



**qip**



*Puppetry in Practice*



# qip



## Puppetry in Practice

Since 1980, Puppetry In Practice, Inc. (PIP) has specialized in offering interdisciplinary literacy through the arts programs in the five boroughs of NYC. Our residencies are tailored to meet each school and classroom's curriculum needs. We offer programs incorporating movement, theater, music, technology and the visual arts into classroom learning in all subject areas. We have offerings appropriate for every age group and ability. Programs include arts residencies in Mandarin, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. Our programs align with NYC DOE Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts, as well as NYS and NYC Learning Standards.



Xun, Tova and Jason at the Pupperty in Practice Folklore Museum.

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### The PUPPETRY IN PRACTICE FOLKLORE MUSEUM

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# FLIP'S FANTASTIC JOURNAL GETS ANIMATED!

A NEW MULTIMEDIA PROGRAM COMBINING ARTS, LITERACY AND TECHNOLOGY



Thanks to generous grants from Council members Lew Fidler and Jumaane Williams, Puppetry In Practice, Inc. is planting the seed for a new multimedia program with author-illustrator Angelo DeCesare and the characters from his popular *Flip's Fantastic Journal* series.

Animation is a familiar medium for kids to use to unlock their imaginations and bring their ideas to life. Students will work with Flip's creator, Angelo DeCesare, to create scripts, storyboard their narratives, develop sets and props, and make moveable puppets to be incorporated into a short stop



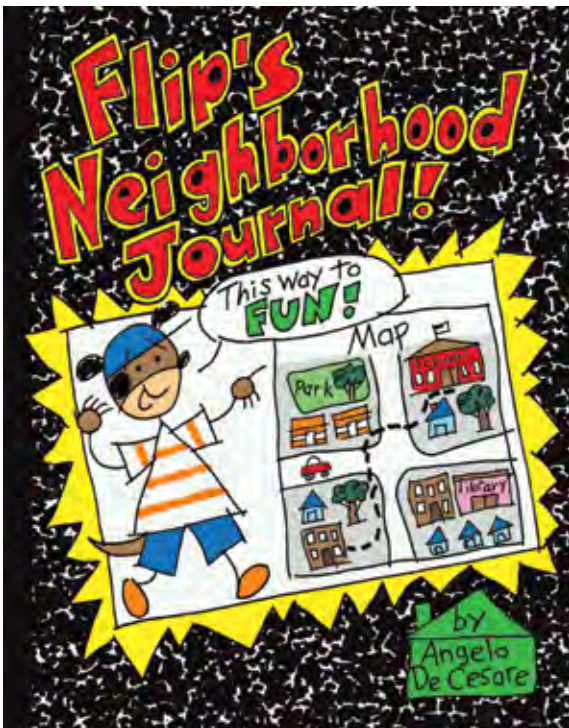
Author/Illustrator Angelo DeCesare teaching students from the Brooklyn College Academy how to draw his popular Flip character motion animation film.

This unique, interdisciplinary program fosters a creative learning environment for students where technology and hands-on activities are used to develop and tell stories.

This exciting process enables students to flourish in small groups where communication, creativity and collaboration are engaged to produce high quality animated films.



# BRING ANY NEIGHBORHOOD TO LIFE



In 2006, P.S. 46 and Our Lady of Refuge in the Bronx, in collaboration Pupperty In Practice, were granted a 3-year State Technology Award. In the first three years, Grades 3-5 explored folklore as it was connected to the social studies curriculum. Students used stop motion animation to re-tell popular stories from around the world and re-create them as short animated films.

The grant was recently renewed for another 3-year term in order to expand the project to Grades K-2. Now in its final year, 2nd graders will use the Flip characters from Angelo DeCesare's popular *Flip's Fantastic Journal* series, to explore the idea of neighborhood.

As children work with Angelo, and PIP artist, Jason Leinwand, they will build 3-D cut paper stages of their own neighborhood, which will be used as the backdrops to their animations using SAM animation, webcams and Mac laptop computers right in the classroom.

