

PUPPETRY ARTS INSTITUTE



Volume XIX, Issue I

Founded 2001

Winter 2019 Edition

2019 Performance Season

By Kraig Kensinger

Board of Directors

Ann Ragan, President
Kathy Vest, Treasurer
Anitra Steele, Secretary
Paul Bond • Ann DeYoung
Teri Hare
Kathy Rohr
Joyce Stone

Advisors

Lisa Cianciolo • Nancy Clark
Nancy Krupa • John McCrae
John W. Rollins, Jr.

Steering Committee

Penny Fenning • Anitra Steele

In Memoriam

Pady Blackwood
Diane Houk
E. T. Houk
Bruce Davis
Betty Lee House
Robert Leroy Smith

Inside This Issue:

The Gift Shop	2
Trader's Corner	2
Giving a Hand for Puppets	3
Performance Schedule	3
Our Sponsors and Donors	3
Letter from Our President	4

PAI is proud to announce our 2019 performance season celebrating seventeen years of diverse puppet presentations. Artistic director Kraig Kensinger will create five productions over the year. They will include *Bear Bonanza*, *The Wolf and Little Red*, *Puppets: A to Z*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Coming Up Christmas*. PAI's Anitra Steele will delight the younger crowd in January with her clever *Space Creatures Meet Mother Goose*.

Nationally known comedy ventriloquist Bob Abdou will travel from Columbus Ohio in March. He will amuse with his Mr. Puppet variety show and a special Become A Ventriloquist workshop. In April we are pleased to host an appearance by Stone Lion Puppet Theatre. They will share an original adaptation of Kansas City author Lisa Campbell-Ernst children's book *Bubba and Trixie*. Brian Henning from Bellevue Nebraska will shine in May with his witty *Once Upon A Puppet Show*. And our show in October will feature the return of Papa and Jackie Wright from University City Missouri. The duo will present a live music and puppet /storytelling version of *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*.

So if you live in our area we invite you to come and be a supportive audience member. Our troupe of puppet artists strive to offer programs that entertain, educate and enrich.



"Mr Puppet" (Bob Abdou) will appear for PAI on March 15 & 16



Mime artist Beth Byrd will appear with Bob Abdou and Kraig Kensinger at PAI's "Cavalcade of Stars" on March 15. (See page 3 for details.)



PUPPETRY ARTS INSTITUTE

11025 E Winner Road,
Independence, MO 64052

Phone: (816) 833-9777

Email: pai@att.net ■ On the Web: www.puppetryartsinstitute.org

The Gift Shop

Christmas brought many shoppers to the Puppetry Arts Institute looking for that one special gift to delight a child. The Hazelle marionettes donated by collectors are always changing and offering surprises for those who are searching for a certain character. The California manufacturer Melissa & Doug hand puppets have been popular ever since a ventriloquist contestant during the 2016 Miss America pageant performed with one. Wooden toys were featured this year with puzzles that sing nursery rhymes, wooden magnetic advent calendars, and wooden "paper dolls" that morph into police, firefighters, doctors and super heroes. Chinese villages and Medieval towns can spring up from the pages of a book. Giant puzzles can cover the floor of a playroom or form the backdrop for a puppet show. There are wizards, clowns, dragons and farm animals there to greet you. Come visit us and you are sure to find a world of creative gifts to take home with you.



Items recently for sale in the PAI Gift Shop.

Trader's Corner

After several requests that PAI help our customers buy, sell or trade original Hazelle marionettes and hand puppets as well as Hazelle collections, we have decided to list names and contact information on our website where shoppers can go to find what they want. While our in house shop will always accept donations of Hazelle marionettes and hand puppets to re-sell and give you a tax write-off for your donation to a 501(c)3 organization, now we can also help you trade or purchase Hazelle items and products online. From now on we will post your contact information on our website at puppetryartsinstitute.org. It will be up to you to give specific information on your own website.

Currently being sold in a lot are 90 marionettes, 18 hand puppets, 8 marionette books, 16 original puppet plays, 18 paper items which came with marionettes and a stand for hanging marionettes. Contact Carol at (253) 820-2082.

Giving a Hand for Puppets

Rodney Shoaf, employee of Southeast Enterprises, helped the PAI by die-cutting over 1000 pairs of felt puppet hands this fall.

When our previous die cutting service provider closed their business, a new source was sought. Anitra Steele remembered that Southeast Enterprises, a Raytown based "sheltered workshop," had the necessary equipment to produce die-cut items for the children's department of Mid-Continent Public Library. After a short visit with their staff to cost out our project, soon Rodney had given PAI a "hand."

Thank you, Rodney! We will be bringing you more felt in the spring.



