

Bill's 44th Workshops

Tabletop Puppetry:

Traditionally rooted in the Japanese form of Bunraku, we will teach our version of the form with puppets constructed during the workshop. We will talk a little about the form's history, provide a demonstration, and then aid the participants in creating and puppeteering their own puppets in groups of three.

- 1-2 hours
- 9-30 participants

The workshop teaches a specific form of puppetry, but also is a great way to teach teams to work collaboratively. If the workshop is longer it also will dip into devising creatively as a team.

We require:

- a room large enough to accommodate the participants to be able to move around
- a roll of butcher paper/brown paper
- scissors (preferably one for every three participants)
- rolls of masking tape (preferably one for every three participants)
- a few tables (no preference - 6' folding tables work)
- chairs for participants

Object Puppetry

We will turn everything in this workshop into a puppet by teaching the main tenets of the medium: breath, focus, and weight. The workshop will involve discussing anthropomorphism and demonstrate how puppetry can make connections and stories out of anything!

- 1-2 hours
- 5-20 Participants

This workshop focuses on teaching the fundamentals of puppetry through the everyday object. The group size and time will determine if we break up into small groups and/or create scenes - whether scripted/devised/improvised.

We require:

- a room large enough to accommodate the participants to be able to move around
- a box of random objects (maybe access to a prop closet). Alternatively, we can ask each participant to bring "something interestingly shaped"
- a few tables (6' folding tables are a great option, but no preference)

- **chairs for participants**

Devised Theater

Most of the theater we create is made through a devised process - meaning that we work collaboratively to create choreography, text, music - everything. Often we will bring a seed of an idea, an inspirational text, a song, a character - anything, really. It can result in work that is multi-faceted, and also unified.

In this workshop we will work with the participants to create a short piece together.

- 1-2 hours
- 5-15 Participants

We request:

- **a room large enough to accommodate the participants to be able to move around**
- **participants to wear clothing they feel comfortable moving in**

Puppetry 101

Using the tenets of puppetry: breath, focus, weight, fixed point; we will demonstrate a wide variety of the form, showcasing: tabletop, shadow, object-manipulation, hand & rod, etc.

We will then invite the participants to ask questions and do some hands-on work with some objects/puppets.

We will teach several techniques and give advice and feedback.

- 60-90 minutes
- 10-30+ Participants

We require:

- **a room large enough to accommodate (and seat) all participants**

We request:

- **a projection screen/projector to showcase some puppetry videos and images**
- **a table to demonstrate certain styles of puppetry (a 6' folding table works fine, but no preference)**