

Discovery Theater

presents



Heather Henson's Handmade Puppet Dreams

Join Jim Henson's talented and visionary daughter Heather Henson, as she shares her latest collection of puppet films using puppets, in fun, hip, and innovative ways. *Handmade Puppet Dreams*, now in its fifth year, showcases a new generation of onscreen puppeteers who bring their artistry to a medium pioneered by her father. Each exciting screening includes Heather's welcome and a visit to the exhibit "Jim Henson's Fantastic World".

At Discovery Theater, this is Year of the Puppet!

All year long we will be producing shows and hosting events with award-winning puppet companies. On our stage we'll feature classic tales, modern myths and adventure stories told in the puppetry art form.

Discovery Theater Artistic Director:
Roberta Gasbarre
Handout: Jacqueline E. Lawton

Discovery Theater programs are made
possible, in part, by gifts from

The Smithsonian's Women's Committee



The Smithsonian Associates

Guenther and Siewchen Yong Sommer

(202) 633-8700 • Info@DiscoveryTheater.org • DiscoveryTheater.org
See our website for tickets, location, directions, resources for teachers, and much more!

Who is Heather Henson?

Heather Henson is the Executive Producer of IbeX Puppetry, which is an entertainment company dedicated to promoting puppetry on stage, in film, and in galleries. With Jim Henson for a father, it's no surprise that Heather is passionate about the art of puppetry. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, she also attended the California Institute of the Arts. Her work has been seen all over the country in a number of performance spaces, such as HERE Performing Art Space and PS 122 in New York City; the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center in Connecticut; and Zeum, an arts & technology museum for kids and families, located in San Francisco. (Check out their super fun website at www.zeum.org.) Through her productions, Heather strives to use full sensory non-traditional story telling tools to offer audiences a transformative experience. She is fascinated with harmonies that occur in nature and is constantly searching for innovative ways to demonstrate nature's journey within our lives. Company projects include: The Orlando Puppet Festival, monthly puppet events, environmental theatre spectacles, puppet film series, and gallery exhibits.

About the Films You're going to See:

The Sure Sheep (7 minutes, 2008) Tad, the youngest sheep on Handley Sheep Farm, dreams of playing his banjo with others but the older Sure Sheep won't let him because they want all of the attention. When Tad gets his big break performing in a TV commercial he has all the sheep join him and the whole flock rocks.

Hold Me Now (4 min, 2004) Mario and Fafa the Groundhog began performing on the New York City subways in the summer of 2004. Discouraged by the pressures of street performance, the team packed their bags and moved to a new home on the Internet.

Finger Puppets Everywhere (50 sec, 2005) Live action spots featuring hand made finger-puppets through out the entirety of the program.

Piano Mouths (30 sec, 2003) The title says it all! This is a lighthearted musical interlude.

Amazing Mysterious & True Story of Mary Anning & Her

Monsters (8 min, 2003) When most children were afraid of monsters Mary sought them out. She had an eye for the unexplainable and in the end her discoveries would change more than she bargained for.

Mother Hubbard (5 min, 1996) Poor Old Mother Hubbard has no food, no money and no clue how to deal with her eccentric little dog. Join in the fun as Puppet Heap plays with this classic rhyme.

Dudley & The Toykeeper's Chest (14 min, 2003) Dudley the lamb is the only toy ever created by the world's finest toy mender. Dudley's nemesis, the wooden wolf Silas, has been terrorizing the store where they live. When Silas turns his teeth toward Dudley's creator, the lamb must defend his home.

Graveyard Jamboree (4 min, 1999) Inspired by an old record by Harry Reser and his Radio All-Star Novelty Orchestra. Three techniques were used in this film including, live action puppetry, silhouette animation and stop motion animation.

Here's what Heather says about her work:

"I think much of my life mission is to facilitate the creative process. In my own work, this is in creating a theatrical experience for an audience with puppets, kinetic sculpture, dances and projected animation. In other people's work- it's assisting people in realizing their own visions.

I aim to create unique experiences for the audience where they feel a sense of wonder for life, and perhaps a greater sense of their soul. I draw inspiration from the natural world and its rhythms. I search for innovative methods to create visual metaphors. A rich experience is delivered by weaving many different mediums. I use the language of sculpted objects, controlled light, shadow play, animation, gestures, and sound to tell my stories."

Check out these websites...

www.handmadepuppetdreams.com
www.ibexpuppetry.com



About the Partners

Handmade Puppet Dreams is a collection of puppet film shorts by independent artists exploring their craft specifically for the camera. The series consists of Volumes I, II, III, Kids and Highlights and has been screened throughout the country and internationally. For details, please visit: www.handmadepuppetdreams.com

IBEX Puppetry is an entertainment company dedicated to promoting the fine art of puppetry in all of its various mediums, nurturing work for a myriad of venues including stage, film, and gallery. For details, please visit: www.ibexpuppetry.com

The Smithsonian Women's Committee was founded in 1966 by Mary Ripley, wife of Smithsonian Secretary S. Dillon Ripley, to advance the interests of the Smithsonian Institution through fundraising activities and special projects. The Craft Show was profitable from the beginning, which proved to the Smithsonian Women's Committee that there was an audience for an annual show. The committee's goals then and now are to raise money for educational, outreach, and research programs within the Smithsonian Institution and, with the Craft Show, to give American craft artists a venue for their work in the nation's capital. Since its founding, the Smithsonian Women's Committee has raised over \$6 million for the benefit of its parent institution. For details, please visit: <http://www.si.edu/giving/od/women.htm>

DISCOVERY THEATER (www.DiscoveryTheater.org), the Smithsonian Institution's theater for children, is dedicated to offering the best in live educational performing arts for young people. Each year, more than 50,000 children and their adults visit Discovery Theater on the National Mall to explore American history and cultures, folk tales from around the world, and exciting, accessible science and math programs. Our new specially-designed performance space is located next to the Smithsonian Castle, in the S. Dillon Ripley Center—the Smithsonian's underground learning center with classrooms, lecture halls, artists' studios and more. For details, call 202-633-8700 or see: www.DiscoveryTheater.org.

