

## **JOIN THE FUN!**

Get involved in PORTRAITS OF THE PRAIRIE, a community wide historical pageant with puppets!

With the help of generous grants from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and Quad City Arts, we'll present a series of tableaux showing the history of the land from native prairie and native Americans, through early settlers and small farms, through large agriculture, and back to reconstructed prairie. The show is planned for **Sunday afternoon, June 20**, at the West Liberty (Muscatine County) Fairgrounds, on the Grove Stage, a charming site surrounded by large shade trees. We encourage you to bring a picnic and enjoy the afternoon, which just happens to be both Father's Day AND the Summer Solstice.

In conjunction with the show, we're working with the Muscatine County Conservation Board to provide a tour of an actual prairie. After the show, audience members are invited to drive about 20 minutes to the Saulsbury Recreation Area, where a naturalist will conduct a tour of two separate prairie sections, one native and one reconstructed.

### **HERE'S HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:**

#### **Building puppets:**

Some of the puppet building will be accomplished during Open Studio Hours at Owl Glass Puppetry Center. We'll be open Wednesday through Sunday, June 2-6, during the afternoons and evenings. We'll have projects available that children and adults can work on in a drop-in format. *Call Owl Glass at 319-627-2487 for exact hours.*

School classes and other groups will make some of the puppets and scenery. If you have a group that would like to get involved, we'll give you instructions, patterns, and materials. One of us will come to your class or group and get you started.

Puppet builders can choose to be part of the pageant or part of the all-important audience. After the pageant, the puppets you made can go home with you.

#### **Rehearsing and performing:**

We'll need lots of people interested in rehearsing 1-4 times (depending on the complexity of your part) to be part of the tableaux. The core group will consist of adults, and if we have enough participants, we'll add a parade to the pageant. As you can tell, this is a work in progress, and we welcome your input!

The Eulenspiegel Team consists of puppeteers Teri Jean Breitbach and Monica Leo, Puppeteer Bob Aiken from Colorado (who's been here the last 2 years to work on community projects), and artist Peggy Fitzgerald, who, for the last few years, has produced large, casual, fun puppet pageants with the Zion Lutheran Puppet Bible School in Atalissa. We'll also work with writer Mary Swander and musicians Ron Hillis and Guy Drollinger.

We'll be available to work with you if you choose to participate.  
***Call 319-627-2487 or email <owlglass@avalon.net> to get involved!***

## THE YEAR FLEW BY!

As we prepare for our June pageant, it seems only weeks ago that we opened our 2003-2004 season with the West Liberty Children's Festival. To fill in those of you who missed the fun, and to help the rest of us remember, here are some highlights from the year:

\***The September WEST LIBERTY CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL** was, in spite of high winds and chilly weather, the best attended ever. With Teri Jean and Monica holding up the stage against the wind, new puppeteer Al Kittrell delighted kids with HAT TRICK PUPPETRY. Thanks to library director Janette McMahon's WEST LIBERTY FEAR FACTOR, the festival became, for the first time, a major teenage hangout. Art teacher Deb Weiss's first graders made dragon masks in school and participated in the first annual CHILDREN'S PARADE. As we had hoped, the Children's Festival has been increasingly adopted and shaped by the community of West Liberty.

*With Mallory Smith busy completing her MBA in Community Development, Children's Festival co-Director Monica Leo is looking for a new co-Director. Any takers??*

\***October** brought California guest puppeteers Michael and Valerie Nelson's **MAGICAL MOONSHINE THEATRE** with **ARMADILLO'S RANCHO**, a delightful bi-lingual (English/Spanish) production with large tabletop puppets and live music. Donations from the Stanley Foundation, The Heath Foundation, the West Liberty State Bank, and the Muscatine County Arts Council helped us bring this production to about 2000 school children and families. Michael and Valerie loved the old theatre and the small town Midwest ambience of West Liberty. When local police officer Hank Priest stopped in to pay his regards, Valerie was heard to say, "This is so Mayberry!"

