

5th
the
Neill
puppetry
conference



June 15 - 26, 2005



photography by Richard Termine

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The O'Neill Puppetry Conference was established 15 years ago by key founding members Jane Henson, George Latshaw, Richard Termine, Bobbie Nidzgoriski, Bart P. Roccoberon Jr., and Jim and Margo Rose to encourage puppet artists to create and communicate through the visual and kinetic form of the puppet, to push beyond their personal boundaries and to develop new works for Puppet Theater.



Every June, puppet artists have the opportunity to explore a range of performance styles through various workshops and projects encompassing writing, music, marionettes, script development, puppet design, construction and staging. "Video Anarchy" returns again this year, dedicated to the exploration and creation of new puppet forms using video, and endeavoring to break through traditional boundaries and consider exciting new possibilities for the form and function of the puppet. Participants collaborate with renowned guest directors, puppet artists and playwrights to develop innovative Ensemble Productions as well as individual performance pieces. The Conference culminates with two public performances, featuring newly developed works that explore the extraordinary range and power of the puppet.

Past conference participants have gone on to work in such puppetry venues as The Henson International Festival of Puppet Theatre (New York City), HERE Arts Center (New York City), The Puppet Showplace (Brookline, Massachusetts), The Sandglass Theatre (Vermont), The Center for Puppetry Arts (Atlanta), and Zeum (San Francisco), in Broadway productions such as *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Lion King*, and *Avenue Q*, and on television shows including *Sesame Street*, *Between the Lions*, and *Bear in the Big Blue House*.

The O'Neill Puppetry Conference is supported by the Henson Family, and by the Rose Endowment for Puppetry established by Jane Henson and dedicated to the legacies of Bil Baird, Jim Henson, Rufus and Margo Rose, Don Sahlin, Martin Stevens, Burr Tillstrom and Brad Williams, and to the spirit with which they shared their artistry and themselves.

A MESSAGE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

pam ARCIERO



The World of Puppetry is a small one. Though it has far reaching effects, and everyone knows what a puppet show is, there just aren't many places to learn and explore the Puppet Theater.

The O'Neill Puppetry Conference provides a venue in which to collaborate, experiment, explore and develop ideas and talents relating to Puppet Arts. Open to puppeteers, theatre designers, actors, musicians, directors, artists, producers, playwrights and students, our goal is to develop new works for the Puppet Theater, while advancing the standards and skills necessary for the puppet artist.

These eight days are an intense experience of being with artists committed to the art form and to the creation of new works. By bringing together preeminent guest artists, a professional staff, and the physical support to assist and guide the puppet artist, we remain committed to creating a nurturing and supportive environment in which their visions can be realized.

Our secondary goal is you, our audience. It is our hope that you will join us in recognizing good puppet theater when you see it, and through your continuing support, encourage all puppet and theater artists to gain access to their voices and artistic expression.

We welcome you to The O'Neill Theater Center and thank you for your support and encouragement.

Pam Arciero

PAM ARCIERO was one of the founding Guest Artists at the Puppetry Conference and was named Artistic Director of the Conference in 2002. Arciero is a principal puppeteer with *Sesame Street* and *Between the Lions*, performing numerous characters, most notably Grundgetta Grouch and Leona Lion, respectively. She has worked on many adult and children's programs including *Blue's Clues*, *Blue's Room*, *Chappell's Show*, *Allegra's Window*, *The Wubbulous World of Dr. Seuss*, *TVFunhouse*, *Eureka's Castle* and *The Great Space Coaster*. She has performed in many commercials, and films including *Sundance Myths 2004* (Sundance Film Festival), *Extreme Measures*, *Little Monsters* and *Follow That Bird*. As a stage director, she directed *Elmo's World Live*, *Oscar's Big Game Show*, *Gotta Dance*, and *Bird's Beach Party* for *Sesame Place*, *Play with Me Sesame Live Tour*, and *Disney's Wahoo Wagon* at the El Capitan Theater in Los Angeles. She has also directed *Between the Lions* and *Oobi* for television. She has taught for the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts, California State University - Fresno, *Sesame Street International* and her alma mater, the University of Connecticut. She is currently developing two new shows for television, *Shady Glen* and *Tutu's Gifts*.

GUEST ARTISTS

ANNIE EVANS' plays have been produced at such theatres as Actors Theatre of Louisville, Manhattan Class Company, New York Stage and Film Company, Circle Repertory Company, Circle East, New Georges, The Ensemble Studio Theatre, The Asolo Theatre Center, The Hudson Theatre, The Westbank Cafe and The Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, among others. Her play *Ghost Stories* is published by Samuel French and has been produced around the world. Her monologues *I Can't Stop Thinking Today* and *Breasts* are published in one-act anthologies by Heinemann Press. *Breasts* was also performed on WPLR. Annie has written for television shows on PBS, The Disney Channel, Nickelodeon, Animal Planet and the Cartoon Network. She currently writes for *Sesame Street* (5 Emmy Awards).

