

Puppet Power 2016 :: Connecting Generations

SATURDAY MAY 28 :: DAY I

9:30am – 9pm

Keynotes, Hands-on Workshops,
Puppet Portfolios, Performance & Evening Entertainment

SUNDAY MAY 29 :: DAY II

9:30am – 4pm

Keynotes, Hands-on Workshops, Panels,
Talks, Screenings & More

REGISTRATION FEES*

Regular Conference Registration (Sat & Sun): CAN\$ 399

Single Day Ticket (Sat or Sun): CAN\$ 185 CAN\$ 225

not including gst or fees

Who should attend?

Education and health professionals, social change activists, artists, students and idea generators.

Where is the conference?

Downtown West – Kerby (1133 7 Ave SW)

Do you offer group discounts?

Yes – please contact us for our conditions and pricing.

Are bursaries available?

Bursaries of \$75 per day are available to anyone indicating need, upon successful application

What should I bring to get the most out of the conference?

Your printed or digital (smartphone) Eventbrite ticket, paper and pen for note taking and business cards to exchange with other conference attendees.

For more information and to register, visit www.wppuppet.com

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WP Puppet Theatre has a history of working in social issues from past conferences and through their productions that highlight environmental concerns.

Past Puppet Power themes have included "Puppets as Agents for Social Change (2007), "Embracing Multiculturalism" (2003), "Puppets as a Therapeutic Medium" (2002) and most recently, "The Fearless Face of Puppetry" (2013).

Every two years, educators, therapists, corporate professionals, artists and community leaders join together to discover the endless ways in which we can use puppets as part of creative expression through hands-on workshops, presentations and idea-generation sessions as well as a platform to generate thought-provoking conversations surrounding controversial and significant social issues.

Highlight sessions from our most recent conference include, keynote speaker, Martin Robinson (Jim Henson Company) and our pilot initiative, The Rapid Idea Generation, which brought together a panel of professional puppeteers and theatre practitioners who shared the process of creating puppet projects to support community mandates.

Visit [Past Conferences](#) for more information.

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Building Bridges through Puppetry

There are many types of bridges and bridge builders. Puppets are among the best because they are fun! However, buried within that puppet fun is a whole lot of psychology, a long history of rebel rousing, large doses of creativity, and a catalyst for thought-provoking experience and conversation.

At Puppet Power 2016 :: Connecting Generations, we will examine the compelling strength of puppetry in advocating, educating and celebrating community connections across generations.

The Puppet Portfolio presentations will then help us bridge the conference subjects and speakers by asking: "How have you used puppets (or a related genre) to connect, celebrate or build community between generations?"

Puppet Portfolios brings together speakers from around the world to deliver fast paced, concise presentations. Accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation or video, speakers are given eight minutes to deliver a talk expanding on the conference theme.

This series will help us discover the endless ways in which we can use puppets as part of creative expression and be a platform to generate thought-provoking conversations surrounding controversial and significant social issues.

We are pleased to include Calgary's **Mark Hopkins** (Swallow-A-Bicycle, We Should Know Each Other, High Performance Rodeo) as a juror and event host for Puppet Portfolios 2016.

For more information, visit www.wppuppet.com

Puppet Power 2016 :: Connecting Generations

Puppets bring joy, supply a creative outlet, help diverse groups of people to better understand each other, promote diversity, exercise tolerance and provide a creative platform to express controversial and significant social issues. Puppets can do almost anything!

Puppet Power is an event to explore how puppets innovatively address the tough issues facing us in today's world.

- Puppetry has long been a voice through which creative individuals have challenged authority and delivered powerful social messages. In contemporary society puppets play a broad role, providing a creative platform to express controversial and significant social issues.
- They play a broad role in contemporary society, providing a creative platform to express controversial and significant social issues.
- Puppets can be a catalyst for thought-provoking experience and conversations that lead to new ways of perceiving contemporary life and its many social and cultural challenges.

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.
- 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

Puppetry is proven to be an effective medium for therapeutic practice.

- A puppet can be a facilitator, a mediator, a spokesperson or a confidante. It is a symbol of an idea and trusted instructor; it is an accepted outlet for expression. The power of a puppet to help clients of all ages can be dramatic, even magical.

The power of puppets can help you build community

- Puppets can help diverse groups of people to better understand each other — just as the arts have long been used to tear down barriers and promote diversity, tolerance and understanding. In particular, puppetry has been used through history as a voice for change.
- It provides creative expression for people that allows for personal development and meaningful social interaction – significant ingredients to healthy and vital communities.
- It has the power to improve the lives of individuals and to help build respectful communities.

Puppetry is so much more than children's entertainment.

- Puppetry has been shown to be an effective tool for teaching a wide variety of concepts in many different settings. The hands-on, open-ended and multi-faceted nature of the medium encourages student minds of all ages to flourish and discover the world through imagination.

WP Puppet Theatre

"When we perform, a wonderful bond is formed, as the audience collectively bring the puppets 'to life' through their imaginations."

An innovator and explorer:

- Producing and performing original shows, which tour throughout Alberta, transforming school gyms and community centres into theatres with lights, sound and stunning sets.
- Presenting a wide range of learning experiences in and about puppetry in schools and at community events for both children and adults.
- Community engagement projects building connections and social capital.
- Annually reaching over 5,000 people at over 150 events.

Puppets have long held special power as metaphors, proxies and stories which have a power that transcends time and cultures. Here is how we have combined artistic quality and story telling:

- We push the definition and challenge the perceptions of what puppetry is by integrating other art genres such as installation, performance art, video and public art
- We ensure our art is accessible for young audiences to 'try it themselves'
- We are proud to state that we don't do cookie cutter work, we don't dumb it down, and we don't exploit our art form or our audiences

The Arts are one of the most effective ways to learn. Here are some of the ways puppets have impacted our audience:

- During a student performance, Amar, a selective mute student, found the courage to say his line in front of 500 people with the help of his puppet
- In a 'youth at risk' class, students who normally struggle to engage in class subjects, became completely immersed in carving marionettes
- Kids will flat out copy our child-friendly performance puppets to create their own characters, tell their own stories and express their ideas (*We're obviously flattered!*)
- Parents who remember seeing us as children now bring their own kids to experience our shows. Generational impact!

There is proven economic value to the Arts, but there is also power in the immeasurable grin of imagination in action. Since 1991, WPTS has:

- Created over twenty unique puppet productions, with themes ranging from frogs to friendship
- Partnered with other organizations to teach about animals at the Calgary Zoo, court system protocols, hospital procedures and more
- Produced "Puppet Power" an international conference series that shows how puppets broach serious issues like family violence, prejudice or mental health. We train people how to use puppetry for their own social causes and introduce them to inspiring peer mentors
- Launched Rapid Idea Sessions (RIGS) that partner WPTS with an NGO. Together we create a puppet-based project for the delivery of their social mandate