The stop motion animation workshop was the best workshop we had all year. It was to the point, had us actually working and creating and taught us something brand new. It was fun and we felt accomplished seeing our results.

-Marianna Polyak  
Computer Teacher, P.S. 217

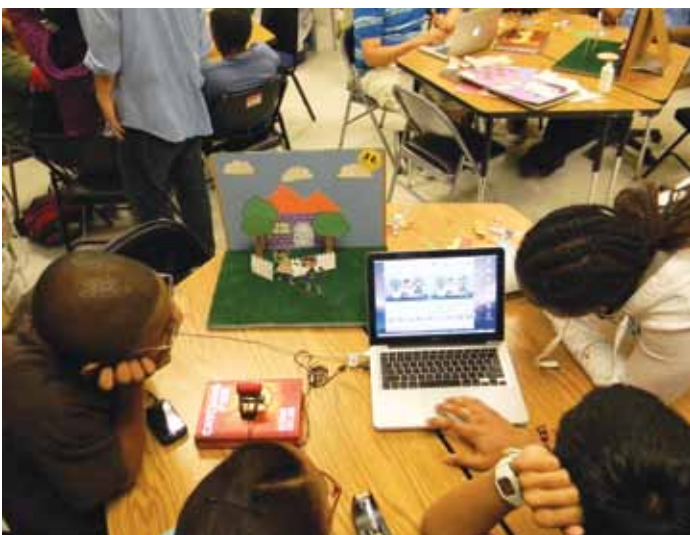


A screen shot from an animation created by teachers from P.S. 217 using the Flip characters. The program was a follow-up to a 2nd grade residency in stop motion animation.

# PUPPET ANIMATION LABORATORY



**GREAT FOR STUDENTS,  
TEACHERS AND PARENTS**



**TECHNOLOGY  
IN THE CLASSROOM**

**LITERACY AND  
STORYTELLING  
THROUGH THE ARTS**



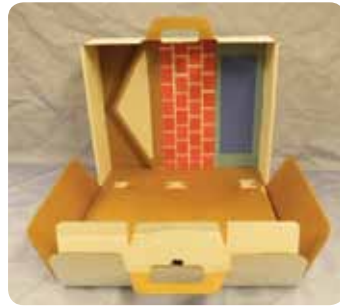
**SIMPLE LAPTOP AND  
WEBCAM SET-UP**

**COMMUNICATION,  
COLLABORATION,  
CREATIVITY**

High school students from Brooklyn College Academy, create stories, story boards and sets, and then incorporate them into several short stop motion animation films.



**THE LATEST CREATION from PIP's ART DIRECTOR, XUN YE**



# **TOY THEATERS... TO GO!**

**THE NEWEST PORTABLE PUPPET STAGE IN A BOX**



**Students, teachers, and parents create stages, puppets and performances.**





**PRE-SCHOOLERS FROM  
THE EARLY CHILDHOOD  
CENTER AT BROOKLYN  
COLLEGE INTERACT WITH  
ARTISTS AT PIP**



# Plastic Bottle

by Judy Schwartz

# Puppets

It all began with a TV commercial claiming that Americans drink enough bottled water every year to produce sufficient plastic bottles to stretch around the world over 100 times. It caused me to look at these bottles in a different light.

I noticed that a human hand (my hand, anyway) fits comfortably in either a one or two liter plastic soda or seltzer bottle. With the addition of recycled cardboard, styrofoam trays, plastic spoons, rubber gloves, and even recycled fabric from castoff clothing, the first of the recycled bottle puppets came into being. The menagerie expanded when ketchup, salad dressing, pomegranate, cranberry and orange juice jugs lent their shapes to armatures for the puppets.

Soon, the bottles started to evolve into human shape including: the diva, Gilda Lilly; Hacko, the clown; the “playah”, Sportin’ Life; and the rapper, Top AZ among them. These puppets came into being like Athena, sprung full blown from Zeus’ head. They took on a life and character of their own.