PHILLIP HUBER is best known for his marionette manipulation in the 3-time Academy Award nominated film *Being John Malkovich*. However, his puppetry career has taken him around the world many times with performances in nightclubs: Lido (Paris), Casino De Monte Carlo (Monaco); in Television: *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, *Le Plus Grande Cabaret Du Monde* (France), *Variete* (Chile); in stage shows, *Busker Alley* with Tommy Tune, *That's Christmas* with Sandy Duncan, *Christmas With Friends & Nabors* with Jim Nabors, *It's Magic* with Harry Anderson, *The Road To Hollywood* directed by Walter Bobbie; and 5-star cruise ships, Crystal, Cunard, and Seabourn. Mr. Huber most recently designed, built, and directed a cast of 10 marionettes in a multi-media rock opera, *Don't Trust Anyone Over Thirty*, for Art/Basel/Miami Beach.

JIM KROUPA has been designing, building, and performing puppets for over 35 years. Starting in the 4th grade, he learned about paper mache and Bil Baird, so... his fate was sealed. In 1977 Jim started his professional puppetry career working with his college professor Kermit Love while at Pratt Institute. Once working with Kermit, Jim started doing commercials (Wise Potato Chip Owl, Snuggle), and TV Shows (*The Great Space Coaster*), and got to meet and work with Jim Henson and his Muppets (*Sesame Street*, Muppet Meeting Films, *Muppets Take Manhattan*). Since 1985, and the opening of 3/ Design Studio, Jim continues to design and build Puppet Mechanics. Jim's work has been seen in commercials (Angel Soft, Mirinda, Grundig Hi Fi - Ace Winner: Best Special Effects), TV Shows (*Eureka's Castle*, *Gullah Gullah Island*, *Wimzies House*, *Barney*, *Bear in the Big Blue House*, *Book of Pooh*, *Between the Lions*) and Films (Woody Allen's *Alice*, and *Little Monsters*).

TIM LAGASSE earned his BFA in Puppet Arts from the University of Connecticut, where he wrote and directed *A Show of Hands*, which received the coveted Union International de la Marionette Citation for Excellence in the Art of Puppetry, and designed and built the "Bababooie" Puppet for the *Howard Stern Show*. Tim was the first UCONN student to receive the Jim Henson Memorial Prize in Puppetry. He now works on television's many children's programs, including *Sesame Street*, *Bear in the Big Blue House*, *Allegra's Window*, *Between the Lions*, *Oobi*, *Blues Clues*, and most recently as "Paz the Penguin" on Discovery Kids. Tim designs and builds puppets, consults, and directs for PBS, MTV, HBO and Nickelodeon. His five short films called *A Show of Hands* received a Broadcast Design Silver Award, and a series of short films created for *Between the Lions* earned him a Daytime Emmy Nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Single Camera Editing. Tim is a founding member of Hairy Edge Productions, a group of some of the most respected television and film puppet artists working today (*Labyrinth*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Spitting Image*). He also lectures for the Lincoln Center Foundation, and teaches modern television puppet techniques at UCONN.

GUEST ARTISTS

MARTIN P. ROBINSON has been a professional puppeteer since discovering that puppetry was the perfect link between acting and sculpture. A 1974 graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, he has worked for Nicolo Marionettes, Addis Williams, David Syrotiak, Bob Brown, Paul Ashley, Bil Baird, Jim Henson, and for five seasons of *Spitting Image* in England. A puppeteer on *Sesame Street* since 1981, he has won Emmys for his characters Snuffleupagus, Telly Monster, Slimey the Worm, and those "Yip-yip" Martians. His company, Hairy Edge Productions, designed and performed *Allegra's Window* on Nickleodeon and *Oobi* on Noggin. Teaching has become an important aspect of his professional life, as one of the main instructors for Sesame International, hiring and training puppeteers for productions in Canada, Mexico, Israel/Palestine, Egypt, Germany, Russia, Bangladesh and France. Film credits include *Follow That Bird*, *Muppets Take Manhattan*, *Elmo in Grouchland* and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*. In 1982, Martin designed, built and performed the plant in the original Off-Broadway production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, for which he received the Drama Desk and LA Drama Critics Awards. He provided the same services for the newest incarnation of the show, recently on Broadway. Martin also designed for the production of *Frogs* at Lincoln Center, and two productions with orchestra for Carnegie Hall.

