

Fresh Ideas in Puppetry Day. We have booked **June 3rd, 2017** at the **Aki Studio**, in the Daniels Spectrum on Queen Street East, for this semi-annual convivial and energising event. The Day provides a wonderful opportunity to gather with puppetry practitioners and aficionados for a stimulating day of presentations, demonstrations and discussions, and an evening of fresh short performances - all showcasing artists exploring new and ground-breaking directions in puppetry. To find out more, visit puppetmongers.com.

Submissions & proposals to ann@puppetmongers.com by March 27th please

Puppetmongers

Mark your calendars...

December 26 to 31: **Tea at the Palace** at the **Wychwood Theatre**
January 5: **Cinderella in Muddy York** at Toronto Reference Library, at 2 p.m.
January through May: **School of Puppetry workshops** - TBA
January 30: deadline for **PXL** proposals
March 17: **Brick Bros. Circus** at TPL **Mimico Public Library**
March 27: deadline for **Fresh Ideas Day** proposals
March 31: **Object Theatre workshop** at Storytellers' Camp
June 3: **Fresh Ideas in Puppetry Day** at the Aki Studio
June: **Humber Puppetry Program—Master Classes**
August 11 – 13: **Puppetmongers at Puppets Up!** In Almonte (show TBA)

Co-artistic Directors Ann Powell and David Powell gratefully thank the Board of Directors for their continuing dedication and support: Brian Burch, Heather Kent, Allie Marshall, Linda Rogers and Larry Swartz. And we sadly said goodbye to Fran Accinelli, who stepped down this year, after many years of involvement with and contributions to Puppetmongers. Thank you so much Fran.

And much-much thanks to our funders and donors: the Toronto Arts Council, the Ontario Arts Council, Ann Gibson, Sheila Goulet, Carolyn Lehman, Sharon Lovett, Ellen Manney, Yvonne Ng, Maria Pasquale, Arthur Powell, George Pyron, Jerry Silverberg, Robert Struthers, Larry Swartz, and several incognito donors. We also sadly said goodbye to our major supporter this year, with the death of our dad in August, aged 95.

Puppetmongers Theatre is a member of the Toronto Theatre Alliance for the performing Arts, UNIMA Canada, Puppeteers of America, and the Ontario Puppetry Association.

Puppetmongers Theatre is a Registered Charity - No. 10434 7042 RR0001

Please donate freely and often, to help our many wondrous ventures attain fruition!

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Puppetmongers Winter 2016 'Mongernews

Tea at the Palace at the **Wychwood Theatre** this **December**



We are moving our
27th Annual Winter Holiday Tradition
to the
Wychwood Theatre, with performances
of **Tea at the Palace**.
Enjoyed by audiences aged 5 to 105!

Tea at the Palace is a sumptuous retelling of two stories told in old Russia that explore themes of justice and compassion.

In the first story, a peasant is brought to the Tsar's court and charged with treason, simply for enjoying his tea; then, in the second story, the Tsar becomes smitten with a girl beneath his social rank, who outsmarts his meddlesome servants by cleverly solving a series of riddles.

Staged in our signature style with zest, humour and delightful ingenuity, the show features magical pop-up scenery, an array of puppets based on antique dolls and toys ranging from 6 inches to 6 feet tall, and exuberant music created by David Anderson and Nuno Cristo. For this holiday run, we'll be teaming up with some of our favourite collaborators: director Sharon Weisbaum, lighting designer Kevin Hutson, and stage manager Bonnie Thomson.

December 26th to 31st at 1 p.m. daily.

Evening performances on December 21st and 28th at 7 p.m.

At the Wychwood Theatre, 601 Christie Street (just south of St Clair Avenue)

All tickets \$15 - Call Puppetmongers at 416-469-3555 or visit puppetmongers.com

**And for even more fun - sign up for a post-show puppet making workshop,
December 26th, 27th, 29th or 30th!**

Limited to 10 adult-accompanied participants aged 5 to 12

Workshop tickets are \$10 each

Please reserve your workshop spot when booking your show tickets.

**If you haven't already, please consider giving us your email address at
www.puppetmongers.com, to help us save on the cost of printing and stamps.**

Some of the fun things we've been up to in 2016...

In the spring, we gave a talk on Contemporary Canadian puppetry, as the "opener" for the U of T Drama Department sponsored *Tibet: Through the Red Box* by the Czech company *Boutky a Loutky*.

Then, we gave a show-and-tell talk at a **CANSCAIP** members' meeting, on 'Mongers' history and work, followed soon after by presentation of our *World of Puppetry* at the Ontario Puppetry Association's Day of Puppetry.

