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## PUPPETCETERA

Wisconsin Puppetry Guild Newsletter

May 2010

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### JOIN THE WISCONSIN PUPPETRY GUILD!

The Wisconsin Puppetry Guild is a membership organization for puppeteers, librarians, teachers, and puppet enthusiasts of all ages.

Guild members meet whenever there is an opportunity to attend performances or participate in workshops presented by other puppeteers.

Many of the Guild members are active in the Puppeteers of America, a national organization.

If you received this newsletter you are on our list of Wisconsin puppeteers. To become a member of the Wisconsin Puppetry Guild, just email Joan McCarthy.

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## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

The Wisconsin Puppetry Guild is pleased to announce a **DAY OF PUPPETRY** on Saturday, June 5 beginning at 9:30 am at the Hazel Green Opera House in Hazel Green, Wisconsin. HELP us spread the word by forwarding this newsletter. And make plans to join us in Hazel Green.

**PERSONAL NOTE:** You may have wondered why you have not received an email or Puppetcetera for the last year. Last May I suffered strokes so I am having to learn some things all over again. However, I am what they call a 'stroke survivor' so I'm in the process of 'rewiring' my brain. I'm sorry that you haven't heard from me in so long - I appreciated all the cards and flowers that I received last May (although I don't remember much of what happened.) Apparently, your brain needs something to hang memories on - and I lost some memories - not all of them though. I am looking forward to seeing all the old friends in the Wisconsin Puppetry Guild and meeting some new friends.

Joan McCarthy, WPG Membership

## DAY OF PUPPETRY Hazel Green, June 5, 2010



Are you ready for a fabulous Day of Puppetry at the Hazel Green Opera House? It will be 9:30 a.m. to about 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 5. Performances are free, but donations are welcome to help offset expenses. Sponsors include the Grant County Safe & Stable Families, Hazel Green Community Development Corp., Benton Community Development Corp. and the Benton State Bank. Please thank them!!!

Concessions will be available for lunch as well as (we hope) an afternoon snack, likely during the parade.

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**Here's the schedule WHICH HAS JUST BEEN REVAMPED!!!:**

9:30 a.m. -- "The Queen of Hearts," Corcoran Puppets of Stevens Point, Wis.

10:30 a.m. -- Puppetmaking workshop, by Pam Corcoran -- Methodist Church Hall

11:30 a.m. -- "A Bridge to Fur," The Village Idiot Puppets, Minnetonka, Minn.

12:30-1:30 p.m. -- Lunch (concessions at the church hall)

1:30 p.m. -- "In the Mirror: Three Tales from Asia," Eulenspiegel Puppets, West Liberty, Iowa

2:30 p.m. -- Parade (in front of opera house). Bring a puppet, use the one you made in the workshop or help us parade one of our giant characters. (In case of rain and misery, we skip the parade; but there will be a break before the next performance.)).

3:15 p.m. -- "Cats, Cowboys and Fluffels," 3 winning children's puppet plays, Fever River Puppeteers, Hazel Green.

For more about the winners of the puppet playwriting contest, please see the article below in this newsletter. For photos of the playwrights AND TO go to Fever River's blog, click on the photo above.

## Day of Puppetry PERFORMANCES

### *The Queen of Hearts*

Enjoy this fun and engaging version of the old rhyme. This time, the Queen is baking tarts for her dog! What a surprise for Jolly the Juster, whose greed for tasty tarts leads him astray.



### **CORCORAN PUPPETS**

Since 1983, the mission of Corcoran Puppets has been to engage curiosity about life, inspire creativity and encourage compassion for all living things through the use of puppets, music and stories. Pam brings puppet shows, workshops and residencies to children and adults at school, museums, festivals, family resource centers and libraries. Click on the picture to find out more about Pam Corcoran Puppets.



### *In The Mirror: Three Tales From Asia*

Be entertained by a feisty little old lady, a vain king, and a pair of Japanese trolls while learning about international folklore and honoring your elders!