JIM ROSE, son of Rufus and Margo Rose, first performed with marionettes in 1943 in the Rose production of *Rip Van Winkle*. He has performed with his own hand puppets since 1947, when he saw Burr Tillstrom's Puppeteers of America Festival performance of Kukla and Ollie in *St. George and the Dragon*. Jim worked with his parents and with Martin and Olga Stevens on several film and TV productions, including the WGN-TV Peabody Award-winning *The Blue Fairy* and the Stevens-Rose film, *The Toymaker*. He was graduated from Antioch College in 1956. At the Yale School of Drama, where he received his MFA degree in 1963, he created puppets for a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and for adaptations of two of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. Mr. Rose taught Drama, Art and English in high schools in Chicago and in Connecticut from 1956 until 1960. He taught in the Theater Department at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and for 19 years at Antioch College. In addition to Marionette Workshops at the O'Neill Puppetry Conference, he has led numerous workshops at Puppeteers of America Festivals. Since 1982, Mr. Rose has presented his traditional puppets in annual 18th Century Fairs including The Fair at New Boston (Springfield, Ohio), The Faire at the Forks (Chatham, Ontario), the Trail of History (McHenry County, Illinois), and George Washington's Mount Vernon in Virginia.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The O'Neill Puppetry Conference is honored to announce the recipients of the Kevin Clash and Beverly Robinson Memorial minority scholarships, funded by Mr. Kevin Clash, as well as two Margo Rose Memorial scholarships made possible by the Connecticut Guild of Puppetry. Congratulations to the following 2005 Conference Participants:

Rolande Duprey, Margo Rose Memorial Scholarship
David Karle, Kevin Clash Scholarship
Keri Lewis, Margo Rose Memorial Scholarship
Aki Shinozaki, Beverly Robinson Memorial Scholarship

THE 15TH ANNUAL O'NEILL PUPPETRY CONFERENCE IS
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF CALEB FULLAM.

PERFORMANCES

PIGEON-HOLED

Written by Annie Evans
Directed by Martin P. Robinson

A project conceived out of the wonderful/sick dichotomy of producing a Children's Television program, and the backstage politics required to make it happen.

CHARACTERS

Miss Poppy	Leslie Carrara
Pidge	Patrick Holmes
Junk Dude	Spencer Lott
Junk Dude's right hand	Edward Einhorn
Chubby the Gerbil	"Z" (Lindsey) Briggs
Perkins Jenkins	Colette Searls
Perkins' right hand	Becky Ray
Poppies	Kate Katz
	Honey Goodenough
	Aki Shinozaki
Mr. Knife Set	Edward Einhorn
Miss Fork in the Outlet	Crystal Gomes
Madame X	Cecilia Cackley
Pedanticus (mouth/eyes)	Becky Ray
Pedanticus (body)	Crystal Gomes
Kid Visitors	Charlie Rinehart-Jones
	JoJo Rinehart-Jones
	Maria Rinehart-Jones
Puppet Wrangler	Honey Goodenough
Stage Manager	Cathy McCullough
Director	Martin P. Robinson
Writer	Annie Evans
Research	Pam Arciero

DESIGN CREDITS

Puppets created and built by Martin P. Robinson
Video Sequence by Martin P. Robinson, Tim Lagasse, and the After Hours Crew
Set Design by Siri Robinson
Lighting Design by Natalie George
Miss Poppy's Theme by Fred Newman
Costumes by Laura Paré (and Siri)

Thanks to Barbara, JoJo, Charlie, Maria, Laura Paré, Marsha Dezarate, Tim Lagasse, Honey Goodenough, and Siri Robinson for his artistic vision and commitment.
Special Thanks from Siri to Decorator "Chere Madame Tar-jhay"

PERFORMANCES

VIDEO ANARCHY

Tim Lagasse • Alpha Monkey

Video Anarchy endeavors to break through traditional boundaries and to consider exciting new possibilities in the form and function of the puppet.

VIDEO PUPPETEERS

Jessica Binder • Jonathan Caren*
Marsian DeLellis • Amanda Freeman*
Mark Gale • David Karle
Jason Rosen • Carus Waggoner

* Denotes NTI Theatermakers

-INTERMISSION -

MARIONETTE MANIPULATION & CONSTRUCTION

Phillip Huber & Jim Rose

Phillip & Jim have collaborated to help students explore the artistic potential of Marionettes in performance. Jim Rose offered guidance in the area of mechanics, and Phillip Huber guided the students in manipulation.

