

Discovery Theater

presents

Peter and the Wolf



Welcome to Discovery Theater! We are pleased to bring you "Peter and the Wolf," one of The Puppet Co.'s best loved stories. This one-man show is performed by puppetmaster Christopher Piper. It is based on Russia's popular tale of good versus evil and staged with half life-size marionettes. This presentation is a new approach to the old tale. It uses character dialogue rather than narrative to develop the plot. Appropriate for PreK – 6th Grade.

Discovery Theater Artistic Director:
Roberta Gasbarre

Handout: Jacqueline E. Lawton



The Smithsonian Associates

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Guenther and Siewchen Yong Sommer

About the Puppet Co.

Founded in 1983, the Puppet Co. (<http://thepuppetco.org/>)

is a non-profit organization that creates puppet theatre, especially for children. They use hand puppets, rod puppets, body puppets, marionettes and shadow puppets to bring great music and literature to life for



students, teachers and parents. The Puppet Co is comprised of Allan Stevens, Christopher and MayField Piper. Between them, they have over 100 years of hands-on puppet experience. The Puppet Co has about 20 productions in repertory and they feature productions by other puppet companies about twice a year. They are members of the National Capital Puppetry Guild (Mid-Atlantic Region), Puppeteers of America, and UNIMA (Union Internationale de la Marionette).

Types of Puppets

- **Hand puppets** - are controlled by the hand and arm of the puppeteer. Puppeteers are generally below a stage so as not to be seen.
- **Rod puppets** - are controlled with wire or wood rods attached to the arms or head of the puppet. Puppeteers may control a portion of the puppets with their own body.
- **Marionettes** – are controlled by a system of strings attached to the limbs of a puppet. These strings are then manipulated by a puppeteer who stands above the puppet.
- **Shadow puppets** - are made by blocking light on a surface to form silhouettes of the puppeteers representation. Shadow puppets can be made using a variety of constructed puppets and even different hand formations.

(202) 633-8700 • Info@ DiscoveryTheater.org • DiscoveryTheater.org

See our website for tickets, location, directions, resources for teachers, and much more!

About Peter and the Wolf

There is a little boy named Peter who lives with his Grandfather on a small farm. One beautiful day, Peter takes a walk through a meadow and he accidentally leaves the gate open. A Duck sees the gate is open waddles out to the meadow and into a pond. Soon, the Duck meets a Bird and they begin to argue and argue, over birds that can't swim and other birds that can't fly. You see, this Bird doesn't swim and this Duck doesn't fly. Meanwhile, a curious and hungry Cat decides to eat the Bird for lunch, but Peter warns the Bird and it gets away. Then, Peter's Grandfather shows up and he's very upset at Peter for taking off on his own. You see, Grandfather is afraid that a dangerous Wolf might come. However, Peter isn't afraid at all, but he returns home anyway. And wouldn't you know it, as soon as he gets home, a greedy Wolf sneaks out of the woods and into the meadow. That Wolf gobbles down the Duck, who can't fly away. Still hungry, the Wolf decides to eat the Bird and Cat. But the cat runs up a tree, and the Bird and Peter catch outsmart the Wolf and catch him. By this time, the Hunters arrive and they want to kill the wolf. However, Peter convinces them to take the Wolf to a zoo, which they do.

Did You Know?

Written in 1936, Sergei Prokofiev wrote *Peter and the Wolf* to teach children about orchestral music. He used different instruments from his orchestra to tell the story of Peter and the Wolf. The sound of each instrument expresses a different characteristic:

- **Peter** played by the **Violin** – Excited. Playful.
- **Wolf** played by the **French Horn** – Cunning, Watchful.
- **Bird**, played by the **Flute** - Fast, Energetic.
- **Grandfather** played by the **Bassoon** - Strict, Sturdy, Older.
- **Cat** played by the **Clarinet** - Clever, Smooth, Patient.
- **Duck** played by the **Oboe** - Waddling, Slow, Carefree.
- **Hunters** played by the **Timpani** - Powerful, Determined.

Activities

1. Read the story of *Peter and the Wolf* to your students.
2. Before listening to the music, introduce the students to how Prokofiev used the different instruments to portray the characters.
3. Listen to the recording of *Peter and the Wolf*.
4. Discuss with the students what it was like to listen to the story being told with words versus with music.
5. Ask the students if they were able to imagine the story as they were listening to it. Then ask the students to draw the story as they imagined it happening.

Resources

<http://www.dsokids.com/2001/dso.asp?PageID=442> – to read the story of Peter and the Wolf.

<http://www.philtulga.com/Peter.html> - to learn the history of Peter and the Wolf and hear bits of the music.

<http://www.oeps.org/page/peter.htm> - to view Peter and the Wolf lesson plans for 1st through 6th Grade.

<http://www.puppetuniverse.com> - to learn everything you wanted to know about puppets.

About Discovery Theater

Discovery Theater, the Smithsonian Institution's theater for children, has been dedicated to offering the best in live performing arts for young people since 1979. Each year, more than 50,000 Washington-area children and their adults visit DT (now located in the Smithsonian's S. Dillon Ripley Center on the National Mall in Washington, DC) to explore American history and cultures, folk tales from around the world, and exciting, accessible science and math programs in the company of puppeteers, storytellers, dancers, actors, musicians and mimes. For details, call (202) 633-8700 or see www.DiscoveryTheater.org.

