

# PUPPET POWER 2013 THE FEARLESS FACE OF PUPPETRY

## MARCH 2013 CONFERENCE HANDOUTS

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. They also play a broad role in contemporary society, providing a creative platform to express controversial and significant social issues.

For this reason the Puppet Power 2013 conference committee decided to explore exactly how puppets are innovatively addressing the tough issues facing us in today's world. The issues to be fearlessly faced and addressed: the challenges that must be tackled by individuals, families, communities; challenges on local or global levels in the areas of environment, the economy, politics, health, security, education, the arts and more. We wanted to hear the stories – so we invited some of the NOTaBLE puppeteers who are doing some of the Fearless Facing!

*(Wendy Passmore – Godfrey – Artistic Director/Conference Chair)*

“I must say a word about fear. It is life's only true opponent.  
Only fear can defeat life.”  
Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*

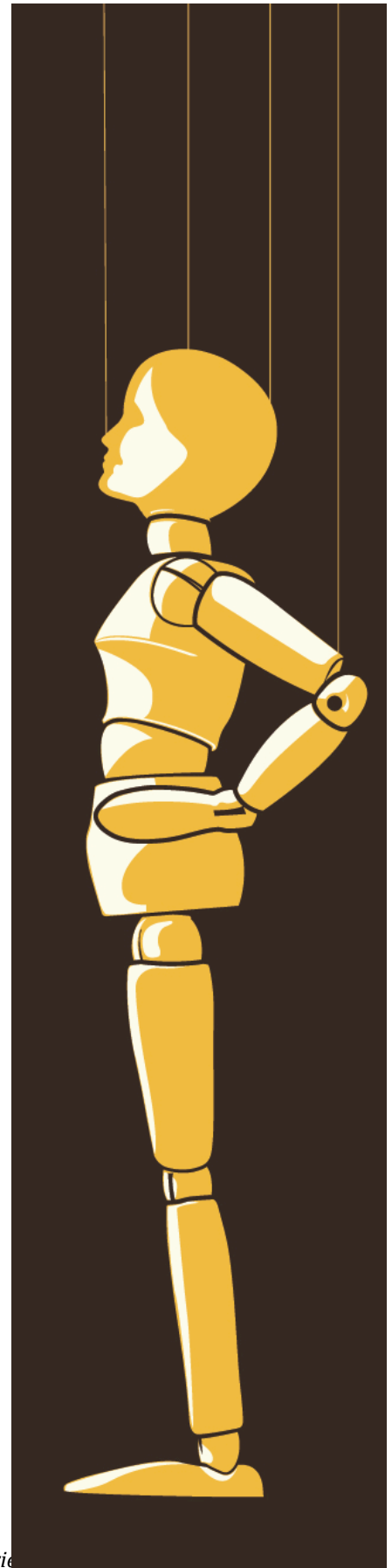
## INSPIRE INFORM GALVINIZE

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*A few Fearless Web links:*

Here is article that started us thinking about Puppets and Fearlessness

[http://www.academia.edu/172348/Achmed the Dead Terrorist and Humor in Popular Geopolitics](http://www.academia.edu/172348/Achmed_the_Dead_Terrorist_and_Humor_in_Popular_Geopolitics)

Bread and Puppet Theatre - "Ah! The Hopeful Pageantry of Bread and Puppet

[http://archive.org/details/ah the hopeful pageantry of bread and puppet](http://archive.org/details/ah_the_hopeful_pageantry_of_bread_and_puppet)

Link to Lisa Sturz article in the Puppetry Journal Fall 2011:

*A devastating diagnosis. Cancer. Lisa Sturz brought all her creative powers to the fight.*

[http://www.redherringpuppets.com/uploads/8/8/0/0/8800818/beesting puppetry journal fall 2011.pdf](http://www.redherringpuppets.com/uploads/8/8/0/0/8800818/beesting_puppetry_journal_fall_2011.pdf)

A fantastic list of puppetry books can be found at:

<http://www.civilization.ca/research-and-collections/research/resources-for-scholars/bibliographies/bibliography-on-puppetry/>

Many more links to current puppet activity and information on WP Puppet Theatre's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/WPPuppet?ref=hl>

From Puppetring: Puppets, Shadow and Marionette Magazine

<http://www.puppetring.com/2012/12/11/puppets-and-mental-illnesses/>

Periscope UNIMA: Social projects with puppets

<http://periscopiounima.org/en/>

Brigitte Dörner: A License to Play

<http://www.expats.cz/prague/article/art/interview-brigitte-doerner-prague-based-puppeteer/>

A beautifully crafted animation designed and directed by Framestore's Sharon Lock and written by Diarmid Scrimshaw of Inflammable Films.

