

GPAPG'S LEARNING LAB



Puppetry Classes & Workshops for Youth and Adults at All Hallows

CLASSES STARTING SOON!

September 27 – November 29th 2025

Join us to launch GPAPG's Learning Lab

Taking place Saturday September 27th at **All Hallows**, 262 Bent Rd,
Wyncote, PA 19095 from **9:30am - 11:30am**

The Greater Philadelphia Area Puppetry Guild (GPAPG) proudly announces the launch of Youth & Adult Puppetry Classes – The Learning Lab is an exciting new series designed to spark creativity, collaboration, and imagination through the art of puppetry. From playful sock puppets to professional TV and film techniques, participants of all ages will learn how to build, perform, and bring characters to life. Guided by experienced GPAPG teaching artists, these classes offer hands-on exploration in storytelling, design, and performance, culminating in opportunities to share their creations with the community. Come experience Puppetry!

Learn • Create • Perform and Discover with GPAPG

GPAPG's Learning Lab @ All Hallows

10 Weeks – September 27 to November 29, 2025

Youth Programs (Ages 5–11)

Puppetry at Play (Ages 5–7)

- **When:** Saturdays Sept 27 – Nov 29 (10:00–11:30 AM)
- **Fee:** \$300 (Siblings (2) = \$500 + \$200 each additional)
- Join Puppetry at Play and dive into a world of imagination, storytelling, and hands-on creativity! Young artists will design their own characters, build puppets, and bring stories to life alongside learning how to put on a puppet show. Taught by GPAPG professional puppeteers, this course has a mix of guided instruction and playful exploration. It's the perfect way to spark confidence, creativity, and collaboration—all through the magic of puppetry.

Storytelling with Puppets (Ages 8–11)

- **When:** Saturdays Sept 27 – Nov 29, (12:00–1:30 PM)
- **Fee:** \$300 (Siblings (2) = \$500 + \$200 each additional)
- Perfect for older kids ready to take center stage, Storytelling with Puppets empowers students to become full-fledged theatre-makers. Over 10 weeks, participants will reimagine classic tales, build their own puppets, write original scripts, and take on roles as designers, directors, and performers. With mentorship from professional puppeteers, students will create a fully staged puppet production to share with family and friends. It's a creative journey from idea to performance—designed to spark independence, collaboration, and storytelling magic.



ALL HALLOWS CHURCH



Teens & Adults

The Ultimate TV & Film Puppetry Workshop! (21+)

- **When:** Saturdays, 2:00–4:00 PM
- **Fee:** \$500 (\$400 for GPAPG Members)
- **Instructor:** Kevin Kelly of Big Howl Productions
 - The Only TV and Film Puppetry Workshop You'll Ever Need! Ready to bring your puppetry skills to the screen? In this hands-on, 10-week course led by TV/film puppeteer Kevin Kelly of Big Howl Productions, you'll learn everything from monitor technique and character development to filming your own original piece. Work with industry professionals, create your own on-camera puppet performance, and finish the course with a film showcase screening your work on the big screen. Whether you're a total beginner or looking to sharpen your skills, this is your backstage pass into the world of screen puppetry. Puppets provided—or BYOP! (Bring Your Own Puppet)

Process to Product: Production Workshop Class (16+)

- **When:** Saturdays, 5:00–7:00 PM
- **Fee:** \$250 per person (Team discounts available)
 - Exclusively for GPAPG Members & Independent Artists.
 - Have an idea for a puppet show and want to bring it to life? This 10-week workshop is your chance to go from concept to performance with the support of some of the region's top puppetry professionals. You'll receive expert mentorship, develop your story, build your puppets, rehearse, and perform a public showing—plus create a filmed commercial for your project. Ideal for solo artists or creative teams, this course balances hands-on development with skill-based workshops in writing, directing, design, and animation. Whether you're starting from scratch or refining a project, this is the ultimate puppet production playground.



