



PUPPETRY ARTS INSTITUTE

Volume X, Issue III

Founded 2001

Summer 2010 Edition

From The Executive Director

Dear Friends of PAI:

The hot days of Summer have arrived in Independence, but the puppets are staying cool inside. We are very busy with our Puppet Making Workshops that are a favorite with day care groups and young people's summer programs. These organizations tell us that when they ask the kids where they want to go for field trips, they always ask to come to the Puppetry Arts Institute to make a puppet. We're glad that they have such a good time with us. We also continue to get out-of-towners who find us on the tourism Web sites, Rand McNally road map information, or through AAA. We are always excited to see who will come through the door each day. If you haven't been to the PAI for a while, drop by and see what's new.

Plans are continuing for creating a puppet show for the commemoration of the Civil War/ Border War between the states of Missouri and Kansas. We received a generous donation from the R.A. Long Foundation to help subsidize taking the perform-



Nancy Clark And PAI's Parade Puppets

ance to schools and local historic sites.

Other donations came in May from Soroptimist International of Kansas City and the Independence Young Matrons to help sponsor bringing puppeteers from other states to perform puppet shows here at PAI. We are always proud that we can offer our loyal patrons the vast array of types of puppet shows and the quality of puppeteers who perform here.

Our Englewood area in Independence continues to move ahead to become an Arts and Entertainment District. Our Third Friday Art Walks are bringing in more people now that the weather is warmer and daylight lasts longer. Robert Leroy Smith's clown puppets entertained on the streets in May and Joann McMillan's huge mermaid puppet paraded the streets in June. Our larger parade puppets decorated

the outside of the PAI, too. It was hard to miss that exciting puppet events are happening on Winner Road (see *Art Walk photos on page 4*). There are some new art galleries that have also opened, so please mark your calendars for the third Friday evening of each month and drop by to see what's happening in Englewood and at the Puppetry Arts Institute.

As we continue to celebrate our 10th anniversary,

Executive Director

Nancy Clark

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Inside This Issue:

Hazelle Gathers Her Puppets Home	2
Performance Schedule	2
Our Donors and Sponsors	3
Fan Mail	3
Donation News	4
Art Walk	4
Hazelle Memories	4

sary, do plan to visit us to see our display *Puppets: Depression thru Recession*, make a puppet, attend an Art Walk, or enjoy a puppet show!

Nancy Clark

Executive Director

Hazelle Gathers Her Puppets Home by Diane Houk

While at her harp teacher's home recently, board member Judith Deacon noticed a book titled *Rhythms of a Century*. It had been produced by the University of Missouri—Kansas City (UMKC) Conservatory of Music. Glancing through it, Judith came across Hazelle's name and the story of her working from 1949 to

1951 to produce three marionette operas. They were *Hansel and Gretel*, *Pagliacci* and *La Serva Padrona*. The program was a collaborative effort of the Conservatory opera classes taught by Stanley Deacon, the Conservatory Orchestra and the Women's Committee.

Perhaps it was serendipity at work but on July 8th, we received a phone call at PAI from Lindsay Davis,

Associate Professor of Costume Design at UMKC. He asked if we would be interested in having some marionettes once used at UMKC. They had been on loan to the Toy and Miniature Museum, but they were ready to be returned. The University didn't have any details about the origin of the marionettes but

they did know they no longer had a use for them. After describing the marionettes to me, he had another call and had to put me on hold. That gave me the opportunity to go to our library and pull out a copy of the book Judith had found. I went right to the Hazelle pages I had flagged and realized that Hazelle

had somehow guided Lindsay to call us. I hurried back to the phone and read Lindsay the information about Hazelle and the operas. He couldn't believe that he had found the home of the Hazelle Rollins Puppet Museum. The marionettes were delivered that afternoon. We will work on getting them untangled, refurbished and on display, then pursue collecting more information about them from the Conservatory.



UKMC Donations: Hansel and Gretel

Performance Schedule

Please call to confirm shows, dates and times as they are subject to change. Reservations are suggested.

Taking A Trip Around The World

Rosalie Perryman of Marshfield, MO

Sat, August 14th at 11am & 2pm

The BIGGEST Mermaid

Joann McMillan of PAI

Sat, Sept 25th at 11am & 2pm

Halloween Marionette Musical

Joann McMillan & Nancy Clark of PAI

Sat, Oct 23rd at 11am & 2pm
Sat, Oct 30th at 11am and 2pm

The Circus

Peter Allen and Parasol Puppets

Fri, Nov 26th at 11am & 2pm
Sat, Nov 27th at 11am and 2pm

Our Sponsors and Donors

If you would like to help us grow, we are a 501 (c) 3 organization and we will send you a statement for tax purposes.