<http://vimeo.com/54808919>

Join WP Puppet Theatre online community:

\* Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HkNeyVgDdHw&feature=youtu.be>

\* Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WPPuppet>

\* Twitter @WPPuppetTheatre <https://twitter.com/WPPuppetTheatre>

\* Re-pin on Pinterest - <https://pinterest.com/wppuppettheatre/>

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## Organizations

**Puppeteers of America** - a national organization with services for people using puppetry in a wide variety of applications. Annual festivals. <http://www.puppeteers.org/>

**Union Internationale de la Marionette**– <http://www.unima.org/>  
established in 1929 to link puppeteers throughout the world. World Festival every 4 years.

**U.N.I.M.A. - U.S.A** - magazine 2 times a year with international and professional mandate,  
<http://www.unima-usa.org/>

**U.N.I.M.A. - Canada** - <http://unima-canada.blogspot.ca/>  
For the Ontario section of UNIMA – Canada see: <http://www.onpuppet.ca/index.html>

## Bibliography

Books available on line from [www.maskandpuppetbooks.co.uk](http://www.maskandpuppetbooks.co.uk)

Hunt, Tamara/Nancy Renfro  
ISBN-10: 0931044049

**Puppetry in Early Childhood Education**  
1982 Nancy Renfro Studios

Reusch, Rainer  
ISBN 3-936373-08-6

**Schattentheater 3**  
2005 Germany: Einhorn-Verlag

Currell, David  
**ISBN-10:** 1861269242

**Shadow Puppets & Shadow Play**  
2008 Crowood Press (UK)

Ewart, Franzeska G.  
ISBN 185856 099 3

**Let the Shadows Speak – Developing children’s language through shadow puppetry**  
1998 Trentham Books Ltd.

Reiniger, Lotte  
ISBN 08238 0198 5

**Shadow Puppets, Shadow Theatre and Shadow Films**  
1970 Publishers, Plays Inc, Boston

Bartelt, Jeanine  
ISBN: n/a

**Screen Play – Shadow Puppetry on the Overhead Projector**  
1993 Self published

Burgess, Robert  
ISBN-10: 1861081103

**THEATRE MODELS IN PAPER AND CARD**  
Guild of Master Craftsman Publications, 1999

Haines, Ken and Gill Harvey  
ISBN-10: 0746027230

**The Usborne Book of Puppets**  
Usborne Publishing, 1997

Henson, Cheryl/Muppet Workshop  
ISBN-10: 1563057085

**The Muppets Make Puppets**  
Workman Publishing, 1994

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## *Puppet Power 2013 Speaker Bios:*

***Martin P Robinson (Keynote, workshop leader, master class)*** **New York**

In 1981 I was hired by Jim Henson to perform the role of Snuffleupagus on Sesame Street, and have been happily there ever since, performing other characters as well. For many years now, my duties have included being the Senior Muppet Trainer for Sesame International productions all over the world. I'm currently in production on a new series: "Taxi Dog".

***Trish Leeper (speaker, workshop leader, master class)*** **Calabogie, Ontario**

With a background in mime, movement, mask and theatre, Trish began her career in the TV series "Fraggle Rock". She has worked extensively in TV and film as well as touring internationally with Theatre Beyond Words' "Potato People" and Theatre Les Deux Mondes' "Tale of Teeka".

***Lynn Jeffries (master class)*** **Los Angeles**

Lynn Jeffries designs puppets, sets and costumes for theaters around the United States. She has created shadow puppets for everything from nightclub performances to regional theater. She has an ongoing artistic partnership with puppeteer Paul Zaloom.