"Melissa & Doug" puppets are popular items at the PAI Gift Shop.

If you would like to help us grow, we are a 501(c)3 organization and we will send you a statement for tax purposes. Please mail your donations to us at 11025 E. Winner Road, Independence, MO 64052 or call PAI at 816-833-9777 for more information.

Performance Schedule

Saturday, February 16

Monday, February 18

BEAR BONANZA

Kraig Kensinger, puppeteer

Performance times 11 am & 2 pm



Saturday, March 16, 11 a.m.

ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY

MR. PUPPET (Bob Abdou)

with

Ventriloquist Class/Workshop
at 2 pm— \$25 (ages 10 and up)



Saturday, April 27

BUBBA & TRIXIE

Performed by the

Stone Lion Puppet Theatre

Performance
Times
11 am & 2 pm



Saturday, May 18

ONCE UPON A
PUPPET SHOW

Performed by Brian Henning
A Henning Puppet Production

Performance times

11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Friday, March 15, 2019, at 7:30 pm

Puppetry Arts Institute presents

CAVALCADE OF STARS

A variety entertainment fundraiser, featuring

Bob Abdou, *comedy-ventriloquist*

Beth Byrd, *mime/physical theatre artist*

Kraig Kensinger, *marionette artist*

Location:

The Roger T. Sermon Community Center

201 N. Dodgion St.

(corner of Truman & Noland Rd.)

Independence, MO

Donation: \$20

For reservations, call 816-833-9777 or email pai@att.net

Our Sponsors and Donors

IN APPRECIATION OF THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS:

Bob Abdou
Susan Baker
HMF Beaudoin Family Foundation
Maynard Blackwood
Paul & Janet Bond
William Bundschu
A. Scott Cauger
JoAnna Dale
Chappell and Grubish
Charles and Toni Donaldson
Cockerell and McIntosh Pediatrics, P.C.
David and Sondra Dougherty
Friends of the Chicago Alton Depot
Ray and Nicki George
Daniel Green, Green Family Trust
Margaret Hurt Endowment
Independence Young Matrons
Lois Kaye
Harold and Joyce Koch
Gene and Nancy Krupa
John William Krupa
Tracy Lauritsen
Paul & Russell C. Leffel
Marilyn & Bruce Lowrey
John and Janice K. Mader
David and Connie Mayta
Robert J. Petza
D. Peter Newland
David and Ann Ragan
Michael & Carol Robison
Tom and Kathy Rohr
Richard Raymond
John and Ann Rollins
Marlyss & Earle Rowan
Charles and Anitra Steele
Gary Thompson
Kathy Troff
Randy and Kathy Vest
Lysle and Carolyn Weeks
Paul and Elinor White
Papa and Jackie Wright

IN MEMORIAM

In Memory of Debbie Thatcher,
Randy Thatcher

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

Arts KC
Cunningham/Weeks Advisory Fund
Francis Family Foundation
Missouri Arts Council
Missouri Humanities Council
Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation
Park Foundation
Speaks Family Legacy Chapel
Trudy Foundation
Truman Heartland Foundation

IN KIND DONATIONS/ SPECIAL THANKS

Jack Everly
GeoSpace Center
June Rain



Private Giving—Public Good



mid-america
arts alliance



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS



Missouri
Arts Council
The State of the Arts



Letter from our President

The PAI lost a talented board member in November 2018. Debbie Thatcher was recognized for her creative ideas and positive attitude. She attended classes at Johnson County Community College, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She was married to Randy Thatcher in 1976. Soon she became interested in decorative painting and rug hooking. She worked for Kansas City Parks and Recreation in an after-school craft program. She and Randy entered craft shows. When she attended doll art conferences in Santa Fe and New Orleans, she and Randy began reproducing porcelain dolls. She collected porcelain dolls as well. During our special Dolores Hadley display in 2016, Debbie brought original doll art figures from her collection created by Hadley. Together, Debbie and Randy Thatcher have renovated the shadow puppet display in the International Museum and hosted various open house fundraising exhibitions and events. We will miss Debbie's enthusiasm and creativity.

This spring promises to be exciting. March will bring an opportunity to learn ventriloquism from the best in the field, Bob Abdou, or "Mr. Puppet" as he is better known. Come to his show on Saturday, March 16th at 11:00 a.m. at PAI (Admission is \$6) and/or his ventriloquism class at 2:00 p.m. for ages 10 and up. The cost is \$25 which includes lecture notes and a take home DVD to hone your skills.

Ann Ragan

PAI Board of Directors



She will be missed.—We were sorry to learn of the loss of our board member Debbie Thatcher, who passed away on November 28, 2018.

Puppetry Arts Institute
11025 E. Winner Rd
Independence, MO 64052

