



The International Gallery

Reel Live Puppets

Meet Rags, the world's cutest puppy marionette!

*Created and performed by
Roberta Gasbarre &
Ingrid Crepeau*

A REPRODUCIBLE LEARNING GUIDE. This guide is designed to help children and adults prepare for, enjoy, and discuss *REEL Live Puppets!* It contains background information and vocabulary. Appropriate for ages 3–8 / grades pre-K-3.

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Meet Rags!!

Meet Rags, the world's cutest puppy marionette, and learn how puppets come alive on stage and screen in an interactive show with Discovery Theater Director Roberta Gasbarre and Ingrid Crepeau of Dinorock Productions.

Experience the magical world of puppetry. A world that ask you to believe and use your imagination to make believe! Join Rags, an adorable, blue spaniel puppet and his friend Roberta, a real live person, as they explore how puppetry, which is part of an ancient tradition of storytelling that have become more pronounced since the advent of film, television, and other forms of multimedia.

The art of puppetry asks that you suspend your disbelief, which means that you are asked to believe something that you would never accept in the real world in order to enjoy the story or performance being told to you! We do this when

reading books and comic strips and when watching movies and television. It's really fun! In puppetry, we accept that the size of the puppet, whether it's Slimey – Sesame Street's smallest and most silent member celebrates a birthday, who is also Oscar the Grouch's pet worm – or Big Bird – who measures in at eight feet, two inches tall!!

Puppetry also ask us to accept the environmental context and framework of a flat surface. Unlike the real world, which is 3D or three deminsional, the world of puppets exist in a box. The box could be a television, a movie screen or a theater.

What is a Marionette Puppet?

A marionette is a type of jointed puppet which can be made to move with the assistance of strings pulled from overhead. They can be made from wood, bone, and horn and sometimes wear clothes made of silk and linen, and can be are adorned with jewels and precious metals.

Marionettes first appeared in 2000 BCE in Ancient Egypt. The ancient art of puppetry spread to Greece and Rome and eventually all throughout Europe. Do you know **Pinocchio**? Well, he's from, Pisa, Italy! In Italian, a marionette is known as a *fantoccino*, but the word "marionette" is itself derived from the Old French *mariole*, meaning "musical instrument."

Because children are willing to suspend their deblief and use their imagination, children have been know to say that puppets are real!! Children allow themselves to enjoy the full experience of puppetry, whether it's on television or live in front of them.

As the children meet Rags, a real puppet up close and personal, Kat, Discovery Theater's technician, will create a video of the the moment. We can then see this real moment, become a reel moment!! Participate in and explore the magic that Jim Henson gave us!

After the show, tour the International Gallery's exhibition "Jim Henson's Fantastic World" featuring the art and imagination of the late Jim Henson, America's most loved puppet genius

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JIM HENSON (1936 - 1990)

“Life's like a movie, write your own ending. Keep believing, keep pretending.” Jim Henson

Jim Henson is a puppeteer, producer and director. He best remembered for his work on the long-running, educational children's television show, **Sesame Street**. He is also the creator of the Muppets, fun, zany, unforgettable puppet characters that include Kermit the Frog, Gonzo, Fozzy the Bear, and Miss Piggy. Jim Henson added an innovative approach to puppetry by using rods in the puppets arms that allowed for more realistic movements than the previous hand puppet or string puppet.

James Maury Henson was born September, 24, 1936 in Greenville, Mississippi. He grew up mostly in Leland, Mississippi and then in the 5th grade, he moved with his family to Hyattsville, Maryland. After high school, Jim Henson attended the University of Maryland in College Park. He's local! There, he majored in studio arts and home economics.

As a college freshman, a local television station asked Jim Henson to create a five minute puppet show called *Sam and Friends*, which was a hit and first introduced the world to Kermit the Frog puppet character. While working on this show, Jim Henson experimented with a new kind of puppetry by using new camera angles and lifelike puppet fabrics. Henson's puppets were unique, because they soft, life-like and expressed emotion.

In high school, Jim Henson became fascinated by television. "I loved the idea," he once said, "that what you saw was taking place somewhere else at the same time."