***Dina Kaplan (RIG discussionist, master class)*** **Chicago**

Teacher, drama-therapist and an artist originally from South Africa and Israel, she brings puppetry into the elementary school curriculum, including a social skills program. Dina is a founding member of Puppeteers Without Borders, training professionals worldwide on the use of puppetry and theater as a communication tool for growth and change in the workplace.

***Rachel (Rochi) Dan (RIG Discussionist, master class)*** **Israel**

A puppeteer, theater director and puppetry teacher. For the past thirty years she has been teaching puppetry for theater students, teachers, social workers, nurses, therapists and children. Rachel is a founding member of Puppeteers Without Borders, an international NGO, promoting health education through puppetry in developing countries.

***Catherine Hahn (speaker, master class)*** **Victoria, BC**

Catherine has been designing sets and costumes for theatre and dance for over 35 years. Celebrated for her ingenuity and vision, she has worked as an event and festival designer, painter, props wizard, mask-maker and float designer, teacher and jewelry maker.

***Jane Heather*** **Edmonton, AB**

An associate professor in the Department of Drama at the U of A, Jane is also a playwright, director and popular theatre facilitator. She has written 16 plays by, for, and with under-represented communities, including Aboriginal youth and adults, Black Albertans, homeless adults, and people with mental illness.

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**Peter Balkwill**

**Calgary, AB**

Peter Balkwill is a co-Artistic Director, and Director of Workshops at the Old Trout Puppet Workshop in Calgary. He holds an MFA in Acting from the University of Washington in Seattle, and a BFA in Theatre from University of Victoria.

**Pam Atkinson**

**Bragg Creek, AB**

Visual artist, puppet maker, workshop leader Pam has a BFA in Developmental Art and a BA in Psychology.

## *Puppet Portfolios Speakers*

**Andrea Halwas Calgary, AB**

**Calgary, AB**

Andrea Halwas is a Calgary-based playwright and actor. A doctorate candidate at University of Calgary with specialization in Drama Therapy, Andrea's research focuses on tragedy and the therapeutic affect that drama impacts on individuals facing loss and bereavement. Her work aims to assist individuals to find meaning in their lives through the medium of theatre.

**Carmen-Luz Materana**

**via video: Chile**

Carmen is a theater designer, director and theatre researcher. She has developed her trade in the *Equilibrio Precario* theatre group since 1994 and shown her work in Chile and international Festivals in Latin America, Europe and Asia.

**Carol Sterling**

**New York**

Carol has worked as an arts educator in K-12 and taught pre-service and in-service educators at colleges and universities, and workshops for teachers and parents for over 40 years. In Sept.-Oct. 2012, she shared educational puppetry strategies as a Fulbright Program Specialist in Uganda. She is a former President of UNIMA-USA and Educational Consultant for Puppeteers of America.

**Sara Clark**

**Calgary, AB**

Sara has been working for over 18 years as a child and youth care professional and now a registered Social Worker. She currently works for Alberta Health Services as Family Counselor.

**Val Hilliker**

**Bluffton, AB**

Val was raised in Williams Lake B.C. In 1977 she read a how-to ventriloquism book and performed her first show 30 days later in Quesnel B.C. Val is certified in The Virtues Project as a Master Facilitator and is also a certified World Laughter Leader. She is also a professional ventriloquist and performs hundreds of shows and workshops annually.

**Lisa Sturz**

**via video: Asheville, NC**

Lisa Aimee Sturz is an Emmy award-winning puppeteer for film, television, and stage. Her company, Red Herring Puppets, specializes in curriculum-based "edutainment". Her adult work

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raises awareness for social, economic, and environmental concerns

**Joanne Oussoren and Frans Hakkemars**

Puppeteers, storytellers, sociologist and theatre professionals from Droomtheater.

**via video: Rotterdam, NL**

**Karin Millson**

**Calgary, AB**

Karin is a mixed media artist who works mainly with textiles to create abstract art installations. Work has been exhibited internationally and is held in collections around the world. She is Alberta's Representative for the international Surface Design Association.



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