

Puppetmongers



Photo from Teatr Fraktal

Fresh Ideas in Puppetry Day 2022

Puppetmongers Theatre is honoured to present this annual mini-conference showcasing artists taking new and ground-breaking directions in puppetry.

Sunday, June 5, 2022

In the spirit of reconciliation, respect and truth, we acknowledge and honour that Puppetmongers Theatre is located on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat people, and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit. We are deeply grateful to the original caretakers of this land, recorded and unrecorded.

We recognize our settler privilege, and acknowledge our shared history, and continue to work to understand our role and responsibilities as Treaty People.

Schedule of events

Afternoon Presentations - 2pm ET

2:00pm - Welcome

2:05pm - Kathy MacLellan & John Nolan (Rag & Bone Puppet Theatre) and Robin Polfuss
- Panel discussion: *There and Back Again, From Live Shows to Virtual Shows to ...?!*

2:30pm - Grant Harding (The Abstractions) - *Channels: Creating a Puppet Show from Found Audio*

3:00pm - Sequoia Erickson (Shadowland Theatre) and Robin Careless (Flawed Design) -
Light & Shadow: from Shadow Puppetry to 2D Platformer

3:30pm - Ewa Maria Wolska (Teatr Fraktal) - *OCEAN SWING & GARDEN GROOVE -the search for original sound in FRAKTAL THEATRE*

4:00pm - Alexandra Montagnese & Gabriel Levine - *The White Plague* by Karel Čapek: A Cardboard Puppet Production

Evening Cabaret - 7pm ET

Featuring performances by:

Genna Beth Davidson

Clay and Paper Theatre

Robin Polfuss

Linda Fitz & Steve Paul Simms

Lenny Epstein & Gavin North, Short Attention Spa

Jumblied Theatre

Kathy MacLellan & John Nolan, Rag & Bone Puppet Theatre

Afternoon presentations



Kathy MacLellan, John Nolan, and Robin Polfuss

Ottawa and Scarborough, Ontario (respectively)

There and Back Again, From Live Shows to Virtual Shows to ...?!

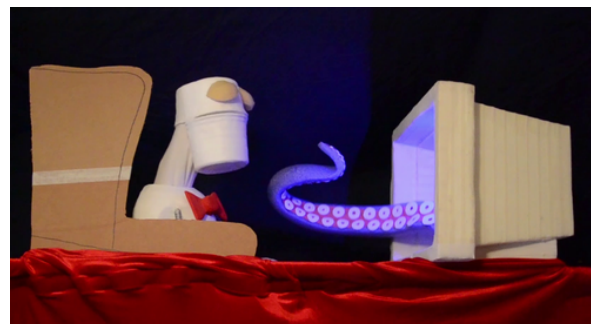
Two companies discuss their transitions from live shows to pre-recorded work, online streaming, and hybrid presentations. Has the pandemic profoundly changed our companies, our industry, and our audiences' expectations?

John Nolan and Kathy MacLellan direct Rag & Bone Puppet Theatre; and Robin Polfuss does all kinds of different puppetry things. ragandbone.ca / facebook.com/PuppetWhatWhat

Grant Harding, The Abstractions

Ottawa, Ontario

Channels: Creating a Puppet Show from Found Audio



How I turned an audio collage into a celebration of bad television, starring an unlucky channel-surfing puppet. Follow me through workshopping a script, building a stage, and creating special effects.

Grant studied puppetry at Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia. He has created short puppet films, live concert visuals, and puppet templates for children. theabstractions.com



Sequoia Erickson, Shadowland Theatre & Robin Careless, Flawed Design

Toronto, Ontario

*Light & Shadow: from Shadow Puppetry to
2D Platformer*

Light & Shadow is a free-to-play, 2D platform video game being developed by Shadowland Theatre and Flawed Designs. The game explores anxiety and depression through the artistic style of shadow puppetry.

Shadowland Theatre creates theatre that is expressive in style, highly imaginative in concept, and spectacular in execution. shadowlandtheatre.ca. Flawed Designs is a media production company that specializes in films and video games. flaweddesigns.weebly.com

Ewa Maria Wolska, Teatr Fraktal

Poland

*OCEAN SWING & GARDEN GROOVE - the
search for original sound in FRAKTAL THEATRE*

Musical instruments from old, recycled objects. Puppets and set design as musical instruments. Sounds of the changing seasons. Sounds of the ocean, sounds of the mystery. Garden as an orchestra.



Ewa Maria Wolska is director, puppeteer, stop-motion animator. Founder of Teatr FRAKTAL (FRACTAL Theatre), creating original, intimate, poetic performances known for rich visuality, experimental sound, and original instruments. [facebook.com/TeatrFRAKTAL](https://www.facebook.com/TeatrFRAKTAL)



Alexandra Montagnese & Gabriel Levine

Toronto, Ontario

*The White Plague by Karel Čapek: A Cardboard
Puppet Production*

Alex and Gabe discuss the puppetry production elements from their winter show about a mysterious, contagious, and lethal disease ravaging the population with doctors around the world racing to find a cure.

