



School Workshop Program Directory  
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WP Puppet Theatre's puppetry based workshops present a wide range of opportunities to link to both specific learning objectives and to 21st century learning skills. Our goal is to support classroom learning, inspire students to be creators, performers and makers and be a resource for both teachers and students.

Puppetry is an umbrella for literary, visual and dramatic art forms. A workshop can be a scaffold to further learning and support development of the following competencies:

- Critical thinking,
- Problem solving,
- Managing information,
- Creativity and innovation,
- Communication,
- Collaboration,
- Cultural and global citizenship,
- Personal growth and well-being

Our workshop presenter is Wendy Passmore-Godfrey, BFA, the Artistic Director and Founder of WPTS. She has over 20 years of classroom experience and received the Puppeteers of America Marjorie Batchelder McPharlin Award for Education in 2016. WPTS presents over 450 hours of workshop programming annually.

This directory indicates the width and breath of our workshop program. It can be used to choose a ready -made program or as a springboard to develop a new workshop plan based on student and classroom needs.

Throughout the document are [video links](#) to a variety of puppet workshop offered for the public at WP Puppet Theatre's [Puppet Pop Up Studios](#).

See also our visual directory of puppet project samples.

For information on bookings and fees contact

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# Kindergarten

	Puppet type	Workshop Summary	Curriculum Connections
	Paper Plate pocket puppet	<i>My Many Coloured Days by Dr Seuss</i> Create an animal using only the tints and hues of one colour. Through drama games, group stories and movement to mood music, explore emotional expression.	Art Drama Health LA Music
	Two string paper marionette	<i>HUNGRY CATERPILLAR</i> Based on Eric Carle's book, research the vast variety of caterpillars, as well as days of the week, numbers, patterns, shapes, colours and life cycles.	Art Drama LA Science Math
	Paper sculpture - rod puppet	<i>INCHWORM CATERPILLAR</i> Focus on this special type of caterpillar with triangular prism paper sculpture caterpillars. Learn the classic Sesame Street Inchworm song, practice measuring things as well as practicing simple addition sentences.	Art Drama LA Science Math
	Card stock one string marionette	<i>Dingle Dangle Scarecrow</i> Brass fasteners and body parts come together in this flat jumping-jack puppet. Learn the song and work the puppet.	Art Health Music
	Shadow Puppets <a href="#">VIDEO - PPU - Simple shadow puppets</a>	<i>"How many elephants does it take?"</i> This great counting book inspires facts, songs and stories all about elephants, together with the mystery and fun of shadow puppets.	Art Drama Science Math
	Head Mask Puppets <a href="#">VIDEO - PPU - Monster Head Masks</a>	<i>Dinosaurs: in the footsteps of Tyrell.</i> Invent a new dinosaur species – name it after yourself! Was it a meat eater? What color and texture is the skin? Create with crayon frottage and paper shapes.	Science Art Drama

# Grade One

	Puppet type	Workshop Summary	Curriculum Connections
Grade One	Black light neon puppets	<i>Insect talent show</i> Using symmetry, patterns and silhouettes create insect puppets of beetles, ants, butterflies and moths etc. Research and present their 'talents'.	Art Drama Science Math
	Shadow puppets <a href="#">VIDEO - PPU - Simple shadow puppets</a>	<i>ALPHABET PARADE</i> Create puppets using alphabet letters. Make up words in a 'shadow code' with our puppets.	Art Drama LA Science
	Newspaper mache and paint! <a href="#">VIDEO- PPU - Molded newspaper</a>	<i>Are you my Mother?</i> Re-tell this classic story with a fun and messy puppet made from crumpled newspaper, tape, paint and feathers!	Art Drama LA
	Origami	<i>Little Fish- Big Fish</i> Cautionary song about Little Fish's close call with a worm on a hook. A simple paper folded fish stick puppet. Lots of improvisation opportunities	Art Drama LA
	Paper plate pocket puppet	<i>THE WORLD IS FOR PEOPLE</i> Inspired by art/photo images of people discuss how shapes, exaggeration and colours that are used, the differences and similarities in faces and what's actually on a face.	Art Drama
	Found Object	<i>Yipiyuk</i> Read poem delightful Yipiyuk by Shel Silverstein. Discuss natural and man-made methods of attaching to things	Art Drama Science
	Mouth Moving rod puppet.	<i>A Puppet Alphabet</i> Q is for Queen! Pac-man-looking flat puppets of the alphabet are used in spelling word games and alphabet songs.	

