 'em Laughin'!



You're gonna be fine, mister, but I can't say the same for your little buddy there... The way I hear it, he's the one that mouthed off to them gunfighters in the first place.

Gary Larson, "The Far Side Gallery 2", Eighth Printing 1988



chicagoland puppetry guild

www.chicagopuppetguild.org • chicagolandpuppetryguild@yahoo.com • facebook.com/cpguild

Mission Statement

The Chicagoland Puppetry Guild is a non-profit organization and is part of a national organization of performers promoting the art of puppetry. Our role is to honor, promote, encourage, and inspire all forms of puppetry arts and puppeteers in their endeavours and to provide a fellowship of cooperation and inspiration to puppeteers everywhere.

Chicagoland Puppetry Guild Membership Application for October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020

Send this application with check payable to: **Chicagoland Puppetry Guild** to:
Kathy Validivia, 310 Lathrop, Unit 307, Forest Park, IL 60130

Please Print All Information Neatly

Membership Yearly Votes

- Couple/Family.....\$30.....2
- Adult\$20.....1
- Company\$30.....2
- Senior (62+)\$15.....1
- Student\$15.....1
- Junior (15-).....\$15.....1
- Associate\$15.....0

Application Date _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____

Name _____ Birth date _____
mo/day/year

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell (_____) _____

Email _____ Preferred contact Home phone Cell phone Email

Additional names associated with this membership:

Name _____ Birth date _____
mo/day/year

A membership directory is published and distributed among the membership in November. Would you and/or your company like to be listed in this directory? (please check all that apply)

- YES - Please list me in this directory
- YES - Please list my company in this directory
- NO - I do not wish to be listed in this directory

Please list any additional information you would like to add. CPG will make every effort to include this additional information in the directory.

I perform	I am interested in		I perform	I am interested in	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marionettes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Puppet Builder
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand Puppets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Librarian
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shadow Puppets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teacher
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ventriloquist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Puppet Ministry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rod Puppets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Puppet Enthusiast
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Film/Video	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Semi-Professional (part time puppeteer)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Costume Maker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Professional (make my living in puppetry)

Other: _____

Occasionally the Guild is asked for sources for puppet shows, workshops, and more. If you are interested in our referral, please indicate what services you or your company can provide and what your limitations are. Please include your website if applicable.

Are you a member of any other puppetry related organizations? (please check all that apply)

- Puppeteers of America UNIMA USA Storytelling Guild or network Other (please specify)

For more information about the Chicagoland Puppetry Guild contact CPG President - Connor Asher at connorasher@creventivestudios.com

Please print your name and return address in the space below

Please fill out this form completely and mail to address below with your payment

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 Chicagoland Puppetry Guild Membership
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