

ANN POWELL - RESUME

Born 25th May, 1951, in Oxford, UK

Immigrated to Canada in August 1968; Canadian Citizen 1974

Resident of Toronto, Ontario, since 1969

EDUCATION

1968 – '69 Montreal Museum of Fine Art, School of Art and Design

1969 – '73 Ontario College of Art, Honours Graduate

1973 – '74 Ontario College of Art, Fifth Year Studies Scholarship

WORK WITH PUPPETMONGERS THEATRE

In 1974 I co-founded Puppetmongers and, as co-Artistic Director since then, have been involved on all levels of production – design, scripting, construction, performing, advertising and marketing, booking and touring, and administration. With Puppetmongers I have toured extensively, performing at international festivals, folk, street and fringe festivals, in theatres, nightclubs, universities, museums, embassies, private houses and gardens, and countless schools and libraries. Highlights include two tours to Iran, in 1976 and 2005, and closer to home, our seventeen year old Winter Holiday Tradition of performances for family audiences at the Tarragon Theatre.

The company has created 11 new Canadian works:

- 2006 ***Terror***, an environmental play for adult audiences. Dora Mavor Moore Award nominations for Outstanding Direction and Outstanding Music.
- 2003 ***Foolish Tales for Foolish Times***, for school and family audiences.
- 2002 ***The Pirate Widow Cheng***, for adult audiences. Dora Award nominations for Outstanding Set Design and Outstanding Music.
- 2001 ***Cinderella in Muddy York***, for school and family audiences. Dora Award nominations for Outstanding Production and Best Actor in TYA.
- 1998 ***Bed & Breakfast***, my solo show, remounted as a two hander for family audiences. Twice nominated for Dora Awards, Outstanding TYA Production; shortlisted for the Chalmers New Canadian Play Award.
- 1989 ***Tea at the Palace***, for school and family audiences. Dora Award nomination for Outstanding TYA Production; awarded a Citation for Excellence in the Art of Puppetry by UNIMA (Union International de la Marionette)USA.
- 1985 ***Bed & Breakfast***, my solo, for school and family audiences. Awarded a Citation for Excellence by UNIMA USA.
- 1980 ***Walidah the Grasscutter***, for school and family audiences. Awarded a Citation for Excellence by UNIMA USA.
- 1978 ***The Brick Bros. Circus***, for school and family audiences. A classic amongst puppeteers.
- 1976 ***The Miller's Wife***, for school and family audiences. Awarded a Citation for Excellence by UNIMA USA.
- 1974 ***The Miller***, for school and family audiences.

Puppetmongers' Other Awards, and Exhibits

President's Award, from the Puppeteers of America, for Outstanding Contributions to the Art of Puppetry.

Award for Artistic Excellence, from the puppeteers of America, North East Region, for our Body of Work.

Puppetmonger puppets have been in museum and gallery exhibits across North America, including a major retrospective, *So far So Good: 30 Years of Puppetmongery*, during the 2005 Milk Festival at Harbourfront, Toronto.

Puppetmongers' Work with Other Theatre and Dance Companies

- We designed set and costumes for Te Amim Theatre's *The Secret of Gabi's Dresser*. This fall we will be designing their next production, *The Little Shop on Main Street*.
- We designed, built, costumed and manipulated the almost life sized puppets in R. Murray Schafer's outdoor puppet opera, *The Palace of the Cinnabar Phoenix*.
- We have collaborated on projects with Roseneath Theatre, Corpus Dance and Night Kitchen Theatre.

Puppetmongers in Film and Print

- We were the Puppetry Department for the feature film, *Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium*, starring Dustin Hoffman and Natalie Portman.
- Our *Brick Bros. Circus* is featured in **Puppetry: A World History** by Eileen Blumenthal.
- Created and manipulated the shadow story within Laura Taler's dance film, *Death of a Maiden*.
- Featured in *The Whimsical World of Puppetmongers*, a CBC documentary by Andrew Johnson.

Toronto School of Puppetry

In 1996 I co-founded this adult education program, which attracts students from all over North America. I share in the administrative and teaching responsibilities. Other adult education activities have included teaching at the National Puppetry Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Center in Connecticut, at York University, University of Toronto, University of Guelph, Sheridan College and CODE conferences.

SOME OF MY WORK OUTSIDE PUPPETMONGERS

- Creation of a staged adaptation of Adele Wiseman's *On Wings of Tongue*, with Suzanne Hersh of Threshold Theater. Performed at the Hysteria Festival and the Miles Nadal JCC **Between Stages** Series.
- Puppetry coach for Tribal Productions' *The Puppet Master of Lodz*.
- Arts for Peace theatre project in the former Soviet Union, with Whole Loaf Theatre and North American and Russian artists and students.
- Puppeteer/performer in Ground Zero's workshop production of Fessendon.

Illustration

In 1973 I was a founding member of Kids Can Press. Since then I have illustrated a dozen books for children published by Kids Can Press, The Womens' Press and Scholastic, including the *Ms Beaver* travel trilogy by Rosemary Allison and my own story, *Strange Street*.

Teaching

Since 1973 I have worked as an Artist in Education, through Mariposa In The Schools, the Inner City Angels and the Ontario Arts Council's grant program, teaching puppetry arts to elementary, middle and secondary school students. I have also conducted workshops for youth and adults at colleges and universities, summer arts camps and libraries, conferences, puppet clubs and festivals across Canada, in the USA and the former USSR, and been involved with community theatre projects in Toronto.

Awards and Grants

- Canada Council grant to research puppetry in Canada, for presentation at the Festival of the Americas in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Unsolicited grant from the Literary office, Ontario Arts Council, recommended by The Womens' Press.
- Marguerite Bagshawe Award, Toronto Public Libraries, to attend the UNIMA Festival and Conference in Moscow, followed by travel in the USSR, Roumania and Turkey, observing puppet theatre.

Other Interests and Pursuits

For pleasure, I studied recorder and Baroque flute in the Royal Conservatory's Early Music program for ten years. I have also taken fencing, and the occasional photography, drawing and painting classes.