



**Look!**

**This Sunday! PGUNY Meeting Novemer 20<sup>th</sup> 1:30-5:00 Directions on last page!**

## **An Introduction to the show by our puppeteer, Robert Rogers**

**Hello Friends,**

**On November 20, I'm going to be performing "Le Avventure di Orlando Furioso" for the PGUNY meeting.** It's a traditional Sicilian puppet show – or Opera dei Pupi – which I constructed some years ago, and have taken to Italian Cultural Events and audiences for the last ten years. I say, constructed, because it involved quite a bit of research, questioning and testing to bring it about. It's an interesting brand of puppet theater that I will also talk about besides perform.

My usual work as a puppeteer includes a repertoire of plays and puppets that I started developing 43 years ago. But my Italian puppet production is somewhat separate, something of personal importance. You see, about twenty years ago, I inherited a collection of marionettes that were made and performed by a woman named Sara Goldsmith. Her career and my relationship with her is a long story in itself. Needless to say, she practiced back in the 1930's, and eventually made it my responsibility to keep her puppets in the public eye. She passed away in the 1990's, but I've done that ever since.



If you come to see my performance, you will understand why I cast her puppets in this classic Italian epic. You might also feel transported to another time as her puppets are nearly 100 years old.

The play involves King Charlemagne, his paladins – or knights in armor, his daughter Princess Angelica, the magical wizard Atlanti and others. Orlando Furioso is his most loyal defender. You will find the show to be suspenseful, action-packed, funny, corny and stilted. I assure you, that's deliberate.

For your extra entertainment, I'm going to bring along a selection of puppets that I've been working on for other projects, and whatever else I think you might find interesting.

For more information, you can take a look at the webpage dedicated to the "Opera dei Pupi." <http://www.robertrogerspuppets.com/what-s-in-the-works-1.html>

**We encourage all puppeteers and anyone interested in puppets to come see this show!**

Nancy Sander and the Johnsons (Pamela, Iver and Jeffrey) had an amazing visit to the Rogers' home / studio. In the Castle Creek countryside we were treated to a museum quality experience. The upstairs of their home is stylishly decorated with well-designed displays of puppets and toys and automata. Proceeding to the lower

level the real magic comes into view, we were unprepared for what we were to see, hundreds of puppets! A collection that spans the world, different cultures, and ages of puppets from a Bil Baird marionette to groupings of heads, masks, hand puppets, rod puppets and marionettes galore. There were rooms full of his creations, purchases, and gifts. The assembly rivals many National Festival Exhibits, a truly outstanding historical and aesthetic grouping. Trying to be conservative, I was compelled to take over three dozen pictures.

There were insights into his constructions in the workshop. A wall of storage bins for his numerous shows. <http://www.robertrogerspuppets.com/> has a taste of his works, don't miss the page for "HONK"! Robert is a lifetime lover of puppets. During a delicious lunch with Robert and his wife Debbie, we reminisced about a wide range of puppet topics. Although he did not attend the 1980 Festival, he attended many satellite shows and we each recalled details of the performances. We were surprised to hear Robert was a member of Jan Shoor's Starry Night Puppet Theater, one of the charter professional groups of PGUNY. Robert has spent time in CT and his excellent eye and memory for detail made the sharing an exceptionally rewarding afternoon. Thanks so much to you both, Robert and Debbie! **You don't want to miss this performance and meeting!**



Here is a small sample of what we saw...





## Stewie's Magic Hat with Honey Goodenough

Iver, Pamela and Jeffrey went to see this show in Ithaca on October 1<sup>st</sup>. We met the PGUNY puppet pod, Ithaca edition: Lily, Matt, Seth, Edith, Roe and friends.

Besides being a puppeteer, Honey is also the Resident Teaching Artist at Puppet Showplace Theater in Massachusetts and drove seven hours for the performance in Ithaca. Honey did her 10th performance of a show written with her first partner more than 20 years ago.

Honey described working “the delicate art of interactive performance.” The story is about finding your own calling, doing what you are meant to do vs what other people expect you to do.



It was wonderful to see and hear

the reactions from both children and adults. Gleeful reactions could be heard from some children while others jumped up in excitement or danced to the music. Others sat quietly, glued to what was happening on stage. It was heartwarming to see that parents and staff were comfortable where the children were and how they reacted. See her amazing dragon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNIU2W9uW64>

On the tech side, the Go Button App on her phone allows sound editing combined with two foot pedals (originally used for turning pages of music). Sections, like some of her singing, were prerecorded. Music and sound effects can be sequenced, cut, and faded in real time. We are looking forward to getting more information about this!

