

The Puppetree
Catalog of Available Workshops and Productions



5181 Rt. 113
Thetford, VT 05075
802-785-3031
vtpuppet@aol.com

All materials from scissors to sequins are furnished by the PuppeTree. Call, email, or write us for more information about these workshops or productions

PUPPET WORKSHOPS

Introduction To Puppetry: An explanation of all the different styles of puppets—featuring professional marionettes and rod, Indonesian wayang golek, hand, and shadow puppets, even toys—from our extensive collection. Hands-on play combined with question and answers make this an exciting introduction to a puppetry project, study unit, or library program. (All ages; 45 minutes)

Sock Puppets: Found a wash-load of single socks and don't know what to do with them? Bring them to the Sock Puppet Workshop, where children can give them a future as a wonderful character to love at home or put in play. (K–5; 1 hour)

Hand Puppets: Using what the Puppeteers of America call, “the best hand puppet design,” each participant builds a character for personal play or “the Play.” (All ages; 1.5 hours)

Shadow Puppets: This ancient form of puppetry requires less building and rigging time because we work in 2 dimensions. Students learn how to sew the furnished rods on the puppets. This is a great workshop in how to create translucent puppets from recycled materials. Students gather, from home and school, discarded fabric, oak tag folders, notebooks and plastics from packaging. An excellent program for groups with limited resources and time. Part of what we teach is how to take a second look at discarded materials for other uses. (3rd grade and up, 3-4 hours)

A Walk In The Woods: A nature walk becomes the basis for puppet designs. This workshop will expose a new generation to the work of Basil Milovsoroff (1907-1992) who gathered gnarled roots in our New England woods, added a wire or bright color to form exquisite imaginary figures. Students return from these same forests with their finds to add beads, fabric, or whatever, and fashion whimsical puppets. (All ages; time to be determined)

Paper Maché Marionettes: A familiar story, or song provides the idea for building and costuming these marionettes. They are strung on a child-friendly control that has been developed through years of experience. Unique and wonderful marionettes can be built on a base, or armature, made of recycled materials, and then coated with paper maché. They are easily presented to an audience by reading the story or singing the song. Lengthy rehearsals are not necessary. (3rd grade and up; time to be determined)

Building Marionettes: Ten hours of instruction and an equal 10 hours of independent construction time result in a beautiful weighted and strung professional quality cloth Marionette in the student's own design.

A great workshop for children and their parents, or anyone who desires a REAL MARIONETTE. (4th grade and up)

FOR THE ACTOR IN US ALL

Creative Dramatics: Children learn through play. These classes rely on many lesson plans from teaching at PS 107 in NYC, Aloha Hive Camp and Thetford Elementary School, in VT, Camp Clearwater, Minoqua, WI, Camp Chateaugay, NY, and (Connecticut) River Days. Anything from Algebra to Zoology can be taught when children get totally involved and are unpressured by performance—there are no productions involved in these classes.

ACTORS AND PUPPETS PERFORMING TOGETHER

Our productions are offered in a flexible format for a range of abilities, as well as your group's time limits and budget. The Puppetree provides the major stage materials and professional scripts, but your group might add costumes from "the closet," recycle some common objects into puppets, or paint scenery in an art workshop. Then, they do a public performance of the play. Thus the group learns a variety of skills and is exposed to many forms of creative expression. Some may choose to do everything, while others may be more comfortable with only one task.

These productions usually require a larger block of time, but they don't require a formal stage or auditorium—just an open space with an electric outlet, even outside!

Funny Business: This work gives little performers a chance to clown around with *Jack and the Beanstalk*. It is full of face paint, pratfalls, vaudeville, and a giant puppet. The Puppetree furnishes 25 clown costumes, and it never fails that there are at least 25 more "at home." With recorded swing music, this production could have a quickly rehearsed chorus of "thousands." The 15 singing/speaking rolls require rehearsals (K-6, time to be determined)

Dirty Works At The River: A completely original melodrama teaching conservation for grades 7 and 8 in either a one-hour read or a full production done in one week. Costumes are furnished by The Puppetree...just in the nick of time.

The Primal Ooze: A toy-theatre production using 15 younger children's playfulness to form a river, its watershed, and pollution using fabric, dance, and movement. (K-5; 45 minutes)

3 From Pooh: A chance for different children to play many familiar roles by passing around a bear hood, picking up a rod puppet or hanging scenery on an umbrella. Very theatrical, with folksy music. Piano player required. Could be produced in the school setting in one week. (K-5; time to be determined)

The Home Front: An Intergenerational program building bridges of understanding between the generations. With help from the New York City Board of Education, **The Puppetree** developed a questionnaire that grade 5-8 students use to interview WWII veterans or their noncombatant contemporaries. Who would not be put on the spot if asked to just tell about themselves? But, “Where were you on Pearl Harbor Day?” leads into a first-hand history lesson before these precious stories are lost forever. So many women answered that question, “Oh, I was just a housewife listening to the radio,” that we focused this production on a *Home Front Radio Broadcast*, complete with sound effects and bond drives. This production marked the beginning of a new Community Theatre at PS 217 in Brooklyn, NY.

Emily And The Alien: A production that explores loss for modern children. It uses rock music, one spectacular alien marionette, and shadow puppets that express the main characters’ feelings about divorce and friendship.

La Petite Sirene: A stunning actor and shadow puppet musical of Hans Christian Anderson’s tale built and performed by an Intergenerational group. The production is sensitive to the diverse needs of both children and senior citizens. Interviews before and after rehearsals with the each group demonstrated the change in attitudes and tolerance that takes place during rehearsals. It becomes clear that friendships are not limited by age differences.
