

**Heidi Rugg**

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**Current:** *Puppetry Artist; Teaching Artist, Puppeteer & Puppet Builder for Barefoot Puppet Theatre; Teaching Artist for Wolf Trap Greater Richmond; Fiber Artist specializing in wet-felting, needlefelting, and sustainable materials.*

**Materials, Techniques, and Skillset**

**Building/Technique:** Wet-felted fabrication; needlefelting; papier mâché structures/forms; rod puppets (tabletop and traditional); shadow puppets (hand-cut, laser-cut); custom hand/glove puppets/hand-stitching; mouth puppets; and soft-sculpture, foam-based ventriloquist figures; clay sculpture/latex casting.

**Puppetry Styles:** Rod-puppets (table-top and traditional); shadow-puppets; hand and glove-puppets; rod-marionettes; moving-mouth puppets; object-puppetry; blacklight.

**Arts/Media:** Collage with handmade papers; pen/ink; painting.

**Related Technology:** Laser-cutting; Cricut; Photoshop.

**Current Activities**

- Directing, designing, and building puppets for live, theatrical productions.
- Performing/touring throughout Virginia and region in a variety of venues for family audiences.
- Working with the Children's Hospital of Richmond to bring programming to medically fragile children and their families; providing programming to long-term patients.
- Collaborating with theatrical companies on puppet designing, puppet building, and coaching.
- Active teaching artist:
  - Developing new programming centered on climate change/environment for teens.
  - Developing and delivering virtual puppetry content for webinars, Zoom, Outschool, and arts education programs for young people.
  - *Wolf Trap* Teaching Artist, working with ages 6 months – 5 years.
  - Providing customized, Professional Development for educators.
  - Leading masterclass workshops in puppetry, mech-design, and felt-making for professional puppetry artists.
  - Providing Artist-In-Residency Programs for elementary, middle schools, high schools, and homeschool families.

## **Education & Professional Development**

2023: Completed *Baby ArtsPlay* training through *Wolf Trap Greater Richmond*.

2021: Graduated *Magna Cum Laude* with a *Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies* in Arts Integration with a minor in Art History from *Virginia Commonwealth University*

2021: *Wolf Trap Teaching Artist Training* completed

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: Puppertools Workshops and training with Jeffry Peyton (Puppertools and Playtectonics).

2015: National Puppetry Festival at the University of Connecticut. Puppetry in Education Strand.

2014: Completed Kennedy Center seminar on Arts Integration in conjunction with VA-Rep.

2013: National Puppetry Festival 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: Pocosin Arts "Cabin Fever Reliever" Intensive Felting Workshop with Lisa Klakulak

1994 - 1998, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2013, 2014: PD 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.

## **Original Productions & Collaborative Works**

*Current: (still in production) Little by Little, The Girl Who Cried Dragon*

2022: *New Squid on the Block*

2020: *Adventures with Priscilla* (virtual)

2018: **The Celia Project**, production for Mountain View High School with Tom Clark featuring large scale, papier mâché puppets.

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**, produced for *The Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts*

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**

2024: Designed and built puppets for a Richmond Shakespeare production of “Into the Woods.”

2018: Designed and built Hand Puppets for a production of “Hand to God,” a collaboration between *TheatreLab* and *5th Wall Theatre*.

2017: Four, large-scale puppets for a production of “The Little Engine That Could” by *Virginia Rep.*

2013: Three Goddess Puppets for “The Tempest,” *Planet Shakespeare/Bard Unbound*

2012: Nightmare Puppets for “Blow By Blow: A Modern Morality Play” by Mountain View High School in Stafford, Virginia.

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

### **Grants & Awards**

2021: Alumni Scholarship Awarded for the *National Puppetry Conference* at the *Eugene O’Neill Center for Theater* in Waterford, CT

2000-2021: *Virginia Commission for the Arts Touring Assistance Program*

2014 and 2015: 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 new show development

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