\*In **November**, the **EULENSPIEGEL PUPPETS** brought back an old favorite, **THE DRAGON'S THREE GOLDEN HAIRS**, a Grimms fairy tale performed with near lifesize hand and rod puppets and a large, sparkly, magenta dragon. Another old favorite, **LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD**, took the stage in **February** with miniature marionettes. In **January**, Teri Jean and Monica, along with musician Ron Hillis, opened a new show, **FREEDOM STAR: Gertie's Journey on the Underground Railroad**. Our first venture into historical fiction, this story was a challenge! We used local and regional history, including information about John Brown in Springdale and West Liberty, and wove it into a fictional story about a young slave girl who escapes from a farm in Missouri and makes her way through Iowa on her way to freedom. We used large hand and rod puppets, smaller rod puppets, and shadow puppets along with Ron Hillis's fabulous music, including six topical songs. We're planning to bring this production back again during the 2004-2005 season.

\*In **March**, we presented our sixth annual **PUPPETS AND PASTRIES DESSERT THEATRE FOR ADULTS**, featuring Chef Mickey's decadent desserts, 2 very different Eulenspiegel pieces, dramatic monologues by Sue Gilbert and Amy White, serious and silly songs by Drabbletails Fancy, a hilarious political piece by budding puppeteer Lauren Haldeman, and Laura Kittrell's wonderful piano. At the last moment we heard that the City of West Liberty was planning to shut off the electricity during our event! With the help of the newspaper and City personnel plus a very understanding audience, we managed with a generator and alternating lights. WHEW!

\***April** saw the return of the **HUNTER MARIONETTES** from Minneapolis. Kurt Hunter (with wife Kathy's help) presented a clever, visually witty marionette variety show, featuring traditional figures such as his penguin trapeze artiste as well as more avant garde creations such as his lively shirt and his lovesick box.

As always, we try to bring you performers representative of the broad and varied world of puppetry.

### **CELEBRATE EULENSPIEGEL'S 30TH BIRTHDAY!**

The coming season (2004-2005) marks the 30th birthday of the Eulenspiegel Puppets. In the fall of 1974, Deanne Wortman and Monica Leo presented the first Eulenspiegel show. Jenean Arnold joined the troupe soon after. In the summer of 1975, Deanne moved on to other pursuits and was replaced by Teri Jean Breitbach. Jenean left in 1975 to be replaced by Marilyn Levin. When Marilyn left in 1978, Teri Jean and Monica decided to continue as a duo, a partnership that's lasted almost 30 years. Next year we celebrate this partnership with special events throughout the season. We plan to include as many current and former collaborators as possible. Here's a peek into our plans:

**Sept. 18: 8th ANNUAL WEST LIBERTY CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL**

**OCT. 10: EULENSPIEGEL'S GIANT BIRTHDAY BASH!** Mini performances at the New Strand Theatre by Eulenspiegel and friends, snacks and exhibits at Owl Glass Puppetry Center, and lots of fun and hoopla!

**NOV: FREEDOM STAR: Gertie's Journey on the Underground Railroad**

**JAN: EULENSPIEGEL'S CIRCUS** In celebration of 30 years, the puppeteers are rewriting, remounting, rebuilding a favorite show from the early 1990's. This original story is a fantasy in which the child Till Eulenspiegel plays circus with his toys and sees them come to life. This new version will include audience participation and lots of ideas which will stimulate children to go home and make their own shows.

**FEB: PUPPETS AND PASTRIES DESSERT THEATRE FOR ADULTS** In collaboration with prominent writer Mary Swander, the puppeteers will entertain you with a piece from **GIRLS ON THE ROOF**. You can count on hearing **DRABBLETAILS FANCY**, eating luscious desserts, and.....who knows?

**MARCH: A FABULOUS GUEST PUPPET TROUPE** yet to be chosen.

**APRIL: A MARVELOUS COMMUNITY PUPPET PRODUCTION**, yet to be determined.

**ALL YEAR:** Performances, workshops, open studios, and lots of fun!

**Join us for our 30th Birthday Season and prepare to be surprised!**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL 319-627-2487, e-mail <owlglass@avalon.net> or visit <www.puppetspuppets.com>.**