A set of three tales from Japan and Turkey, these stories all feature atypical heroes. A favorite is the little old lady outsmarting two Oni (Japanese trolls) who imprison her in order to sample her delicious cooking. The show uses a clever stage that rises and folds out of a decorated box. It features rod puppets, paper puppets, masks, and a combination rod puppet/rod marionette.

### **EULENSPIEGEL PUPPET THEATRE**

is a non-profit, tax-exempt puppet company organized to promote the art of puppetry by producing and presenting high-quality

performances and workshops. The company is committed to educating the public about the arts, serving as a center for the exchange of ideas, and enhancing the quality of community life. Click on the picture to find out more about Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre.



### ***The Bridge to Fur***

This history lesson, disguised as silly fun, follows the lives of French fur traders in the 1700's. The French voyageur of 1720 feared only swift waters, bad weather and the occasional singing beaver.

**VILLAGE IDIOT PUPPETS** Steve Mark is an award-winning freelance illustrator who is also a puppeteer.

## ***Cats, Cowboys and Fluffels***

Chuck and Sandye have created a puppet performance with the winners from their annual playwriting contest. See below about the winners of this year's playwriting contest.

### **FEVER RIVER PUPPETEERS**

The opera house is where people and puppets come together for fun. This is the home of The Fever River Puppeteers, a nonprofit 501c3, who perform marionette and other puppet shows seasonally. They offer occasional puppetry workshops for children and adults, and feature guest puppeteers as well. The opera house seats 80 patrons on soft chairs. For more about Fever River visit their blogspot.

## **Puppetry SPECIAL EVENTS!**

This newsletter would not be complete without a mention of the other exciting events this summer holds for puppeteers.



## **PuppetFest MidWest**

**JULY 6-11, 2010**

PuppetFest MidWest is an independent, annual puppetry festival that is presented, organized and financially supported by puppeteers as a gift to other puppeteers. It is an affordable puppet festival, with an emphasis on showing and teaching the traditional skills of good puppet theatre.

The purpose of PuppetFest MidWest is to promote, encourage and illustrate by example and by hands-on experience good puppet theatre.

At the festival, you will be treated to world-class puppet performances in an intimate setting, and you will participate in a 4 day in-depth workshop, taught by one of the professional puppeteers performing at the festival. You will learn skills and techniques from some of the best puppeteers performing today. Click on the Rumpelstiltskin logo to link to the PuppetFest MidWest website.



Come Join us in Springfield, Illinois -- the Land of Lincoln -- for the Great Lakes Regional Puppetry Conference! July 30-August 1, 2010.

Fabulous shows, fun workshops, friendly puppeteers! The conference is being held in the luxurious President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference

Center in downtown Springfield, within blocks of historic Lincoln sites, including the renown Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the Old State Capitol, the Lincoln Home and the Lincoln-Herndon Law Office. Unique shops and restaurants are also just a short walk from the hotel. Trolley rides also available to historic sites. Truly a mecca of fun and exciting things to do and see! Something for all ages!

Click on the logo of thge Festival for more info.



## Fever River Marionettes Announce the Puppet Playwriting Contest Winners

At long last we are announcing the winners of this year's Puppet Playwriting Contest.

We are hard at work turning the stories the children wrote into a puppet play that will be performed part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Day of Puppetry, Saturday, June 5, at the Hazel Green Opera House, 2130 Main St.

The children and their prize-winning stories are:

"The Three Little Kittens and the Big, Bad Dog," by MiKenzie Kilburg, third grade, St. Joseph School, Bellevue, Iowa.

"The Life of a Cowboy," by Jeb Schwager, third grade, St. Joseph School, Bellevue.

"Michael and Fluffel-Land," by Sachi Biehl, fourth grade, Cassville (Wis.) Elementary School.

Congratulations!

Please forward this email to anyone interested in Puppetry in Wisconsin! When they email me I can add them to the list!

Hope to see you on June 5 in Hazel Green!

Sincerely,

Joan McCarthy, Membership Chair  
Wisconsin Puppetry Guild

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