

PUPPETRY ARTS INSTITUTE



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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
or email pai@att.net
for more information.

Inside This Issue:

Marionette Art	2
In Memory of Lana White	2
New Kids on the Block Display	3
Our Sponsors and Donors	3
Museum Upgrades	4

Plans for Re-opening PAI



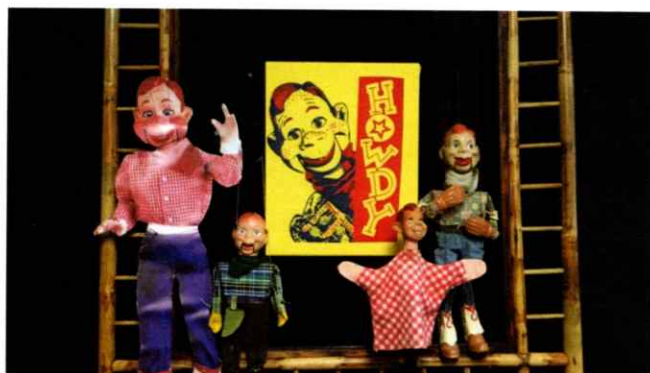
We hope that you and your family and friends are safe and well. This is the third time to write this newsletter. Each time the latest newsletter was ready for print another pandemic order was issued and we needed to adjust our plans. In addition to all the businesses and churches the arts organizations have been hit hard with this virus. As of this date, we have been closed for twelve weeks---no shows, events or puppet painting and no revenue, but thankfully, some donations have arrived. We did get the \$1,000 government money for the arts.

Plans are now forming for puppet painting at our site for very small groups beginning in mid-summer. We are also preparing "Puppets Painting Kits" for at home puppet painting sessions. Contact us about either of these options. Our puppet show schedule for the remainder of the year has changed and our wonderful out-of-town performers are obviously unable to come. Our tentative plan is to resume performances in September and we will update shows and times on our web site as they unfold. We will have limited seating for our shows and request that you make reservations to insure a seat, however, we do plan to offer additional show time options. Obviously, our two fundraiser events have been postponed and those who sent in reservation money will be guaranteed a place at our Puppets and Pastries event when we are allowed to open up PAI for this type of event. We hope that the bus trip we were planning this June can take place *next* June instead.

—Kathy Vest

Marionette Art by Kraig Kensinger

Kraig Kensinger and Kathy Vest are in production for a short film called "Marionette Art: Then & Now." The piece uses over fifty marionettes from the PAI archive to cover the diverse history of the marionette art form. Look forward to our premiere showing. Below are a few of our stars:



In Memory of Lana White, Former Board Member



PAI mourns the loss of Lana White,

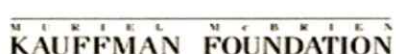
Lana White, a revered former board member, passed away March 2. A naturalized citizen of the USA, she was best known in our community as the person who helped establish both the Japan American Society in 1967, serving as a guide and translator for Japanese government officials, and the Independence, Sister City with Higashimurayama, Japan in 1979—a sister city relationship that continues to this day. She was a friend of PAI since it opened in 2001, assisting with projects and programs and introducing Japanese puppetry and culture into our shows. She also served as liaison between the director of the Nelson Atkins Museum and visiting performers like Andrew Tsubaki, coordinator for Noh and Kyogen Theater. In 1994, she arranged an impressive performance of the ancient art of Japanese puppetry performed to Shamisen and Koto music by an all-girl puppeteer troop. Her association with Kansas City area puppetry became personal as she assisted American puppeteer and friend, Emeline Dobbins, to perform throughout the metro area. As a board member of PAI, she loved helping kindergarten children paint their puppets and sewing on the costumes. She will be greatly missed. —Ann Ragan

New Kids on the Block Display at PAI



PAI will be sharing an exciting display in our main room through the Fall of this year. The Junior Service League of Independence, a dynamic women's community service organization, has donated their extensive collection from the "The Kids On The Block" puppet program. KOB is an educational puppet program which enlightens all children about disability awareness, medical /educational differences and social concerns. The national program began in 1977 and has sponsored thousands of performing troupes across the United States and in 30 different countries. The Junior Service League offered hundreds of free school and community performances until the late 1990's. The puppets and curriculum have been unused and in storage for a few years. They reached out to PAI and we will provide a new home for the collection. The informative exhibit will celebrate the JSL's 75th anniversary with an upcoming event at PAI on September 15. Many of their former volunteer puppeteer members will attend to share memories and celebrate their accomplished work. Though PAI will not be teaching the curriculum, the puppets will be used for demonstration and incorporated into a creative arts camp for elementary students. —*Kraig Kensinger*

Puppetry Arts Institute is appreciative of the generous support from the following organizations:



Our Sponsors and Donors

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IN KIND DONATIONS/ SPECIAL THANKS

Nancy Clark * Ron Herrick * David & Ann Ragan * Earle Rowan * Anitra Steele
Joyce Stone * Mary Jo Watkins

Thanks to Truman Heartland Community Foundation Donors for Our First Round of Museum Upgrades

In November of 2019, Puppetry Arts Institute received a very generous grant from the Truman Heartland Community Foundation which included donations from four other THCF donors: David and Connie Mayta Charitable Fund, Youth Advisory Council Endowment Fund, Hand-in-Hand Fund and the Lenora Wyre Charitable Fund.

The focus of the grant money is to improve the visitor experience at our museum. We purchased a mounted 32" screen television and DVD player for the Hazelle Room where we can show our visitors the video of her life and puppet making career. In addition, we purchased a large 62" screen television with DVD player and accessories to feature shows or present demonstrations. This will enable us to court businesses and civic groups to use our facility for their meetings. The large screen television will allow us to show "puppet-based" nostalgic shows for Friday Night Art Walks and Theater nights at PAI. Two large banners have been installed in the windows where shadow puppets hung. The new banners feature images of our puppet making workshops and a collection of puppets frequently seen in our shows. We also installed a security video camera. New cool spot lights will be installed to make performing easier for our puppeteers. In addition, Kraig, our Artistic Director, freshened up the displays in the Hazelle and international museum rooms. If in the area, come by to visit the new upgrades.—*Kathy Vest*



A section of the Hazelle room at PAI, which was recently upgraded with a grant from the Truman Heartland Community Foundation.

Puppetry Arts Institute
11025 E. Winner Rd
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