

Wanda Bennett

Giant Puppet Workshop /Foundations

Workshop Summary

Learn the basics of making large processional puppets or other creatures using a variety of techniques. The workshop incorporates different ideas and methods for creating characters and props. Time permitting, participants will be introduced to movement and performance techniques associated with street performance.

Workshop Outcome

Create large processional puppets, props or creatures.

Length

2 Days basic – 3 to 4 Days for larger more elaborate characters

Audience

Age: All age groups and levels of ability.

Level: Adults, Middle and Secondary school students

Group: Community groups and Festivals and Events

Max No. Participants: ideal group size is 12, if working with larger school classes, teacher and helpers are necessary, particularly with middle school students.



Materials List

Participant Requirements:

- Please wear old clothing and/or aprons as dyes and adhesives used do not come out
- Good scissors
- Paper and pens/ pencils
- Any scraps of materials large or small to help adorn our finished puppets

Venue Requirements:

- Good ventilation
- Access to power and water,
- Large space to practice movement
- Tables and chairs – Projector and screen (great if available if not PowerPoint can be shown to participants on lap top)



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Materials Levy:

Approx \$35 - \$45 per person for a basic puppet

Levy Includes:

- Bamboo, cane of varying thickness, muslin cloth, wadding, masking and gaffer tape, eyes, fabric dyes, paint, sequins, latex, PVA, hot glue sticks, assortment of fabric to top dress, small selection of paint,
- Equipment supplied by tutor – secateurs, scissors, brushes and hot glue guns.

Workshop Outline

Day One,

- Intro PowerPoint presentation
- Tool box – intro to materials being used
- Theatre games
- Designing a character
- Basic back construction
- Cover frame with stretched muslin
- Theatre game
- Demonstration on how to create 3 dimensional facial features
- Participants start creating their creature.

Day Two,

- Movement game
- Participants continue with puppet construction
- Attach limbs to puppets
- Paint, dye and add top fabrics to complete the puppet.
- Please note for more elaborate creature with more finished details a 3 to 4 Day workshop is advised, in a longer workshop, participants will practice movement in their puppet more and a demonstration on foam dipped latex mask making will be given.



Artist Bio

Wanda Bennett specialises in contemporary fibre weaving and wearable art, creating large-scale sculptures, installations and processional puppets. With ten years' teaching experience, Wanda is also experienced in street performance and community projects combining visual art, drama, music and film. Wanda has studied, exhibited and worked in both Australia and Europe.