

# BETH PETERSON

## *Puppet Show and Mask Workshops*

### MEET THE ARTIST:

Beth Peterson has been creating puppets, masks, pageants, parades and puppet shows for over 16 years. Most recently she designed the puppets and masks for The Pink Dress that performed a run at the Japanese American National Museum and at In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre ([www.hobt.org](http://www.hobt.org)) in Minneapolis, where she was the Associate Artistic Director for many years. She has worked extensively in schools, communities, and on the professional puppet stage. At HOBT Ms. Peterson directed The Wild Swans, directed and designed two pieces for the 2004 Minnesota Orchestra family concerts, created many family shows, toured to South Korea and the Dominican Republic, and founded and directed the Art Bus summer employment and touring giant puppet show project for Inner city teens. In Los Angeles she teaches puppetry arts workshops, creates temporary public art works with community through LA Commons, and directed Bari Gongju a collaboration with Korean puppet designer Eum Jeoung Ae that debuted at the Korean Cultural Center of Los Angeles winter of 2005.



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### ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS:

Workshops are tailored for the time, subject matter and grade level of the participants. K-12 projects are available and are designed to involve participants with a wide range of learning styles. All of the workshops recognize the ancient origins of puppet and mask art forms from all the continents and many cultures of the world and share the common values of the use of recycled materials, respect for the art form and for each other, high energy-low tech, hand made works, and the view that the ability to create art rests in the hearts, hands and imaginations of all who choose to participate. Possible forms include: Masks, Giant puppets, Shadow puppets, Hand puppets, Rod puppets, Toy theatre and Suitcase shows. Beth helped develop a puppet cookbook at HOBT that shares images of these forms with teachers at the planning meetings and provides information about the steps to take and the materials that will be utilized in the workshop. Themes explored through past workshops include: Science wonders, Imagination, Personal stories, Current Events, Myths and Legends, Celebration, Seeds, Water issues and moments in History. The content focus is planned collaboratively with the teachers to bring the puppet and mask forms to the unit that can best extend the classroom teaching in the subject matter in the time available. Shorter term projects include shadow puppets and toy theatre or the making of puppets and masks, and longer term projects include the process of storyboard, design, build and performance of puppet shows, pageants, or parades.

### **BEFORE THE WORKSHOP:**

- Please have the students wear nametags for the workshop. It saves time if they are made beforehand!
- Review the importance of listening and observing. Ask the students what it means to be a good listener. What does it mean to be a good observer? Why is it important in daily life? Why is it important when the artist is here?
- Review students' ideas about art, underscoring the idea that art is both personal and universal, and that everyone's ideas will be both different and related. Discuss the importance of being able to create ideas in visual forms. Where can they use this skill in their lives? What professions utilize the skill of cutting?
- Have the requested supplies ready before the artist arrives.
- Have student desks or work surfaces cleared.

### **AFTER THE WORKSHOP:**

- Review the major points presented in the workshops. What were the most important ideas? What parts of the workshop did the students like best? What did they learn about art? What did they learn about specific science concepts? What did they learn about themselves?
- Practice the skills of creating Toy Theatre scenes learned in the classes and find ways to incorporate them into other areas of the curriculum.