# Grade Two

	Puppet type	Workshop Summary	Curriculum Connections
	Black light 3D paper sculpture puppets	<i>"Where the Wild things Are"</i> Discuss how monsters are compilations of real animals and create with white card stock and neon highlighters. Discover the effect of black light. Drama games and monster dance choreography.	Art Drama Science Math
	Pop Up Puppets with Wooden Spoons	<i>My Home</i> Create a self-portrait puppet that pops out of a conical drawing of your closely observed home.	Art Drama LA
	Found Object OR Neon head mask.	<i>The Qalluplliut: An Inuit Story</i> Based on the story brainstorm what a Q looks like and how it behaves. Plan and perform the trick used by the child on the Q. Discuss tricksters and non- violent solutions to problems.	Art Drama LA
	Found Object Water proof puppets	<i>Vietnamese Water Puppets</i> Buoyancy, properties of materials in water, building things studies and other science understandings are reviewed as students make their puppet and tell a Vietnamese tale of the Duck with the Golden Leg.	Art Drama LA
	Object puppets	<i>PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY</i> Objects i.e.: a flag, an egg flip etc. represent various jobs and are turned into workers with a few added features. Prepare and present skits that illustrate "A day in the Life of..."	Art Drama
	Take out box puppets	<i>Animals with Teeth</i> Learn the poem – 'Always be kind to animals' and make a puppet using a Take out Box!	Art Drama
	Bean Bag Puppets <a href="#">VIDEO- PPU - Bean Bag puppets</a>	<i>All about me</i> Using a simple running stitch students sew a beanbag pocket and stuff it with shredded paper, generated from their pictures and writings about themselves. Then they introduce themselves!	Art Drama Health

# Grade Three

	Puppet type	Workshop Summary	Curriculum Connections
	3D Geometric paper sculpture <a href="#">VIDEO -PPU - 3D paper puppets True Story</a>	<i>'Who's in Rabbits House', 'Zorro the Rabbit' or 'Llama Saves the People'</i> Students' ink-pad-print paper with an ethnic inspired pattern and form 2 and 3 D geometric shapes to create their puppet. Perform the story, adding extra dialogue.	Art Drama Social Studies Math
	Found Object	<i>Water Bottle's promote Water Literacy</i> Transform plastic bottles into puppets and fill them with water savings ideas. Do some simple exercises measuring the bottle's capacities and chart/graph comparisons to data on household water use.	Art Drama Math Science
	3D Geometric paper sculpture <a href="#">VIDEO- PPU - 3D paper puppets of Pigs</a>	<i>Jillian Jiggs</i> Your room looks like its been lived in by pigs! Create puppet characters from this fun book and perform.	Art Drama LA
	Scalable Origami Puppets photo	<i>Improvisations</i> Students make 3- 4 different puppets using paper-folding techniques and develop skits based on curious objects. The simple puppet style allows lots of time to create the characters and plots.	Art Drama LA
	Basic Rod Puppets	<i>Self Portraits or Famous People</i> Students will make a sock head rod puppet, first generating writing and other 'paper work' about their character to stuff into the heads. This is a great basic puppet involving measuring, fractions and step-by-step instructions.	Art Drama Math
	Two String marionette <a href="#">VIDEO- PPU -2 String marionette</a>	<i>Rajastani Puppets</i> Based on this famous style of puppet from NW India, students use socks and fabric in this multi step puppet project. Then they choreograph their own folk dances to Bollywood music.	Art Drama Social Studies LA
	Found Object	<i>Tintamarre</i> Students will design and build puppets that make their own sounds from an assemblage of found objects. In groups they will then create patterns of sound and a method for writing the pattern down, to share with the rest of the class. Then we'll have a Acadian traditional inspired parade	Art Drama Science Social Studies

