

# Garden State Puppetry Guild

May 2011

Newsletter

Issue 1

Dear Fellow Puppeteers,

Our “season” is ending. It is time to renew your membership for next year. We have had a very successful year with many goals accomplished. The newsletter has been consistent and filled with articles and pictures thanks to many members’ participation. We moved to a monthly format with our meetings, in a central location in New Jersey. We had a successful National Day of Puppetry event. We have four members planning on attending the National Puppetry Festival, and one member who will be presenting a workshop. At our meetings we have shared, reflected, planned, and supported each other. We have much of which to be proud.

## Membership Information

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Individual: \$15.00 yr

Troupe: \$25.00 yr

Junior (18 and under): \$10.00 yr

Send checks to:

Penny Rapicano, Membership Chair

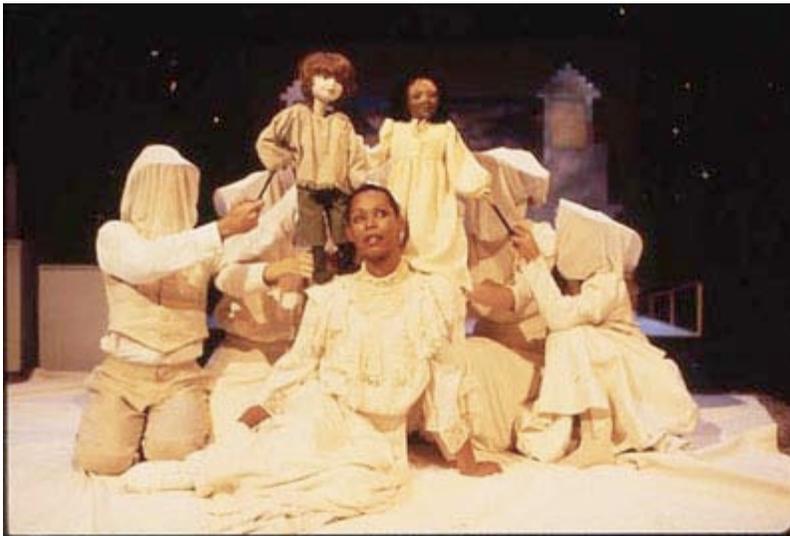
12 Brookview Road

Denville, New Jersey 07834

# Peter and Wendy

## A review

Mabou Mines presented their production of "Peter and Wendy" at the New Victory Theater, New York City on May 6-21. Reprising her Obie award winning role as Narrator, Karen Kendal gave voice to Wendy and all of the characters. The bunraku puppetry, evoking the children's bedroom, were made of bedsheets, cloth, bits of paper and used doll like puppets, Mabou Mines took the classic children's story written by J.M. Barrie, "Peter Pan" and gave it flights of fancy. Wendy, her brothers, and the dog were lifted off the page and onto a pop up stage of delights. The Lost Boys, Captain Hook, Peter Pan and Tinkerbell were all delightfully manipulated by Basil Twist and the rest of the puppeteers, all draped in Victorian "beekeeper" head pieces. Celtic music supported the visuals.



Mabou Mines is a collaborative, avant-garde theater company based in New York City. Founded in 1970, the company took its name from an old mining town in northern Nova Scotia.



# Garden State Puppetry Guild

## Meeting of 5/22/2011

May GSPG Meeting

May 22, 2011

Attendance: Lois, Penny, Steven, Diane, San D, Carey, Willie & Betty  
Meeting began at 2pm



NDOP - Compensation: Members turned in their receipts to Steven to be compensated for supplies & mileage. The check for \$78 from Somerset County 4-H will be mailed to Steven. We voted that we would get \$.45/mile compensation. Steven asked that each person who still needed to be reimbursed to write to him & submit their bill with their address asap.

NDOP: low attendance blamed on weather & lack of press coverage. Steven & San D will handle all press coverage for next year's NDOP & create a "media blitz" to more outlets besides Bridgewater Patch (part of on-line subscribed newsletters for every town in NJ). After NDOP, they will do follow-up news items with photos sent via email. Solve the problem of photo permission by putting red dots ("no photos") or green dots ("ok photos") on each child's name tag to tie-in with parents giving or refusing permission on registration forms. Suggestions for making NDOP better next year: Look for another mid-Jersey venue or continue at Somerset County 4-H for one more year to see the effectiveness of more advertising. Change the name of the event to National Day of Puppetry with the Garden State Puppetry Guild (downplaying involvement with 4-H). Price & then buy a new banner on the internet with this info on it to be posted one month before event at the venue tbd. Look into partnering with some other local organization, that can match the pluses of 4-H (a free location that has all the rooms necessary, lots of parking, & no certificate of insurance). A Search Committee needs to be formed to look into this idea. A suggestion that we locate NDOP further north around Teaneck was countered that it needs to be in Central Jersey. Create a Press Kit & send to each member of the Guild to help us publicize the event in their own community by including a list of suggestions of where to post flyers (library, cable tv, community centers). Post video shorts of NDOP on YouTube.