Please mail your donations to us at the address shown on Page 4 or call Diane Houk for more information.

Your support is always appreciated!

A special thanks for the generous grants provided by:

Roger T. Sermon Trust Fund
Truman Heartland Community Foundation
Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation
Institute of Museum & Library Services
R. A. Long Foundation
Mader Foundation
Curry Family Foundation
Missouri Arts Council • Sollner Grant
Oregon or Bust! Support (Anonymous)
W.J. Brace Charitable Trust
Junior Service League • Young Matrons
Park Foundation • Target
Trudy Foundation
Soroptimist International of Kansas City

In Kind Donations:

Space Center

PAI thanks the following for their generous donations:

Pat Benedict (MO)

Randy and Kathy Vest (MO)

A special thanks to

Marie Kellogg

For her financial support of the upcoming Civil War/Border War show

And these volunteers for their artistic assistance:

Ann DeYoung • Lucy Graybill
Paula Jones • Ayana Pennington
Susan Walter



Fan Mail

My first experience at the Puppetry Arts Institute was when I was five years old and I made a donkey that I painted blue with hot pink polka-dots. Since then I have enjoyed PAI's puppet shows many times. I have a large number of finger puppets that they give away at every show. I enjoy the hand and string puppets the most. I remember the show by a man who came from St. Louis and made all the puppets out of household materials. He had a dragon made from plastic milk containers. But, my favorite was the puppet with mirrors all over it. I have enjoyed several other shows like the Christmas shows. I have been asked several times to help the puppeteer with things during the shows and that is fun.



**Lexcee And
Two of Her Creations**

I like to make more puppets each time I go. I now have a collection of

From Lexcee, Age 10

18. I make my own puppet shows in my closet with the puppets I have made. I am looking forward to being old enough to make a marionette puppet, which I will be in two years.

The last five years of coming to the shows has been really fun and several times I have brought friends with me. One time I got my whole family to come and see a show. My brother thought it would be boring but they found out it was really fun to come and watch. I usually come with my grandmother because I spend weekends close by with her and Daddy. I would like to be able to help with the puppet making classes like Diane. She is always helping me and others with things. I would recommend PAI to anyone who wants to have fun, be crafty and make a puppet.

Donation News

Jim Sellers of Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts emailed that he was selling his Hazelle collection and had a “rare” Baseball Player that he wanted to donate to PAI. This marionette never appeared in any of Hazelle’s catalogs, but we did have a photograph. So, many thanks to Jim for adding him to our museum. He is also donating some WPA puppets made in the 1930’s by Fern Zwickie. He doesn’t know anything about the maker, but perhaps one of our readers does. If so, please let us know.



PUPPETRY ARTS INSTITUTE

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Hazelle's Baseball Player

Art Walk



May 2010 Art Walk



June 2010 Art Walk

Hazelle Memories

By Margaret Ann Ennis Hauber

During the 1956/57 school year when I was in the fifth grade at Sunset Hill School (now Pembroke Hill School) in Kansas City, Missouri, my teacher (Mrs. Bea Striker) had a marionette stage in our classroom. She was a good friend of Hazelle Rollins, the woman who made the Hazelle Marionettes. We learned about the marionettes and on one field trip we went to the factory in downtown Kansas City to see them being made. We were allowed to either purchase a marionette already made or, buy the kit and put it together on our own. I opted to buy the kit which at that time cost \$5.00. We had great fun with our marionettes that year and used the stage often.

Unfortunately, the following year Mrs. Striker moved to St. Louis to be near her family and I lost track of her. Many years later I met Hazelle Rollins and her husband at a Sons of the Revolution dinner. We talked about the experience and how fond we both were of Mrs. Striker.

Editor's Note: On July 3, 2010 the Tomboy puppet that Margaret put together from the kit was sold to a teacher from Marshalltown, Iowa who was visiting Kansas City and PAI. She uses puppetry in the classroom and has her students make rod marionettes. The teacher was thrilled to see the Tomboy puppet for sale since it reminded her of a Hazelle marionette she had as a child. So, Margaret's puppet can now be used by another teacher who loves puppetry.



Margaret With Hazelle #413 Southern Belle