



Puppetry 101 Workshop

Overview: This introductory workshop is a great way to acquaint your group with the art of puppetry and some of the building block skills required to bring an inanimate object to life. We use puppets, videos, googly eye rings, crumpled up pieces of paper, and more to create a fun and interactive experience.

Puppetry can be a useful tool for both verbal and non-verbal communication; it can be an art form in and of itself; it can be a tool to assist with artistic expression; and it can be a teaching mechanism to encourage innovative thinking, character creation, problem-solving, spontaneity, intuition, and improvisation. In many cases, the depersonalization offered by use of a puppet allows people to come out of their shells and/or portray other characters more freely than they otherwise might have. And you get to keep the googly eyes!

Length: 1 to 3 hours, as desired

Group Size: 5 to 20 people is ideal but we won't leave anyone out! In terms of schools, we find a curated group of keen students can work best.

Suitable for: Ages 10+; drama students; corporate groups; theatre companies; community groups; and more!

Workshop Breakdown:

- Introduction to Puppetry: a fun and contemporary look at the world of puppetry
- Warm-Up: group physical and vocal exercises
- Breath: being aware of our own breath and relating it to a puppet
- Fixed Points: breaking down actions into the smallest possible increments
- Eye focus: using googly eyes to begin to establish focus and emphasis
- Non-Verbal Communication: conveying information such as positives and negatives
- Walking: basic walking and creating character walks
- Culmination: a short non-verbal scene utilizing all the above skills
- Lip Sync: synchronizing the hand with the puppeteer's own speech
- Improvisation: a series of simple games focusing on character, environment, relationship, status, and tension

Post-workshop: Activity and lesson plans can be provided upon request so that the skills learned during the workshop can continue to be developed and integrated into different contexts. The workshop encourages participants to think about how one can integrate these skills into their day-to-day lives.

This workshop is a template or a starting point. We can work with you to tailor it to your specific needs, interests, budget, and desired length. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions!