

Heidi Rugg

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Current: *Independent Artist; Company Founder, Director, Performing Artist, Teaching Artist, Puppeteer & Puppet Builder for Barefoot Puppet Theatre*

Performance & Building Styles

Performance: Rod-puppets; shadow-puppets; hand and glove-puppets; rod-marionettes; moving-mouth puppets; object-puppetry; and puppetry for improvisational comedy.

Building: Wet-felted puppet fabrication; rod puppets (tabletop and traditional); shadow puppets; hand/glove puppets; mouth puppets; Czeck-style rod marionettes; object puppetry; and soft-sculpture, foam-based ventriloquist figures.

Current Activities

- Performing/touring locally, regionally, and throughout the United States in a wide-variety of venues for family audiences.
- Leading masterclass workshops in mech-design and felt-making for professional puppetry artists.
- Providing Artist-In-Residency Programs for elementary, middle schools, and high schools.
- Writing, directing, designing, and building puppets for puppetry-based theatrical productions.
- Working with elementary and middle-school aged homeschoolers to pilot arts integration programming combining animal habitats and shadow puppetry.
- Developing and implementing residencies and workshops for youth and adults.
- Building puppets for original productions and commissioned works.
- Coaching actors in puppetry manipulation.
- Spear-heading “The Fettig Project” to create interactive puppet mechanism exhibit, *The Naked Puppet*, featuring the rod puppet designs of Hansjurgen Fettig, German master puppet builder. (Successfully opened at the 2015 National Puppetry Festival.)

Education & Professional Development

2019 and 2020: Partners in the Arts Teaching Artist Intensive/Arts as Assessment
2018: Studying in Oberrot, Germany with Gladys Paulus, a UK-based fiber artist & mask maker.
2017: Puppetools Workshops with Jeffrey Peyton, Puppetools and Playtectonics.
2015: National Puppetry Festival at the University of Connecticut. Puppetry in Education.
2014: Completed Kennedy Center seminar on Arts Integration in conjunction with VA-Rep.
2013: National Puppetry Conference at Swarthmore; workshops in fabrication and teaching.
2013: National Puppetry Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Center for Theatre.
2012: National Puppetry Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Center/Theatre Puppet Lab.
2010: Pocasin Arts "Cabin Fever Reliever" Intensive Felting Workshop with Lisa Klakulak
1994 - 1998, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2013, 2014: Workshops at National and Regional
Puppetry Festivals for *Puppeteers of America*
1994 -1996: Apprenticeship with Barry Gordemer, *Handemonium Puppets*
Summer 1993: Klagenfurt Universität in Klagenfurt, Austria. German Language Immersion.
September 1990 – December 1993: Virginia Commonwealth University, School of the Arts

Grants & Awards

2000-2020: *Virginia Commission for the Arts Touring Assistance Program*
2015: Received a *CultureWorks* "Capacity Building Grant"
2014: Received a *CultureWorks* "Capacity Building Grant"
2013: Awarded a Jerry Nelson Scholarship for the *National Puppetry Conference* at the *Eugene O'Neill Center for Theater* in Waterford, CT.
2010: Received Grant from the Jim Henson Foundation for development of *Little by Little*
2009: Received Grant from *Puppeteers of America Endowment Fund* for new show development
2005: UNIMA Citation of Excellence for *Galapagos George*
2001: Received Grant from *Puppeteers of America Endowment Fund* for development of
Galapagos George
1994: VCU Undergraduate Research Project Grant for Painting
1993: VCU World Study Grant for overseas art research and German language immersion.

Nonprofit Experience

- National Capital Puppetry Guild: Currently serving as Secretary of the Board; member of the Board since 2009.
- RVA Makers: Joined the board in 2020 to assist with Arts and Small Business Advocacy
- Puppets Off Broad Street: Founder in 2005. Currently serving as Secretary of the Board.
- UNIMA-USA: Served on the board for one year.
- RVA Makerfest: Served on the board for two years.

Original Productions & Other Works

Current: (*in production*) *Little by Little*

2017: *Run, Run As Fast As You Can*

2013: *Wriggling Brothers Circus*, produced at *The National Puppetry Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Center for Theatre*.

2013: *Ooey Gooey Poetry*

2011: *Shockheaded Peter*, production for *Mountain View High School* with Tom Clark

2006: *Beneath the Baobab Tree*

2003: *The Little Bread Hen*

2001: *Galapagos George*

1999: *Dreamtime: Tales from Down Under*

1998: *African Trickster Tales*

1997: *Little Red & the Gingerbread Man*

Commissioned Puppet Works

2018: Hand Puppets for a production of "Hand to God," a collaboration between TheatreLab and 5th Wall Theatre.

2017: Four puppets for a production of "The Little Engine That Could" by Virginia Rep.

2013: Three Goddess Puppets for "The Tempest," Planet Shakespeare/Bard Unbound

2006: Beneath the Baobab Tree, The Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts

2005: Space Slug and Mynocks for Musical Parody, "The Empire Rocks Back" at Comedy Alley

2004: Lips for opening scene of Spida-Man musical parody

2000: "Wide-Eyed Wanda" for Rainbow Puppet Productions, Newport News, Virginia

1997: Baby T-Rex Puppet for Ty-Rone Travis of Richmond, Virginia

1996: Hispanic female puppet for India Tucker of Washington, D.C.

1996: King Cobra Ventriloquist Figure for Ty-Rone Travis of Richmond, Virginia

1995: Trombone Player Ventriloquist Figure for Bobby Hill of Towson, Maryland

Selected Exhibits

2015: Puppet Exhibit at the National Puppetry Festival – University of Connecticut.

2014: Puppet Exhibit for The Fettig Project at Puppet Homecoming in Rhinebeck, NY

2013: Puppet Exhibit at the National Puppetry Festival at Swarthmore College

2012: Puppet Exhibit at Puppet Homecoming in Rhinebeck, NY

2010: "Homegrown" at Plant Zero in Richmond, Virginia

2008: Mid-Atlantic Regional Puppetry Festival in College Park, Maryland

1998: Mid-Atlantic Regional Puppetry Festival in Fairfax, Virginia

1997: National Puppetry Festival in Toledo, Ohio

1995: National Puppetry Festival in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Professional Affiliations: *UNIMA-USA, Puppeteers of America, National Capital Puppetry Guild, International Feltmakers Association; Central Virginia Fiber Guild; RVA Makers; Resident Company of Puppets Off Broad Street.*

Teaching artist references available upon request.