**National Festival:** Buy an ad in the Journal to recognize that a member of Guild was giving a workshop there & give our guild visibility on a national level. As serious puppeteers we need to support the National in the continuation of puppetry & show that we care. San D offered to pay for it if we decided not to buy ad. Voted: on paying 1/2: 2 ayes, 3 nays & 2 abstentions. Voted for full payment of \$75, 5 ayes, & 2 abstentions. San D will write up & send in the ad with the check including the names of our 4 (or more) members.

By Laws of Guild: Lois misplaced her copy & will ask National for a copy.

Slate of Officers to be voted on at September meeting

President: Diane

Vice President: Penny (or Lois tbd according to By Laws), Treasurer:

Steven, Recording Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_, Corresponding Secretary &

Membership: Penny, Newsletter: San D. Every officer must be a member of PoA.

**Final Meeting in June:** "Puppet Rapture Picnic Extravaganza" in Joyce's backyard. Potential dates: June 19 or 26 or July 10. Joyce will choose date & whether it's just for members or members & their families. Penny needs to know what everyone is bringing to the potluck. Suggestion: bring something beginning with your initial(s).

Treasurer's Report was given by Steven Hollow

Membership: Penny begins the process in May but membership actually starts in September.

**Presentations:** Diane showed large paper puppets designed by Steve Swank for her Spring Festival of Ethical Culture, for the performance of "Supriya's Bowl", a script from Unitarian curriculum about Buddha's teachings. Paper-bag puppets & pipe-cleaners were used by children & adults to illustrate the message of sharing.

San D shared with us her intentions for her workshop at the Festival to help puppeteers get into the school system of programming along the lines of their curriculum. Using a "Spider Diagram", she covered the ideas of active learning for the kids as well as knowing what are the state standards & their "buzz words", how schools budget a year in advance, & who or what organizations to approach. Her radical idea is to do it the first year for free during a week-long residency, then they will know what you can do for them & will more likely ask you back again & again.

Meeting ended at 4pm.

# Puptcrit

## Social Media for Puppeteers

### By Steven Hollow

PUPTCRIT, created in 1994 by Malgosia Askanas, William Elston, and Michele Macaluso is an electronic forum for the discussion of the aesthetics, history, experience, theory and the practice of puppet theatre as it says on the lists information page.

I have been subscribed to Puptcrit since the mid 90's and have found it to be an invaluable resource, a fountain of information, often good for a laugh and a giant time suck. Saying all of that I highly recommend it.

The only down side are the endless discussions of trivia that can be interesting for a day or so but often drag on. Some days my mailbox is filled with posts. This can be solved by only signing up for the daily digest of messages.

On the plus side spam, snarky comments and rude behavior are not tolerated. It is a space where you can ask any question from the most basic sewing question to cutting edge sound technology and you will find a helpful response. Puppeteers of all levels share their works in progress and provide feedback that can in some cases save you hours of work and hundreds of dollars.

If traveling to Kansas or Tanzania and want to see a puppet show you might get a good lead here. Puppeteers from all over the world read the list and contribute. Sign up today and be connected to more of the puppet world, here's how.

To subscribe/unsubscribe to PUPTCRIT, use the Web interface at <http://lists.puptcrit.org/mailman/listinfo/puptcrit>

You can also subscribe/unsubscribe via email, by sending a message with

Subject: subscribe or unsubscribe to: [puptcrit-request@puptcrit.org](mailto:puptcrit-request@puptcrit.org)

In order to send a message to the puptcrit list (i.e. to all the subscribers)

send it to: [puptcrit@puptcrit.org](mailto:puptcrit@puptcrit.org)

Under Construction

Our Banner!



## Upcoming Events

End of the year

Pot Luck Lunch

Bring your best dish to share

Joyce O'Reilly's house

July 10, 2010

Details to follow

Going to the National Festival?

Come join us in the parade of guilds.

Details to follow

# Join, Renew, and Visit

## Garden State Puppetry Guild

### Meetings in 2011

July 10

Joyce O'Reilly's back yard.

Details to follow

Meetings are subject to change.

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Penny Rapicano, Membership Chair

12 Brookview Road

Denville, New Jersey 07834

Guild Website: <http://www.gardenstatepuppetryguild.com/>

## Puppeteers of America

<http://www.puppeteers.org/>

## [National Puppetry Festival](#)

**July 12-17, 2011** Atlanta, GA

See you there!