Then in 1969, Sesame Street hit the airwaves and the world of puppetry has never been the same again! With Sesame Street Jim Henson introduced the world to Oscar the Grouch, Bert and Ernie, Cookie Monster, Guy Smiley and Big Bird characters. Then in 1976, Henson created, The Muppet Show, which debuted in 1976 and featured Miss Piggy, Fozzie Bear, Gonzo the Great and the Swedish Chef, among others. Muppet movies such as *The Muppet Movie*, *The Great Muppet Caper*, *The Muppets Take Manhattan*, *Muppets from Space*, followed and were met with enormous success.

Jim Henson has had and continues to have a powerful influence on children throughout the world! He adapted the ancient art of puppetry to the most modern of mediums, television, transforming both. He created a TV show that was one of the most popular on earth. But Henson's greatest achievement was broader than any of these.

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Puppetry 101

- 📍 **Puppetry** is used in almost all human societies as an entertainment and in rituals and celebrations such as carnival.
- 📍 Puppets are inanimate objects that are manipulated to appear to be moving.
- 📍 Puppet figures are made to represent a person, animal, plant, or an object.
- 📍 The person who operates them is called a puppeteer.
- 📍 Puppets are moved by hand or by strings, wires, or rods.
- 📍 Puppets appear as characters in plays called puppet shows.
- 📍 Most puppetry involves storytelling and asks the audience to use their imagination!

Activities

How to Make a Sock Puppet

Sock puppets are easy to make, adorable, and so much fun!

Here's what you need:

A sock
Two button
Some yarn
Glue

Here's how to do it:

1. Insert your hand in the sock.
2. To create the mouth, tuck a portion of the sock between your thumb and palm.
3. Glue on button eyes (where the knuckles of your hands are).
4. Glue on the yarn, for hair (where the back of your hand is).
5. Optional: Cut a tongue-shaped piece of felt and glue it into the mouth.

How to Make a Sock Puppet Movie

Now the fun begins! Make as many sock puppets you need. Ask your friends to join in the fun as well. Make up a story about your day or re-tell one of your favorite stories from a book, the television or a movie. Ask a parent or adult to video record your sock puppet in action! This way you can be like Jim Henson! Your stories can entertain friends and family!

Related Resources

How to make puppets and plays to perform –
<http://www.sunniebunniezz.com/puppetry/puppetsb.htm>

Puppet Resources –
<http://www.legendsandlore.com/index.html>

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About puppets and how to work with them –

<http://www.sagecraft.com/puppetry/definitions/historical/index.html>

Puppetry traditions around the world –

<http://www.sagecraft.com/puppetry/traditions/index.html>

Center for Puppetry Arts –

<http://www.puppet.org/>

Meet Roberta Gasbarre

With more than 35 years in the field of educational theatre, Roberta Gasbarre is recognized as a Washington leader in all aspects of arts-based learning. She has created a museum theatre form that weaves the factual and the imaginative into exciting, interactive experiences for audiences of all ages. She has presented and created plays and performances for the Smithsonian Institution for many years, Roberta became Discovery Theater director in 2000, deepening the theater's commitment to educational enrichment and broadening its connection to the museums on and off the National Mall. She sees the theater as a "gateway" experience, introducing Smithsonian topics, themes, and collections to children. Drawing on her knowledge of world theatre to present "living exhibits" with master artists demonstrating traditional and cultural arts, Roberta selects or creates Discovery Theater programs that bring the world directly to audiences of educators and students, parents and children. Original works produced with professional educational artists highlight themes and offer learning opportunities vital to young people in this time of rapid globalization.

Meet Ingrid Crepeau



Ingrid M. Crepeau has been designing and constructing puppets of all kinds for almost fifty years. She is a founding member of GRAMMY-nominated Dinorock Productions, Inc. where she has garnered two Wammies for best children's group and a Parent's Choice Award. As a cofounder of Patchwork Puppet Productions, Ingrid also won two regional Emmy awards for puppet design for *SNEAKERS*, a children's television series on WDVM-TV in Washington, D.C. Ingrid has been a master artist with the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning through the Arts since 1985. She provides professional-development workshops and classroom work around the country for teachers of young children, and also presents her work at national conferences for the National Association for Education of Young Children.