Our *Brick Bros. Circus* entertained wildly different audiences, at the McMichael Art Gallery, at Toronto's iteration of Montreal's Café Concret, and at a children's summer day camp; and *Cinderella in Muddy York* and *Foolish Tales for Foolish Tales* travelled to schools in the GTA.

Puppetmongers are making a **Stratford Festival** connection, with David introducing halogen shadow imagery into a couple of their workshopped projects – Sharon Pollock's *The Komagata Maru Incident*, for production mid-2017, and Geoffrey Tease's *Cue for Treason*.

We were again selected as Recommenders for the Ontario Arts Council's Creators' Reserve program this year, a role that gives us an insiders' glimpse of all kinds of exciting puppetish ideas and explorations going on around the province. Congratulations to the chosen few!

And... we received an invitation to Iran this December, to perform at the Tehran International Puppet Theatre Festival again – but we're already busy with *Tea at the Palace* at the Wychwood Theatre and *Cinderella in Muddy York* at the reference Library, so had to say No! Maybe next year...

New production in the works... slow cooker style! This fall we spent a playful week exploring ideas for a possible new 'Mongers production – an interpretation of Conan Doyle's *Hound of the Baskervilles*. We discovered lots of potential in the story's atmosphere of Victorian mystery and violence, and in its contrasts – the vastness of the moor, and knick-knack filled parlours; polite and proper Victorian gentility, and the cultivation of the fear of fear itself. Now, to find more time to get back to further development...

Puppetry HIVE starting up. For a while we've had the idea of using our studio as a gathering place for local puppeteers, to continue the convivial energy of our Fresh Ideas Day year round - and this fall the Puppetry Hive is finally off the ground, with the support of an Arts Service Organization grant from the Ontario Arts Council! With more or less monthly meetings, the idea is for an invited community of puppet theatre artists to have a place to exchange ideas and skills, to cross-pollinate and collaborate, and share explorations and discoveries. And for member puppet artists who are used to building in their kitchens and rehearsing in their bedrooms, it will provide space in our studio at an affordable rate.

Other opportunities to see 'Mongers' shows...

Cinderella in Muddy York – our resetting of the classic tale in early Toronto - will be at the Reference Library on January 5th at 2 p.m., presented in conjunction with the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books' current exhibit, "Once Upon a Time: Fairy Tales", on display in the TD Gallery. And *The Brick Bros Circus* will be at the Mimico Public Library during March Break, on March 17th: See bricks do tricks in one of the silliest shows on earth!

School Touring and Workshops. This year, we are offering three of our shows for school touring, so contact your children's' school to book us!

Cinderella in Muddy York (K to Grade 8) in **January**

Foolish Tales for Foolish Times (K to Grade 6) in **April**

Walid the Grass Cutter (Grade 4 and up) in **May**

A World of Puppetry demonstrations (primary/junior/intermediate), and in-class workshops and residencies are available year-round. For more information or to book, contact Mariposa In The Schools at **416-462-9400/1-888-255-6487** info@mariposaintheschools.ca

Humber College's Annual Puppetry Program. Led by us 'Mongers, Shawna Reiter (CLUNK Puppet lab) and Faye Dupuis (Foreign Landscapes), this past June's **Puppetry Intensive** gave participants an intense toe-dipping into the principles and techniques of puppet design, construction, movement and performance creation. **In June 2017 the Master Classes** return: Offered over a two week period, there will be 3 and 5 day workshops focusing on diverse aspects of puppet theatre, to allow participants to delve deeper into the subject matter. Watch this space for updates...

creativearts.humber.ca/continuing-education/courses/puppetry

School of Puppetry. Last winter and spring, excellent workshops were given by Ingrid Hansen, Shawna Reiter, Jamie Shannon, Andy Hayward, and Puppetmongers David and Ann. This season has already started, with Shawna Reiter's *Beginner Marionette*, and David Powell's *Shadow Puppetry Intensive*, with more workshops being planned for the winter and spring. We're also introducing a series of evening **sessions on administrative themes**, that started this fall with *Grant Writing & Reporting* given by Linda Rogers. For developing workshop news, visit torontoschoolofpuppetry.com

Puppetry eXploratory Laboratory (PXL). This mentoring program is for people from all walks of the arts, who are interested in learning about and integrating puppetry into their artistic practice in a collaborative environment. PXL starts in February and will culminate with participants' presentation of their works-in-progress at our Fresh Ideas in Puppetry Day on June 3rd. If you have an idea for a puppetry related project that you'd like to explore and develop with others, or would like to participate in such a project, visit us at puppetmongers.com. The deadline for applications and project proposals is **January 30th**.