For more information, please visit [www.puppetsgogreen.com](http://www.puppetsgogreen.com).







It is said  
that puppetry is  
the art of animating  
the inanimate. With  
these puppets, the  
inanimate puppet  
seems to animate  
the animator.



## JUDY'S PUPPETS COME TO LIFE!

PIP teaching artist,  
Laine Barton performs  
**GROUP SOUP!**

Utilizing Judy Schwartz's  
unique and environmentally  
responsible plastic bottle  
puppets, made entirely from  
recycled materials, this  
newly updated version re-  
creates one of PIP's most  
well known and entertaining  
puppet tales.



# THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE THROUGH TIME

THE NEWEST PROGRAM FROM PUPPETRY IN PRACTICE





# Bring to life the story of the creation and impact of the "8TH WONDER OF THE WORLD"!

In this interdisciplinary program, students trace the history of the Brooklyn Bridge starting with its conception around 1865 all the way to the present. They explore texts of various complexities and interpret their findings in a variety of formats. The program integrates social studies, mathematics, language arts, engineering, and technology using the excitement of the visual and performing arts. Students in grades K-5 create sets, Toy Theater productions, puppets, film, theater projects and actual models of the bridge that show the impact of the bridge on New York City and the world.





# COLORFUL GARDEN MURAL AT P.S. 216



Select 4th and 5th grade students at P.S. 216 in Brooklyn, alongside PIP teaching artist Jason Leinwand and the school's art teacher Suzanne Berkowitz, participated in the creation of a large 40ft x 8.5ft painted mural to compliment P.S. 216's organic gardening program, Edible Schoolyard. Over a 5-week period, students designed and painted much of this incredible work of art despite hot sunny days and several rainouts. Special thanks to Principal Celia Kaplinsky for making this project happen.



ENVELOPE

PUPPETS



1st grade teachers at P.S. 46 in the Bronx and parents from P.S. 315 learn to make quick, and inexpensive envelope puppets.



# The Shadows Behind the Curtain

## The Pip Pop Players as Multimedia Artists in Three Shadow Puppet Films

by Drew Petersen

Last season, in the academic year of 2009 – 2010, eight students from The League School and two from the Brooklyn College Inclusion Center created a shadow puppet film based on a poem called *Witch Bungle*. The film was a hit, not only with the participants, but with their fellow students, teachers and administrators as well.

This year, in the spirit of always trying to out-do ourselves, we decided to make not one shadow puppet film but THREE! Further, we doubled our participation by bringing ten students from the Brooklyn College Inclusion Center.

With eighteen participants, one computer, a single light source and microphone, a good deal of card stock and creativity, we completed films for Edgar Allan Poe's *The Mask of the Red Death*, Guy de Maupassant's *The Necklace* and Richard Connell's *The Most Dangerous Game*.





One of our goals this year was to keep the work and the art varied enough to appeal to all the intelligences, styles and interests in the room. Given a story, a light source, materials and instruction in creating shadow puppets, students will instantly bring the stories to life.

**Students direct and critique each other. They often brainstorm ideas and camera shots for entire sessions.**

It was not so much a class but a collaboration between Puppetry In Practice, The League School and The Inclusion Center. This was occupational training at its finest. One could see problem solving, elaboration of ideas and the sharing of responsibility at work.

### **PROGRAM EMPHASIS:**

- **STORYTELLING**
- **COMMUNICATION AND PROBLEM SOLVING**
- **ART-MAKING**
- **NEW MEDIA TECHNOLOGY**



**Students from The League School and The Inclusion Center create shadow puppet films using handmade shadow puppets and overhead projectors.**

Working with stories that students would be reading in school was another goal of the program. Students felt it would be more interesting to work from three familiar short stories, rather than work with one long book or novel. The three story model also helped us select the genre of story that was best suited for this kind of technology and artistry.