ALL HALLOWS CHURCH



YOUTH WORKSHOPS (K-5)

October 18th - Paper Puppets! (Design • Create • Play)

Grades (K-3) 10am - 11:30am

Learn the magic of puppetry with Tom & Marianne Tucker! In this hands-on workshop, participants will create their own paper cup marionettes using cups, paper, sequins, and yarn. Easy to build and fun to perform, these puppets provide a perfect introduction to construction and basic manipulation — a great foundation for a lifelong hobby or vocation. (\$25.00)

October 18th - Shadow Puppets! (Light • Shape • Story)

Grades (3-5) 12pm - 1:30pm

Explore one of the oldest and most fascinating forms of puppetry! This workshop introduces participants to the art of shadow puppets through hands-on construction and demonstration. From simple stick figures to articulated and multi-color designs, students will discover how to create characters and scenery that bring stories to life on the screen. Perfect for teachers, parents, and children's program leaders looking for a creative, accessible art form. (Tom & Marianne Tucker) (\$25.00)

November 15th - Tiny TV Puppets (Imagine • Create • Broadcast)

Grades (K - 3) 10am - 11:30am

Grades (3 - 5) 12pm - 1:30pm

Step behind the camera and bring your imagination to the screen! In this playful monitor workshop led by Adam Swartz & Kathy Morrow, kids will design their own puppet characters and learn how to perform for video. From building colorful personalities to experimenting on camera, participants will create short puppet videos and see their characters come to life on the "tiny TV." (\$25.00)

ADULT (16+) WORKSHOPS

October 4th — Writing & Directing for Puppetry Write (Write • Shape • Direct)

Discover how to shape a story from page to stage! In this workshop, participants will learn the fundamentals of writing for puppetry and explore directing techniques that bring characters, scripts, and visual storytelling to life. Perfect for anyone interested in guiding a puppet performance from idea to finished piece.

Non Members \$75.00 / \$50.00 GPAPG Members

October 18th — Character / Improv / Devising (Play • Discover • Voice)

Jump into play! This high-energy session focuses on creating unique puppet characters through voice, movement, and improvisation. Participants will experiment with devising techniques to build short scenes and discover how puppets can surprise, delight, and connect with an audience.

Non Members \$75.00 / \$50.00 GPAPG Members

November 1st — Designing a World with Puppets (Imagine • Design • Build)

Every great puppet story needs a place to live. This workshop explores scenic design, props, and the visual environments that support puppet characters. From miniature sets to imaginative backdrops, participants will learn how to craft worlds that enhance story and spark wonder.

Non Members \$75.00 / \$50.00 GPAPG Members

November 15th — Animating Puppets (Breathe • Focus • Life)

Bring your puppet to life! In this hands-on workshop, participants will practice essential performance skills including breath, focus, and weight, while also exploring lip-sync, eye focus, and movement. By the end, everyone will see how small choices can make a puppet feel truly alive.

Non Members \$75.00 / \$50.00 GPAPG Members

Why GPAPG?

The Greater Philadelphia Area Puppetry Guild (GPAPG) is dedicated to celebrating and advancing the art of puppetry across our region. As a network of professional artists, educators, and enthusiasts, GPAPG creates opportunities for learning, mentorship, and performance that inspire both children and adults. Through workshops, performances, and community outreach, GPAPG fosters creativity, collaboration, and accessibility, making puppetry an inclusive and vibrant part of the cultural landscape.

Instructors (bios on following page):

- Kevin Kelly (Big Howl Productions)
- Roni DeFalco (Ron Dee Productions)
- Marianne & Tom Tucker (Tuckers' Tales Puppet Theatre)
- Chad Parsons (ReNew Productions)
- Adam Swartz and Kathy Morrow (Adam Swartz Puppets)
- Gabe Hazuda (Middle Earth Studios)



ALL HALLOWS CHURCH



GPAPG TEACHING ARTIST

Roni DeFalco is the founder of Ron Dee Productions, specializing in puppetry, storytelling, and theatre for all ages. With a background in performance and education, Roni has created original puppet shows and workshops that highlight creativity, humor, and imagination. Their work has been presented in schools, libraries, and festivals throughout the region, inspiring children and families to explore the art of puppetry together.

Kevin Kelly, of Big Howl Productions, is a director, designer, and puppeteer whose work spans film, television, advertising, and live theatre. He has collaborated with major clients including Netflix, PBS, Hasbro, and Nick Jr., and trained under Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Paul Fierlinger. Kevin has served as an artist-in-residence with Monkey Boys Productions and as a board member of the Greater Philadelphia Area Puppetry Guild. Through Big Howl, he brings a cinematic eye and professional industry expertise to puppetry performance and education.

