



Columbia Association of Puppeteers

May, 2004 Newsletter



FREE FOOD **Our May Meeting is:** **FREE FOOD**
!!!!!! Thursday May 20th @ 6:30 pm !!!!!!

National Day of Puppetry

by Geordie Humphrey, Vice-President Programs

This year for the National Day of Puppetry, the Columbia Association of Puppeteers and TheKNOW Gallery & Theater hosted Puppets on Alberta, a month long puppet display that led up to a day of shows and workshops on April 24th, the Day of Puppetry.

Puppets on Alberta opened in March, during the last Thursday art walk on Alberta Street, here in Portland. Puppets from several local theaters, including Olde World Puppet Theatre, Tears of Joy, Esther Heydt, and several more, were on display. A big thanks to Steve and Marty and our other volunteers for setting up and taking down the display.

Puppets on Alberta ended on The National Day of Puppetry with a series of workshops and performances. The workshops started with Steve Overton's Baby Dragon rod puppet workshop, where kids colored their own dragons and then cut them out and attached rods to them to make them move.

Later in the day Kris Bluett-Woolen taught a class in making puppets from recycled materials. Plastic jugs were adorned with bottle caps, scraps of fabric and whatever else people felt like adding to make their own creations. Finally Steve brought out a variety of hand, rod and marionette puppets to let people experiment with different means of manipulating puppets.

In between the workshops local puppeteers put on shows. Doris Hicks started with her shows *The Three Little Pigs* and *The Lion and the Mouse*. Later, Tendrak® Theatre premiered *Kate and the Devil*, a marionette show. Following Kris's workshop on making recycled puppets, Bruce Orr of Mud Eye Puppets performed his show *The Umbrella That Wouldn't Be Trashed*. Bruce's puppets are all made from recycled materials and he uses them to teach kids about recycling. For the final event of the day Ester Heydt brought out some of her collection of puppets and demonstrated different types of puppets and how they are performed.

Thanks to all the puppeteers who lent out their creations for the display, and a big round of applause for all our performers and volunteers who helped make the day run so well.

No, its not the latest X-rated puppet show, but rather a barbeque at the home of our president, Kris Bluett-Woolen. As usual, we'll supply the MEAT, and each of you provide a side dish that YOU like to eat. That way, you'll have at least one of your favorite things to eat at the barbeque.

Kris's address is 5224 NE 18th Ave, in Northeast Portland, and her phone number is 503-281-6124.

The subject of the meeting is the nomination and election of new officers for CAP. We all need to do a little soul searching about what CAP is and where it is going, and the lure of FREE FOOD always seems to attract the most CAP members to meetings.

Several of our current officers have each served two terms in their current office and are forbidden by our constitution to serve another year in their current positions. Thus we are in our bi-annual funk about whatever will happen to CAP, and how each of us can step up to the plate and lead it into its' glorious future. So, Come One, Come All and help us decide.

Good Luck Bill & Rachel

CAP members Bill Holznagel & Rachel Anthonisen are pulling up their stakes here in Portland and seeking new horizons in Pennsylvania. We wish them both a safe journey across these vast United States, and the best of luck in their new endeavors.



Aaron, Steve & Marty's 15 year old American Eskimo dog complained that although he's gone to every CAP event in the past 12 years, he's never had his picture in the Newsletter, so here he is for all of you to see.

CAP is the Puppeteers of America Guild proudly serving Oregon & Southwestern Washington

President: KRIS BLUETT-WOOLEN; **Vice President-Programs:** GEORDIE HUMPHREY; **Vice President-Membership:** JASON ROPP;
Secretary: ROZY WEATHERBY; **Treasurer, Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:** MARTY RICHMOND (e-mail: owpt@ att.net -- 906 SE Umatilla St.
 Portland, OR 97202 Phone: (503) 233-7723 FAX: (503) 233-4222); **CAP Dues:** Junior or newsletter only - \$8 per year; Individual: \$12.00 per year;
 Company: \$20.00 per year. Send your check to Jason at 7600 SW Oleson Rd, #36, Portland, OR 97223 or call him at (503) 284-6570

CAP Spotlight on Tendrak® Theatre

Storytelling as communication is as old as mankind and storytelling using marionettes is almost as old. Tendrak® Theatre carries on the proud marionette tradition, but is much younger, with its beginnings in 1998.



Candace Dobson, John Bechtel & Dennis Strachota in front of the newly modified Tendrak® Theatre.

The theatre produces original plays based on fairytales from Czechoslovakia set in Central Europe during the Middle Ages, using Czech-made marionettes. The first fairytale to be produced was *The Devil and Kate*, to be quickly followed by *The Swan*.

The story of *The Devil and Kate*, also previously produced as an opera by Czech composer Antonin Dvorák, tells of a young girl named Kate, who was such a shrew that no one even wanted to dance with her. However, a young and dashing devil takes



*Bill Holznagel poses with the Devil puppet he built for Tendrak's production of *The Devil & Kate*.*

a chance and dances with Kate, who grabs him around the neck and refuses to let go, as she now has a man, even though he is the devil.

The devil finally extricates himself from Kate's grasp with the help of a mortal. Later the devil comes to take the Prince to hell, but is interrupted by the same mortal who tells the devil that Kate is on her way. The devil, in terror of Kate, leaves without the prince, who then has a chance to reform his life.



*Characters from *The Devil & Kate*, including Tendrak, the Dragon.*

The next show in production is *The Swan*. It is the story of a young prince who is about to be killed in order to keep him from succeeding his father as king. A court magician saves him by transforming him into a swan.

The spell can be broken only if a beautiful princess will marry him in his form of a swan. Of course, such a princess becomes enamored with the swan and desires to marry him. Thus the prince is saved and the kingdom is restored to order.

Tendrak® Theatre is rated a medium marionette theatre, since the puppets are 12 inches tall and smaller, and is recommended for family audiences of about 75 people, from third grade and up. The marionettes are made in the Czech Republic and are called "Kopecký" marionettes after their maker and the tradition of the Kopecký family. The scenery is adapted from drawings by Czech artist, Karel Franta. The puppets, the stage, the script, and soundtrack all received modifications by Steve Overton and Marty Richmond and their crew from The Olde World Puppet Theatre.

Tendrak® Theatre's owner is Dennis Strachota, who can be reached in Bend, Oregon at (541) 312-5139 or tendrak@coinet.com.