Students utilized very sophisticated vocabulary, were able to identify the essential elements of the given narrative, and learned how to use these focal points to re-create stories as films. They mastered the skills, which enabled them to understand what translates well into cinematic form and to create unique, visually exciting work. The relationship between teacher and student felt more like that of artist to artist.

Each year the Pip Pop Players have developed new skills and increasingly complex projects.

This project took place at the Puppetry In Practice Center at Brooklyn College with generous support from the Meier Bernstein Foundation which started the project over 10 years ago.

# VISITORS TO PIP!



**PUPPETEER LIAT ROSENTHAL**

Puppetry In Practice is excited about this summer's visiting artist, Liat Rosenthal. Liat, who comes via England, is a puppetry specialist with experience creating and designing performances and delivering a wide range of educational programs.

Whilst undertaking her MA at The Central School of Speech and Drama, Liat worked with some of the top contemporary puppetry practitioners and companies including Handspring, Theatre Rites, Blind Summit, The Little Angel Theatre and Faulty Optic. She specializes in interdisciplinary arts practices and the fusion of puppetry with other art forms.

In early July she will join two of our puppeteers, Laine Barton and Drew Petersen, at a Brooklyn school where they will merge puppet

drama and film as a means of fostering literacy skills for English as a Second Language learners.

They hope to document the responses of the children in the program and add it to the research Tova is preparing for a research proposal with Professor Li in the School of Education at Brooklyn College. Liat will join the conversation during the summer and continue to explore the use of puppetry in education at Cambridge University when she returns to England.

We hope to continue our work together during the year to foster the use of the arts in the development of literacy and higher order thinking. During the summer, Liat and Puppetry In Practice will collaborate to produce a new puppet show.

## CHINESE SHADOW PUPPETEERS CUI YONGPING AND WANG SHUQIN



Education students and teachers, as well as children from the Early Childhood Center at Brooklyn College, participated in a series of demonstrations of Chinese shadow puppetry by Cui Yongping and Wang Shuqin. They moved to the U.S. this year and are trying to find a home for their collection of puppets.





# Residencies

## **Flip's Fantastic Journal Residencies with Angelo DeCesare**

Comic book author Angelo DeCesare offers a variety of *Flip's Fantastic Journal* Residencies. In these programs Angelo reads from his series, teaches students how to draw Flip characters and then create their own.

### **Flip's Math Party: Kindergarten**

Students participate in activities based on everyday math designed to help early learners comprehend basic principles of math, such as patterns, simple addition and subtraction.

### **Flip's Mighty Memoir Journal, A Stepping-Stone to Memoir Writing: 1st Grade**

Angelo DeCesare reads *Flip's Mighty Memoir Journal* and discusses the components of a memoir. In this book, Flip's teacher, Ms. Fleacollar, asks him to write about something from his past. Flip has trouble thinking of anything to write, so to jog his memory his mom takes him to visit their old neighborhood. In the classroom, children make puppets of the characters, create memoirs and bring them to life through puppet drama.

### **Flip's Neighborhood Journal, A Community Studies Program: 2nd Grade**

Angelo DeCesare reads his first book in his series *Flip's Fantastic Journal*. In this story Flip tells about his life in Brooklyn and some of the community helpers in his neighborhood. The children learn to draw the Flip characters and then create their own book in which the characters are community helpers. One popular culminating activity PIP offers is a Publisher's Exhibit in which children showcase their books.

### **Flip's Super Journal, Responsibility and Teamwork: 3rd Grade**

Angelo DeCesare reads *Flip's Super Journal* in which Flip plans a "super fun day" with his best friend Muzz. This includes playing with their favorite action figures, Space Flier and Mighty Mutt. Unfortunately, their fun is postponed when Muzz has to watch his baby brother, Digger. Flip and Muzz flop as babysitters and their fun day is canceled. The children create the Flip characters as super heroes and create book art or puppet adventures for them.

## **Flip's Video Journal**

The newest book focuses on anger recognition and what happens next. Students create scenarios about positive ways to respond to anger provoking situations. In this story Flip finds out that it's OK to feel angry but not OK to do something that hurts someone else.

