

PUPPETRY ARTS INSTITUTE



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Founded 2001

Summer 2018 Edition

Hats Off to Harry

by Ann Ragan



In 2009 the Puppetry Arts Institute collaborated with JoAnn McMillan as an artist-in-residence in order to create a show for the 125th anniversary of President Truman's birth. It is called "Hats Off to Harry." JoAnn wrote the script about Truman's formative years, taking him from his very first memory as a child to his teenage friendship and beginning his romance with Bess Wallace in Independence, Missouri. JoAnn spent the rest of 2009 finishing the script and creating hand puppets after

the Truman family. Shown in the photo are JoAnn, accompanied by Nancy Clark, called back to the Truman Library this year to perform the show once again during the week of June 11th through the 15th. JoAnn, on the left, is holding the hand puppet representing the young Truman, and Nancy is holding the puppet representing the young Bess.

Truman Railroad Days at Chicago Alton Depot

Another event repeated this year on May 5th was Ann Ragan's performance of the 1948 Whistle Stop Campaign speeches with the two-foot tall Truman marionette, carved by Robert Leroy Smith. They were named whistle stop tours because the time spent at each train station was limited to 10 to 15 minutes followed by a whistle warning before departing. These speeches were recorded and preserved for the Truman Library in Truman's voice. Leslie Hagensen, our Administrative Assistant, also volunteers at the Truman Library, and assisted us in obtaining the recordings. You might even hear some discussion of the topics of Truman's speeches repeated today. They are about the "Do Nothing Congress," "Farm Issues," "Get Out to Vote," and "Vote a Straight Democratic Ticket." The train platform at Chicago Alton Depot and Museum, although not actually used on the 1948 tour, made a perfect stage in the train yard.



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Royal Weddings

By Ann Ragan

(Puppets pictured are from the Hazelle collection at Puppetry Arts Institute.)

The union of Prince Harry of England and U.S. actress Meghan Markel reminded me of the fairy tale wedding of Prince Rainier of Monaco and U.S. actress Grace Kelly on April 19th, 1956. (The same week of the wedding of Margaret Truman and Clifton Daniel.) Since Grace and her husband built a puppet theatre in Monaco and ordered a number of marionettes from Hazelle's factory, I decided to investigate our Hazelle collection for princes and princesses.

None of the puppets were named after Grace and Rainier. The blond brides from the Hazelle collection are sometimes labelled as princesses and vice versa. The two versions of the prince (#416) are shown with these brides (upper left #902 made in the early 1940s with a composition head and dark hair) and princess (#415). Another famous Hazelle couple is Cinderella and Prince Charming. Hazelle #902 is wearing Snow White's apron, and she is the only princess bride with dark hair.

Valentinetti Puppet Museum Visitor

By Anitra Steele

Stanley Hess, Curator of the Valentinetti Puppet Museum in Bremerton, Washington, paid a surprise visit to the Puppetry Arts Institute in May. Mr. Hess came to tour our museum and give us materials about the Valentinetti Museum. The Aurora Valentinetti Puppet Museum and Kitsap County Historical Museum are located in the former First Seattle National Bank building, in Bremerton. The Museum is an integral part of the Evergreen Children's Theater, and includes Hazelle and over 1,000 other international American puppets, stage props, hangings and accessories. The museum also offers a children's play area with two puppet stages and a gift shop. The Valentinetti Puppet Museum celebrates the art of puppetry through creative, historical and cultural experiences for all ages. Their Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/ValentinettiPuppetMuseum>.

Performance Schedule

Puppets on Strings

Clement McCrae Puppet Shows

Saturday,
July 21st
11am & 2pm



Sizzlin' Summer Showcase

Kraig Kensinger, puppeteer



Friday,
August 17,
7 pm

Saturday,
August 18th
11am & 2pm

Circus Circus

Kraig Kensinger,
puppeteer

Saturday,
September 8th
11am & 2pm



Halloween in Boo Town

Kraig Kensinger,
Puppeteer



Saturday, Oct 13, 11am & 2pm
Saturday, Oct 19, 7pm
Saturday, Oct 20, 11am & 2 pm

Please call to confirm shows, dates
and times, as they are
subject to change.

Reservations are suggested.

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 Truman Heartland Community Foundation

Thanks to all our wonderful sponsors and donors! We appreciate your support!

Any recent donations or grants received after newsletter sent for printing will be included in our next issue.

Strawberry Festival

by Ann Ragan



This was the second year of our participation in the Strawberry Festival which was held at the Vaile Mansion again on Saturday, June 2nd. Typically, the booths were selling a variety of crafts and food like strawberry shortcake, ice-cream with strawberries and strawberry popsicles. Kathy Rohr, David and Ann Ragan and friends set up the tent and brought Puppetry Arts Institute googly eyes, finger puppets and stick puppets for sale along with brochures of puppet show schedules, newsletters and Independence tour guides. Many children attended with their parents.

Summer Puppet Camp at PAI

Our summer puppet camp is "Performing with Puppets." It will be at PAI from July 18-20, 2018, for children ages 7-14.

Sessions are as follows:

Wednesday, July 18, Shadow Puppets
 Thursday, July 19, Hand Puppets
 Friday, July 20, Marionettes

The camp culminates in an evening performance July 20 by the students at the Third Friday Art Walk in the Englewood Arts District from 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$75 for all 3 days or \$30 for individual sessions. For questions or reservations, call PAI at 816-833-9777, or email us at pai@att.net.



If you would like to help us grow, we are a 501(c)3 organization, and donations can be sent to us at: Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd, Independence, MO 64052, (816) 833-9777. Email: pai@att.net. We will send you a statement for tax purposes.

From Our Board President

During this time of stress at the border of our country the turbulence there pulls at the hearts of those who care for children.

Over the years hundreds of volunteers have devoted their time and resources at the Puppetry Arts Institute to serve children. Generally, these children come from loving homes where they are encouraged to explore, follow their interests and dreams, and be hugged if they experience failure or disappointment. From this point on Puppetry Arts Institute can help build their creativity and self confidence. On the other hand we have gone to women's shelters and the Salvation Army where there may only be one caretaker. Here we can offer a few moments of relief from their worries and concerns.

So what can we do now under these circumstances? We can only affect change where we are and with what is available to us. If we can't be there with those children, we can be here offering what we have and volunteering to help the children with our shows and workshops. We hope there is one small way you can find to volunteer and help change the here and now for the better.

Sincerely,

Ann Ragan

President



Audience participation in the chicken yard at "Old McDonald's Farm Show," performed by Kraig Kensinger on Saturday, June 23 at PAI.

PUPPETRY ARTS INSTITUTE
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