Chad Parsons is the founder of ReNew Productions, a multidisciplinary theatre company dedicated to creating immersive, playful, and imaginative experiences for audiences of all ages. With an MFA in Theatre for Young Audiences, Chad has directed, performed, and taught across the country, specializing in puppetry, magic, and immersive theatre. His educational programs blend artistry with curiosity, empowering young people to learn through play and performance. Chad also serves as Vice Chair of the Pride Youth Theatre Alliance, supporting queer youth voices in the arts.

Adam Swartz & Kathy Morrow Adam is the founder of Adam Swartz Puppets, bringing over 20 years of experience as a performer, designer, and educator. Based in Central Pennsylvania, Adam creates original puppet shows and leads interactive workshops that inspire creativity, storytelling, and confidence. He has trained with Sesame Workshop puppeteers and the Beyond the Sockprogram, and has worked with schools, libraries, and festivals across the region. Adam's mission is to use puppetry as a tool to make the world safer, kinder, and more imaginative.

Tom and Marianne Tucker, founders of Tuckers' Tales Puppet Theatre, have been performing together since 1981. Known for their imaginative adaptations of folk tales, classic stories, and original works, they have toured nationally with a wide variety of puppetry styles including hand puppets, rod puppets, and shadow theatre. Based in Abington, PA, they have presented their work in schools, libraries, festivals, and theaters. Marianne has served on the board of UNIMA-USA, and both Tuckers have been leaders in the Greater Philadelphia Area Puppetry Guild, championing puppetry education and performance across the region.

Gabriel Hazuda is a puppet school dropout, retired drag monster, current storyteller, and childrens' puppet theater goblin. He presently leads all artistic practices at Middle-earth Studios, a Pennsylvania based theater company where he has worked for nearly two decades. He briefly attended UCONN, had a blast at the 2019 O'Neill puppet conference, and would like to thank his puppet library and the generous online community of marionette mentors for showing him the ropes - or, rather, the strings. His work has been featured at county fairs, city bars and, on one special occasion, NYU Abu Dhabi. An excerpt of his original marionette play "Elliot and the Dread Pirate" debuted at Knoebels Amusement Resort in 2021.



GPAPG's Learning Lab Launch Party

Saturday, September 27, 2025

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

All Hallows, 262 Bent Rd, Wyncote, PA

Join us for a morning of puppetry, play, and community!

9:30am – 10:00am

- Open Puppet Play Table — try out puppets and get hands-on!
- Meet the Teaching Artists — connect with the creative team behind our fall classes

9:45am

- Welcome with Brick Headstrong: A playful puppet-led warm-up & welcome

10:00am – 10:40am

- Aesop's Fables Performance by Tuckers' Tales Puppet Theatre

10:40am – 11:00am

- Talk Back & Backstage Look

11:00am – 11:30am

- FREE Intro to Puppetry Class for Grades K-5 Spots are limited—reserve your child's spot today! (Led by GPAPG Teaching Artists)

Come play, discover, and celebrate puppetry!

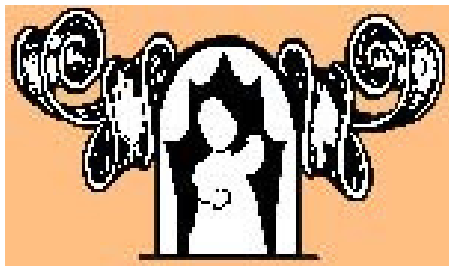
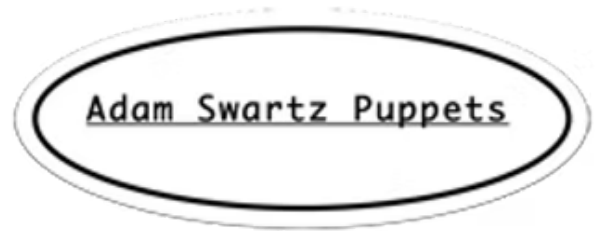
This free community event is your chance to meet local puppeteers, explore the art of puppetry, and learn about GPAPG's brand-new Learning Lab — offering 10 weeks of youth & adult puppetry classes (Sept 27 – Nov 29, 2025). **Launch Day Special – 25% OFF Classes** — valid September 27 only!

Reserve your FREE spot now: <https://www.greaterphillypuppetryguild.org>

Questions? Contact us at: greaterphillyareapuppets@gmail.com

Learn • Create • Perform • Discover with GPAPG!

big howl



TUCKERS' TALES PUPPET THEATER



ALL HALLOWS CHURCH