# Grade Four

	Puppet type	Workshop Summary	Curriculum Connections
Grade Four	Shadow puppets & archival photos <a href="#">VIDEO - PPU - Simple shadow puppets</a>	<i>Alberta Stories</i> Extrapolate characters and create/perform conversations from historical photos. Learn some mechanical tricks for shadow puppet movement.	Art Drama Science Math
	Shadow puppets <a href="#">VIDEO - PPU - Simple shadow puppets</a>	<i>It's all about Math!</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Solve equations to know the shapes and size of your shadow puppets, (i.e.: puppet design features a repeating pattern) OR</li> <li>▪ Make puppets based on Tangram shapes OR</li> <li>▪ Act out the question and correct answer to a word problem, with your shadow puppet.</li> </ul>	Art Drama LA Science
	Natural Material Puppets <a href="#">VIDEO - PPU - Yarn doll puppets</a>	<i>Early Toys</i> What did pioneer children have to play with? Natural materials, yarn, wood. These yarn doll puppets or raffia puppets give students empathy to the restricted, but in many ways more imaginative, play opportunities. Puppets can tell an excerpt from a WO Mitchell story, or based on Bouchard's 'If you're not from the Prairies' or a poem about early pioneers.	Art Drama LA
	3D paper sculpture puppets <a href="#">VIDEO - PPU - 3D paper puppets True Story</a>	<i>Animal Symbols</i> If you were an animal what would you be and why? Compare and contrast to the symbolic role of animals in totemic cultures, video games, astrology etc. Share your thoughts through the puppet voice.	Art Drama LA
	Found Object/paper	<i>Mastodons: Alberta a Sense of Land</i> Review early human's in Alberta & the mastodon/mammoths they hunted. Make a mastodon mask body puppets solving technical challenges of how to make a swinging moveable trunk, long tusks and hair. Write a short poem to represent their knowledge.	Art Drama Science
	Paper Sculpture Photo <a href="#">VIDEO - PPU - Gobbledegook</a>	<i>Gobbledegook</i> Make a bird like imaginary creature using only an egg carton. A fun poem with an environmental message about endangered species.	Art Drama Science

# Grade Five

	Puppet type	Workshop Summary	Curriculum Connections
Grade Five	Mask-body Puppet – paper card stock shaped.	<i>The Dinner Party</i> The class is hosting a dinner party and you invite Famous People. Who are they? How does the conversation unfold? What food do you serve? What does Genghis Khan say to Joan of Arc? Or John A MacDonald say to Emily Carr? Collage the inside of the mask with quotes and historical photos. Learn portraiture skills for the outside of the mask.	Art Drama Science Math
	Rod puppets	<i>WEATHER AXIOMS</i> Study a selection of weather colloquialisms i.e.: “ <i>Red at night sailors delight, Red in morning sailors warning</i> ” and decide whether and when they are true. Create skits to act out the sayings, add a ‘postscript’ explaining the science behind the saying.	Art Drama Science
	Drape and pulp paper mache mask body puppets  <a href="#">VIDEO - PPU - Pulp paper mache</a>	<i>Wetlands</i> Create puppets that symbolize wetland animals – draw ideas from totem representations. Consider the webs of connection i.e.: mosquitoes, bats, people/dragon flies, frogs, fish/ ducks, cattails, hunters/purple loosestrife, people, bees, history, as well less obvious connections i.e.: filtration, decomposition.	Art Drama LA
	Wooden spoon and electrical components	<i>Lamp Lady, Battery Pack Man and Conduit Dancers.</i> Review electrical circuits and conductive materials as you wire a light bulb noses and wire arms onto wooden spoon based puppets. Choreograph some folk dances and whenever the puppets form a circle Lamp Ladies nose glows!	Art Drama LA
	Scarf and Ball puppets  <a href="#">VIDEO - PPU - Scarf puppet</a>	<i>Teamwork!</i> An expressive and multi-operator puppet made simply from cloth squares and balls promotes teamwork. Act out what happens next from an existing fable or write your own micro story. Add a multicultural element with phrases from other languages.	Art Drama Health
	Food puppets	<i>Decomposing Puppets:</i> Create puppets, from compostable materials, inspiring discussion about decomposition rates, waste in our world and recycling. Create tall tale skits based on gardening. After the presentation bury your puppets and see how they decompose!	Art Drama Science