As curators, Gabe and Alex have collaborated (along with three other puppet enthusiasts) on Toronto's Seasonal Experimental Puppetry Cabaret: Concrete Cabaret since 2018. *The White Plague* is their first directorial collaboration. gabriellevine.net / alexandramontagnese.com

Evening performances



Genna Beth Davidson

Connecticut, USA

Jovita Idár: A Maiden of Justice

Created for the 2020 Women's Suffrage Pageant at the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry, this toy theatre piece honors Jovita Idár's courageous work as a journalist, teacher, political activist, and civil rights worker.

Genna Beth has an M.F.A. from UConn's Puppet Arts program. She recently premiered her auto-biographical show *Replay* at Arts Center East in Vernon, CT and hopes to take it on tour next year.

Clay and Paper Theatre

Toronto, Ontario

It Only Takes the Smallest Light... The Journey to LuminUS

During the darkest days of the pandemic, the Lumins come to life for Clay and Paper Theatre, artful expressions of sculpture, light, music, large scale puppetry and spectacle.



Since 1994, Clay & Paper Theatre has been producing plays, pageants and parades with and for the community, grounded in the idea that performance in public space is an act of cultural transformation. [instagram.com/clay.paper.theatre](https://www.instagram.com/clay.paper.theatre)



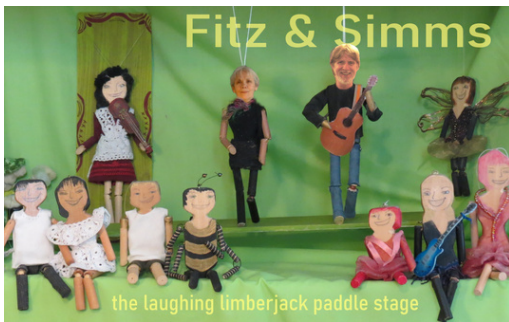
Robin Polfuss

Scarborough, Ontario

The Awkward Date

You can't always tell everything about your date from their picture, but it still might work out! Or... maybe not? A short video on the perils of dating.

Robin is a storyteller, puppet builder and puppeteer at live festivals and events, and has been making short films for Slams and Youtube. She teaches puppet building & performing workshops.



Linda Fitz & Steve Paul Simms

Toronto, Ontario

Jack be Limber

These Laughing-Limberjacks and Limberjackys are musical instruments and Irish/British folk-like dancing, paddle puppets. Each is manipulated by an elastic string attached to its head and a vibrating paddle at its feet.

Linda Fitz is a retired 3D animator, now video editing and making and animating limberjacks. Steve Paul Simms is a singer-songwriter, actor, guitarist, seniors' entertainer who regularly performs his original music. fitzfx.wixsite.com/limberjacks

Lenny Epstein & Gavin North, Short Attention Spa

Prince Edward County, Ontario

Short Attention Spa is Tall Attention Spa

Small town comedians Short Attention Spa take their act to new heights in this improvised giant puppet documentary.



Short Attention Spa is the duo of Lenny Epstein and Gavin North. They practice the art of making people laugh. Mostly they do that through comedy. shartspa.com



Jumblies Theatre

Toronto, Ontario

Stories told from the Ottawa Valley

A 6-minute film of mini-object performances expressing stories of social goodness, with local artists/residents of Killaloe, Ontario in August 2020 – part of Jumblies' Grounds for Goodness project.

groundsforgoodness.ca

Jumblies and Ruth Howard make art with, for and about people and places. This video was produced in partnership with Ottawa Valley Creative Arts, filmed and edited by Studio Dreamshare.

Performers: Roberta Della Pica, Matt Lenzo, Emma Pinto, Ruth Howard, Dorian Pearce, Andy Trull, and Cameron Montgomery.

Kathy MacLellan & John Nolan,

Rag & Bone puppet Theatre

Ottawa, Ontario

An Elderly Lady Is Up To No Good



An excerpt from a work in progress hybrid (film/live) show for adult audiences, about an 88-year-old Maud, who pretends to be vague and helpless but is really a cold-hearted killer.

Rag & Bone has created shows, toured, and worked in TV since 1978, earning an ACTRA award and a Citation of Excellence in the Art of Puppetry from UNIMA.

Puppetmongers

Ann Powell & David Powell

Puppetmongers Co-Artistic Directors & Fresh Ideas curators/hosts

Victoria Laberge

Marketing Manager

Philip Garrett

Tech & Zoom Magician

Linda Rogers & Jenna Harris

Consultants

Kimberley Howe

Bookkeeping

Puppetmongers are members of UNIMA Canada, the Toronto Theatre Alliance for the performing Arts, and the Ontario Puppetry Association

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

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