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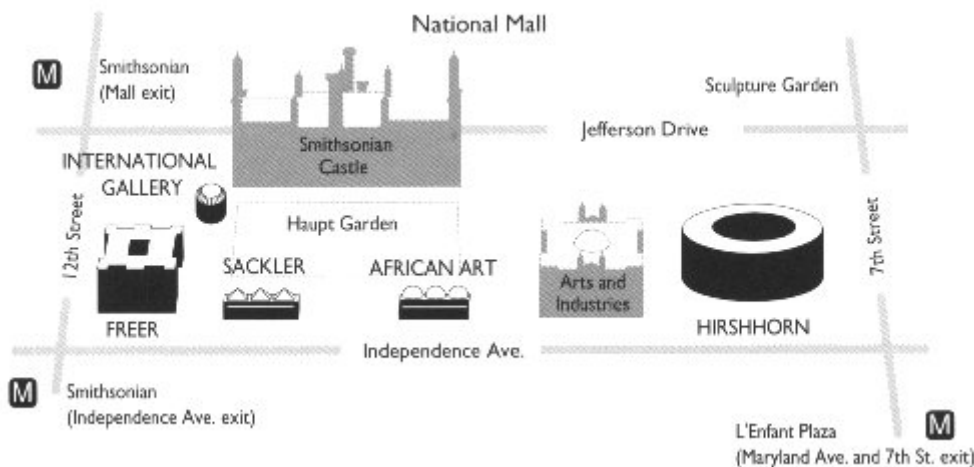
What's on at the International Gallery

This exhibition explores the creativity and "visual thinking" of artist, puppeteer, film director, and producer Jim Henson (1936-90). On view are some 100 original artworks, including drawings, cartoons, and storyboards; television and movie props; photographs of Henson and his collaborators at work; original video productions, including excerpts from Henson's early career and experimental films; and Muppets, including Kermit the Frog, Rowlf, Bert, Ernie, and Nutty Bird.

Plan Your Visit

The International Gallery is open every day except December 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. But hurry - the Henson exhibit closes October 5th!

Patrons can enter The International Gallery from the copper-domed kiosk of the **S. Dillon Ripley Center** on Jefferson Drive between the "Castle" and the Freer Gallery of Art. The International Gallery is accessible for persons with disabilities.



The Smithsonian International Gallery

1100 Jefferson Drive, S.W.
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560

About the Partners

The International Gallery features changing exhibitions from the Smithsonian's Traveling Exhibition Service, the National Portrait Gallery, and other Smithsonian museums.

Dinorock Productions began in 1984 with the production of their first album, called *Dinosaur Rock*, the story of an eccentric yodeling paleontologist whose magic spells can bring dinosaurs back to life. The recording led to a show, which led to the formation of a touring company. Since then the company has produced nine more dinosaur shows: *The Great Dinosaur Mystery*, *Dinosaur Babies*, *A Dinosaur Chorus*, *Divertimento in D(inosaur)*, *The Dinosaur Book of World Records*, *Dinosaurs Forever*, *T-Rex's Holiday Surprise*, *Dinosaur Desperadoes* and *Mi Casa Es Su Casa*. *Mi Casa* is one of 5 award-winning record albums produced, composed, and performed by Michele Valeri, one of the original Dinorock founders. (She calls it her “thank-you” to the many Latin American friends who opened their homes to her over the years!) When not performing, Michele travels the country conducting teacher/artist training workshops for the Kennedy Center & Wolf Trap. Learn more at www.dinorock.com.



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. Discovery Theater performances unite ideologies, enact themes that reflect the diversity of its audiences, open avenues of self-reflection, and offer an enjoyable means for parents and teachers to demonstrate life's lessons. *Tricky Ol' Buh Rabbit* is just one of several recent collaborations between Discovery Theater and distinguished partners such as the Library of Congress, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Lemelson Center for Study of Invention and Innovation, and America's Jazz Heritage, A Partnership of the Lila Wallace–Reader's Digest Fund and the Smithsonian Institution.

Discovery Theater's 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. Favorite DT programs also tour schools and museums, which means that DT's special brand of educational entertainment for kids is more widely available than ever before. For details, call 202-633-8700 or see www.DiscoveryTheater.org.

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