PUPPETEERS

Bonnie Berkowitz • Joe Dunfee
Janice Grimaldi • Ulysses Jones
Keri Lewis • Anthony Rais
Sabine Rendl • Suzanne Uren • Frankie Yeo

PERFORMANCES

CROSSING BOUNDARIES



Ronald Binion

WITH

Heather Asch • Ronald Binion

Elizabeth Kimi Hara • Amanda Maddock

• Music by Josh Chambers and Sue Kessler •

ADDITIONAL VOICE TALENT

Lorna Howley • Adam Pagdon • Ian Binion

Thanks to Brent Binion, Paul Andrejco and Puppet Heap.

RONALD BINION is the 2005 Artist-In-Residence at the O'Neill Puppetry Conference.

SPECIAL THANKS



Eight years ago, Conference Manager Bobbie Nidgorski asked Artistic Director Derron M. Wood if Flock Theater might be interested in lending a hand to the O'Neill Puppetry Conference's Emerging Artists. From his involvement in other O'Neill conferences, Derron knew the intensity and time limitations

of the projects and saw a natural fit in having puppeteers give their undivided attention to the Emerging Artists. Derron also saw a welcome opportunity for Flock Theater members to meet and and be immersed in focused work with puppeteers in all stages of the profession. You may recognize some Flock Theater faces year after year at the Conference. The first year was a healthy and fun exchange, and a huge success for the Emerging Artists, and as a result, Flock Theater's involvement continues today. Some Flock members credit the O'Neill Puppetry Conference for their success in Broadway productions, and some have returned to the conference as participants and as Emerging Artists.

FLOCK THEATER PUPPETEERS

Ceili Clemens • Mary Gragen • Gita Hassin • Mycah Hogan

Carl H. Jaynes • Michael D. Langlois • Jane Martineau • Jess McKay

Eric Michaelian • Andrew Mooney • Elizabeth Raninberg • Angelo Ritacco

Joseph A. Rodriguez • Amy Rush • Liz Wadsworth • Derron M. Wood

EMERGING ARTISTS

Emerging Artists are puppeteers who have previously attended the O'Neill Puppetry Conference as participants. They are invited to return to work on the development of a single project. Flock Theater of New London graciously provides a company of actors for this work.

*Richard Termine, Director of Emerging Artists
Pam Arciero • Leslie Carrara
Roger Danforth • Bart P. Roccoberton, Jr.*

REDEMPTION



Rolande Duprey

Human beings may stumble, fall, and pick themselves up to struggle toward growth. Who's to say Angels don't do the same?

Written & Directed by Rolande Duprey

PUPPETEER

Rolande Duprey

Thank you to Janice Grimaldi, Colette Searls, Richard Termine,
and the O'Neill staff.

EXCERPTS FROM

SONG SET FIRE



Yvette Edery

The answer is inside the box.

www.ArtistryE.com

Directed by Yvette Edery

Original music composed by Larry Siegel

PUPPETEERS

Michael D. Langlois

Gita Hassin

Suzanne Uren

Thank you to Ron Binion, Richard Termine, Heather Asch, JD Elliott, Michael Arthur,
Diana Baltazar, and Chris Alonzo.

EMERGING ARTISTS

EXCERPT FROM
BALLOON



Megan McNerney

Adapted from the play by Padraic Colum

Directed by Megan McNerney

Original music composed and performed by Larry Siegel

PUPPETEERS

Jessica Binder

Ceili Clemens

Mycah Hogan

Patrick Holmes

Ulysses Jones

Jess McKay

Carus Waggoner

Derron M. Wood

GRA'MA



Mike O'Brien

All her life my grandmother saw the cup as half full.

*In her battle against Alzheimer's she continued to drink from
the cup of life even when it was nearly empty.*

This short play is a tribute to her and her ability to keep her cup full.

Written & Directed by Mike O'Brien

Original music composed by Larry Siegel

PUPPETEERS

Joe Dunfee

Keri Lewis

Spencer Lott

Jane Martineau

Andrew Mooney

Amy Rush

EMERGING ARTISTS

ZEN PARABLE



Carole Simms

Your life will take you to unpredictable places. Your well-being depends entirely on your ability to appreciate small gifts.

Written & Directed by Carole Simms

Original music composed by Larry Siegel

Live percussion performed by Bobbie Nidzgorski

PUPPETEERS

Angelo Ritacco

Joseph A. Rodriguez

Liz Wadsworth

Thank you Larry Reed (mask concept), Leslie Carrara, Moe Pommerantz, Ron Binion for recommendations, Bart & Fred for set help, Wendy Morton & Derron for lighting, and to Scott for all his support.