# Grade Six

	Puppet type	Workshop Summary	Curriculum Connections
	Giant Parade Puppets	<i>"King of the Birds"</i> Teams create large rod puppets with painted masking tape sculpted heads of birds being species-specific. Tell the fable in one big parade. <i>King of the Birds</i> dates back to ancient Greece and promotes intelligence over any other attribute, it allows discussion of democracy and decision making strategies.	Art Drama Science Math
	Object puppetry	<i>If I were an Object?</i> Explore an object's character through its literal, physical and metaphorical properties. Act out conversational skits using direct and indirect language to impart information. Demonstrate story/ script writing skills.	Art Drama LA
	Shoe puppets	<i>Walk a mile in my shoes: Empathy</i> These puppets are literally puppets made from shoes, with matching faces and characters, based on the deductive observation of the shoes. Talk about stereotyping, symbols, logos, brands and fashion. Re- tell a story with each character having a different viewpoint.	Art Drama LA Health
	Body Puppets	<i>The Chicken Dance</i> Bend chicken wire to make full head masks of chickens, finish using weaving techniques with clothe or paper strips. One group does chicken dance to represents factory – chickens, other group chooses their own music and 'goes free-range'. Discuss the environmental /ethical impact of food production in Alberta as well as consumer power of choice.	Art Drama Social Studies
	Mask Body black light puppets	<i>Neon detectives!</i> Students make puppets of crime scene investigators that are reporting on a crime. After being given a sample of blood spatter and a few other clues, they create a news report on a situation that matches the evidence.	Art Drama Science
	Newspaper mache <a href="#">VIDEO- PPU - Molded newspaper</a>	<i>Trees and Forests</i> Looking at paper use, recycling and consumer choices the class will have a three-foot stack of newspaper equal to one 30-foot tree, to create puppets. Work in teams, use newspaper and masking tape to make group puppets that act out a poem or short story.	



# Grade Seven

	Puppet type	Workshop Summary	Curriculum Connections
	Shadow puppets <a href="#">VIDEO - PPU - Shadow Under the Sea</a>	<i>Found word poetry</i> Select words from a page, draw and organic shape around them, use this to create an abstract shadow puppet – move to music and recite poem. An additional option is to add an LED and fibre-optic component.	Art Drama LA
	3D Shadow Puppets	<i>I hope when I'm an Astronaut</i> Students construct space ships from colored and clear pop bottles and astronauts – paying attention to construction and mechanical elements as well as shadow puppetry principles. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discuss “Space the final frontier” and environmental concerns for space.</li> <li>▪ Discuss futurism: Space ships return to Earth after light years – what do they find?</li> <li>▪ Create improvisations based on these ideas.</li> </ul>	Art Drama LA
	Overview of puppets	<i>Puppet: an idea in motion</i> A talk on the taxonomy of puppetry with samples and demonstrations of construction and manipulation. Wendy will also share stories of her career as a puppet artist – international touring, creative process and the founding of WPTS - a not for profit charitable organization.	Art Drama
	Scarf Marionette	<i>Dancing Plus</i> A multi step puppet this marionette can be adapted to many themes from self-portraits to aliens.	Art Drama
	Newspaper mache	<i>Jabberwocky</i> Work in teams and create a character from Lewis Carroll's famous poem., using only shaped newspaper and tape.	

	Puppet type	Workshop Summary	Curriculum Connections
Grade Eight	Bunraku Puppets	<i>BACK IN THE EDO PERIOD</i> An introduction to Japanese cultural during the Edo period through the traditions and practice of Bunraku puppet theatre. Students manipulate some Bunraku style puppets and make their own simple version. .	Art Drama Social Studies
	Black light found object	<i>LIFE IN A LANDFILL</i> An unseen team of microbes, insects etc break down waste and allow it to go back to the earth. And what about the geobacter that scientists are working on to produce electricity from mud? In our landfill sites what is the microbe team able to break down and how long does it take? Students will choose a 'critter' to make 1000 times larger than life as a black light puppet.	Art Drama Science
	Mask Body and Paint	<i>WHAT'S YOUR STYLE?</i> What art style/painter style are you? Students create a puppet using the style of an art form that reflects their personality. Pointillism – I'm very precise, Naturalistic – I'm a realist, Abstract - I'm wild	Art Drama