

Artists in Residence

An Artist in Residence is a wonderful opportunity to explore curriculum in new and different ways and engage students of all learning styles and levels. Participants have an in-depth artistic experience in all aspects of puppet theatre production and performance. A residency provides teachers with professional development opportunities. Additionally the whole school experiences a community building and fun event.

Why puppets?

Puppets are for everyone. They can make you laugh. They can make you cry. They can open our eyes to the world in new ways. They bring joy, creative outlet and help us tackle emotional and social issues. Puppets can create meaningful bonds within families and groups of people through the breadth of expression they provide and through the collaboration required to construct them

WP Puppet Theatre believes that producing theatre for young audiences is an important job. We understand the responsibility in performing for young (and older) minds to have a positive and lasting impact. Our goal therefore is to bring ideas to families that will spark conversations, encourage profound thought, inspire creativity and *Animate the Spirit!*

"Thank you for presenting to our classroom. I was delighted to see how the students took such pride in their own creations. I was especially moved when I noticed Simon completely come out of his shell and interact with his classmate. This is a real milestone for him, and I believe the puppet gave him a safe voice."



Package Content:

- Sample workshop directory
- Sample workshop plans
- FAQ's
- Wendy Passmore- Godfrey CV
- Fee schedule, timetable and logistics

Alberta Foundation for the Arts grant called Artists and Education– **due April 1st.** Information and application forms are at www.affta.ab.ca/artists-and-education.aspx

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1. *Do your Artists in Residence program span Kindergarten to Grade 8?*

My programs can be designed for all grades. Together we plan a range of activities from puppet making, script writing, character development and performance that meet your goals and logistical needs. As you saw there are a few workshop ideas on our web site — and I have a great deal more to draw from. Most recently I have worked on overall school inquiry questions such as "Where do ideas come from?" and "How can objects inspire creativity?" I can also design workshops that link to what the teachers are teaching at the time of the residency (e.g. in science or social studies) or if they have a particular type of puppet they like or a class inquiry question.

2. *Is there an "End Production"?*

We can have one — I like to call it a 'sharing', it's not polished but it's lots of fun and everyone is involved. It can be evening or afternoon or both.

3. *What about supplies?* The supplies break down into 4 categories:

- Things that we ask the students to bring in (e.g. cereal boxes, found objects, haberdashery)
- Things the school already has (e.g. masking tape) which the school may want to have come from this budget.
- Supplies that I bring that are included in my residency fee.
- Special items that I need to buy because we have chosen a workshop with very specialized materials. The school would pay for these, but they would be approved in advance.

4. *With Alberta Foundation for the Arts - Artists in Residency Grant Program, what assistance do you provide in completing the applications?*

I'll read over your application and provide suggestions; I can provide a sample schedule and the contract, I'll certainly be happy to discuss ideas too.



5. *What is the cost of your program? As far as fees — I am open to discussion – Here is the fee schedule for one-week/5 days.*

Workshop development and research, materials preparation, trips to purchase, workshop delivery, preparation and attendance at final daytime sharing.	3600.00
GST (R128 831 476)	180.00
Sub-total	3780.00
Travel to and from school (if outside Calgary)	
Accommodations and per-diem (if outside Calgary and region)	
Attendance at evening sharing	
Special Materials and supplies	200- 400

6. *What about Supplies and Equipment?* I bring all the supplies required for the residency and they are included in the fee. Students need scissors, glue sticks, pencils and note paper. Some technical items might be needed i.e.: overhead, digital projectors or CD players.

7. *What is the volunteer base that you require to begin & complete your program?*

During the residency it's nice to have 1-2 volunteers in the classrooms to help with hot glue guns or small groups planning their shows, etc.

8. *What kind of Schedule would we have?* We design the projects to fit the time available.

Puppets are both a visual and a performing art form and both aspects are included in the workshops. Depending on the class more time might be needed. Teachers need to be comfortable and committed to doing finishing work in their classroom. They may also see opportunities to integrate the puppet project into other current learning.

9. Unless we're really going for a 'taste of puppets' the minimum is 3 sessions of 1 - 1.5 hours with each class and I like to work with one class at a time:

- a. 1st session: intro theme, project and start puppet building.
- b. 2nd session: characterization, manipulation and finish puppet building.
- c. 3rd session: drama games and work on final presentation.

10. *Do you offer adult professional development?*

A nice way to begin planning the Residency is to present an 'Overview of Puppets'. During the actual residency there is time to meet with teachers individually. The workshops are intended to provide enough variety that idea sharing between grades and classrooms can happen. An evening can be planned for teachers and other leaders i.e.: Parent Link, Boys and Girls Club, Brownies, Daycare workers to attend a PD session on puppetry.

"The creative skills and activities were absolutely age appropriate and engaging, I think the students were challenged to think outside the box which was great to see!"