After the show, Honey invoked a critique method of Liz Leman's Critical Response Process: a method of getting useful feedback on anything you make from 'dance to dessert'. Among the questions she asked us was, "What do you remember (most memorable moments)?" or, in other words, "What should stay in the show?" She was also interested in any questions that arose for us as we watched the show. The group of people that stayed to participate was extremely thoughtful and great at brainstorming... plot line, dialog and details. Honey was amazingly open to and reflective of all comments! This was a good example of how critiques should happen... positive with useful ideas for the artist to consider incorporating into their show.

**This same topic, critique, was discussed at our last PGUNY meeting.** It was inspired by our memories of George Latshaw, a founding member of Puppeteers of America. He was an Ohio puppeteer, where Nancy S. knew him. In 1949 he founded Puppetry Journal (the official magazine of [Puppeteers of America](https://www.puppeteers.org/) published four times a year) and, in 1950, he served as president of Puppeteers of America. Journal editor again the 80's. **He provided profound critique, masterful in positive and right on comments.** In 1991, he was the first director of the National Puppetry Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center (where Iver knew him). He was honored with the Puppeteers of America President's Award in 1979. He wrote a book *Puppetry: The Ultimate Disguise* (1978) and a reprint called *The Complete Book of Puppetry* (2000). Iver brought along copies for show and tell. Find out more about him! <https://wepa.unima.org/en/george-latshaw/>



Photo: World Encyclopedia of Puppetry Arts



## From a 1983 PGUNY Flyer...slightly updated for 2023

Wouldn't it be interesting to meet other puppet people more often than once or twice (or even nunce) a year? Wouldn't it be nice to know what other people are doing BEFORE it happens, instead of day or two too late? Wouldn't it be informative to watch someone share a technique, or perform their show? Most of all, wouldn't it be fun to promote Puppet Theater in the Upstate area?

### PGUNY IS HERE

The Puppetry Guild of Upstate New York is a group of people that share varied interests in the art of puppetry. Membership is open to anyone who enjoys puppetry; families. Teachers, librarians, and professionals. Our membership ranges from people who use puppetry in their work; for entertainment or communication, to those that just like friendly, exciting activities.

Our Guild is one of 43 guilds affiliated with the Puppeteers of America, a national organization. Separate memberships are open for the P of A, but the guild has close ties with our parent organization and its benefits.

### MEETINGS

PGUNY currently meets on the third Sunday of the month. One or more activities are presented such as presentations, performances, film or videos, workshops, displays, and the planning of guild activities. 'Show and Tell' sessions are part of our gatherings. Meetings are held in Sylvan Beach, at the **Oneida Lake Arts and Heritage Center 1201 Main St. Sylvan Beach, NY 13157** ([map](#)) Easily reached from the Canastota exit of the NY Thruway. [info@olahcenter.org](mailto:info@olahcenter.org) [www.OneidaLakeArtsandHeritageCenter.org](http://www.OneidaLakeArtsandHeritageCenter.org) 315-761-4071



### OUR NEWSLETTER

We publish a newsletter prior to each meeting and special events. It contains listing and date of performances, articles on puppetry, reviews on books, events and festivals, updates on regional and national happening, as well as news of our members. Available electronically through email or our website [www.PGUNY.org](http://www.PGUNY.org)

### PERFORMANCES

Fellow members have presented special performances for our guild, some are open to public. The guild has also attended public performances at other venues across central New York. Friendly and knowledgeable discussion and critique are often part of follow up activities. To quote Nancy Sander: *"Puppets are fun peddlers, they relieve anxiety, and bring joy and happiness!"*

### WORKSHOPS

Both demonstrations and hands on workshops are presented by members and invited guests. Beginners and professionals have the opportunity to learn. No cost and low cost philosophy is reflected in our membership fees, \$10 per individual and \$15 per family. Some [events](#) are exclusively for members while most are open to the general public.

### FESTIVALS

The Puppeteers of America sponsor National and Regional Festivals, with top rated performers, workshops, puppetry stores and exhibits. Guilds help advertise and promote these events as well as a March National Day of Puppetry. Planning for our local Day of Puppetry [will](#) take place at our December meeting prior to our winter hiatus.

### JOIN US

The Puppeteers of America was founded in 1939, PGUNY was chartered in 1980. We are undergoing a revival and invite you to join our group! Nancy Sander dreams that we'll have the next Jim Henson in our audience. Come and experience for yourself the potential and magic of puppetry.

Help us Assemble a PGUNY directory.... Send to both [pguny.info@gmail.com](mailto:pguny.info@gmail.com) and [pamandiver@juno.com](mailto:pamandiver@juno.com)

Name Group Name if applicable Phone Address Email Picture Brief Bio??? Thanks!