LOST BUT FOUND



Lesley Smith

"We really lead magic lives, guided and provided for at every step, if we have ears to hear and eyes to see." - Florence Scovel Shinn

Please enjoy the opening scene of a two-act play,
the seed of which began at the O'Neill Puppetry Conference in 2004.
www.sammysnail.com

Written & Directed by Lesley Smith

PUPPETEERS

Mary Gragen

Carl H. Jaynes

Eric Michaelian

Elizabeth Raninberg

Lesley Smith

Thank you for the loving support of my parents, my husband Mark, my sons Rowan, Trey and Bo, my cast, the Puppetry Conference staff, and all of you!

O' NEILL PUPPETRY CONFERENCE STAFF

Pam Arciero, *Artistic Director*
Bobbie Nidzgorski, *Managing Director*

WITH GUEST ARTISTS

Annie Evans • Phillip Huber • Jim Kroupa
Tim Lagasse • Martin P. Robinson • Jim Rose

Bart P. Roccoberton, Jr.	Production Manager
Jared Jenkins	Conference Manager
Cathy McCullough	Artistic Associate
Jean Marie Keevins	Assistant Conference Manager
Nikki Tilroe	Movement/Manipulation Coach
Richard Termine	Director of Emerging Artists
Ronald Binion	Artist-in-Residence
Leslie Carrara	Character Coach
Larry Siegel	Resident Composer
Roger Danforth	Directing/Dramaturgy
Fred Thompson	Resident Craftsman
David Reagan	Technical Director
Natalie George	Technical Crew
Rachel Roccoberton	Stage Manager
Lorainne Gilman	Stage Manager
Derron M. Wood	Artistic Director, Flock Theater
Suzanne Cresswell	O'Neill Company Manager

**OUR VERY
SPECIAL THANKS**
to

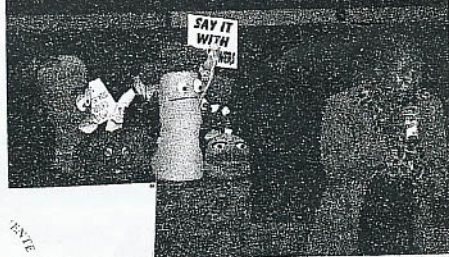
Heather Henson
and the Henson Family
for their generous and
constant support.

Flock Theater
of New London
for volunteering their
invaluable time and talent
to assist our artists.

Judy Rose
for her support
and enthusiasm.

Jane Henson
for fifteen years of
loyalty and support.

SEEKING PUPPETEERS FOR EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH SHOWS



Kaiser Permanente Educational Theatre is seeking puppeteers for educational outreach shows in the metro Atlanta area. We perform year round. Seeking puppeteers available for 3 month contracts. Paid positions. Please send resume to denitra.isler@kp.org or call 770-931-6092 for more information. Also, visit our Web site at: <http://xnet.kp.org/ga/etp/>

 **KAISER PERMANENTE.**

**15th
the
O'Neill
puppetry
conference**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2005
8:00 PM**

ORDER OF PERFORMANCES

IN THE BARN THEATER

PIDGEON-HOLED

Written by Annie Evans
Directed by Martin P. Robinson

VIDEO ANARCHY

Tim Lagasse • Alpha Monkey

= INTERMISSION =

IN THE DINA MERRILL THEATER

SONG SET FIRE

Yvette Edery

MARIONETTE MANIPULATION & CONSTRUCTION

Phillip Huber & Jim Rose

REDEMPTION

Rolande Duprey

GRA'MA

Mike O'Brien

CROSSING BOUNDARIES

Ronald Binion



SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2005
7:30 PM

ORDER OF PERFORMANCES

IN THE BARN THEATER

PIDGEON-HOLED

Written by Annie Evans

Directed by Martin P. Robinson

VIDEO ANARCHY

Tim Lagasse • Alpha Monkey

=INTERMISSION=

IN THE DINA MERRILL THEATER

ZEN PARABLE

Carole Simms

MARIONETTE MANIPULATION & CONSTRUCTION

Phillip Huber & Jim Rose

LOST BUT FOUND

Lesley Smith

BALLOON

Megan McNerney

CROSSING BOUNDARIES

Ronald Binion

PARTICIPANT PROJECTS

COOTIE CATCHER • Crystal Gomes

WHAT YOU NEED WHEN YOU NEED IT • Becky Ray

THE ADVENTURES OF PUSSIE AND CORDELIA • "Z" (Lindsey) Briggs

"DAVID KARLE ROCKS"

THE WILD ROSE • Aki Shinozaki