## **All Write All Ready!**

This Flip program is designed to increase writing skills and reading comprehension. Once students are familiar with the Flip characters, they are able to write about them and contribute their own components to the stories. Their identification with the characters translates into increased understanding of the text. The program includes a step-by-step activity book which teaches students the basics of writing a story and creating cartoon characters. Students learn how to express a character's feelings, connect their character to an everyday object and develop a story from character interaction.

# Folk Arts

## **Flour Dough Sculpture**

The traditional folk art of flour dough modeling was created over 700 years ago in the Sung Dynasty. Master Xun Ye generates enthusiasm as he shares the techniques taught to him by his grandfather.



PIP's Art Director, Xun Ye, a Chinese Flour Dough Master, showing students the magic of flour dough sculptures.

# Technology

## Claymation

This tremendously popular art form combines aspects of computer animation, film and craft techniques. Working with their 3-D characters and exploring simple narrative structures, students produce short films and share them with each other.

## Stop Motion Animation

Students create animated images, optical art, and movies and explore Victorian-style mechanical animations such as flip disks, rotoscopes and phenakistoscopes. Students also create flip books, storyboards and narratives leading to the production of animated short films from their 2-D drawings.

## Young Filmmakers Academy

Students will work with myths and folktales to create films and share them with their peers. In the process, they will use shadow puppetry, projected images and a variety of special effects. Students can also explore people and places in their neighborhoods to create documentaries on life in New York City.

# Theater and Music

## Circus Arts Residencies

Students get serious about clowning. They learn step by step techniques and skills to help them master the craft.

# Book Arts

## Book Arts and Pop-up Books

Students create stories that unfold through the creation of one-of-a-kind books. They learn a variety of ways to animate the printed word through pop-up mechanisms and animation devices. Book styles include: Shape, Pop-up, Folding, Wheel, Origami, and Concertina.

# Puppets Galore

## Mask Sculptures

Exploring the art and history of masks from around the world, students create their own out of recycled materials and cardboard.

## Shadow Puppetry

Children create shadow puppets to illustrate fairy tales, myths and their own original stories. They learn to manipulate shadow puppets by rods from behind screens and learn how overhead projectors or flashlights can project a shape in the miniature theaters.

## Toy Theater

Working in groups, students create productions using a cardboard box stage. Scenery, backdrops and props involve a variety of pop-up mechanisms and collage techniques. Students explore ways to express themselves through performance.

## Sock Puppets

Always a favorite, sock puppets teach students the basics of puppetry making and manipulation.

## Foam Puppets

Students learn to make their own "Muppet" style foam puppets, learn how to manipulate them, and use them to perform.





# Performances

## Group Soup

Rodney Rabbit, the itinerant magician, travels and spreads magic but grows tired of living on fast food. He would like to have soup but doesn't have the ingredients, only a stone. How then does he manage to make such a wonderful soup? In the end it looks like his real trick is getting all his friends to cooperate!

## Adventures of Anansi the Spider

Anansi's efforts to trick his friends backfire! Our storyteller casts a web of magic on his audience using his own trickery.

## The Rooster and the Coyote

In this Native American folk tale about who makes the sunrise, Coyote and Rooster compete for the grand title of Sun Caller

*New!*

Coming soon! A new puppet performance based on a classic Eastern European folktale. Anna's new animal friends may cause noise and trouble, but they bring a surprise for Anna and her already over crowded house.



# Staff Development

Arts-based workshops for educators may be coordinated with a school residency, or can be stand-alone sessions scheduled on school professional development days.

# Parent Workshops

In conjunction with classroom residencies we offer workshops specifically focused on ESL as well as programs providing parents with tools that better prepare them to support their children in their schoolwork.

# Festivals

Teachers, students and parents work together in skill building workshops and performances that enhance understanding of how the arts serve as methods of communication and expression. PIP can create a festival around your theme of choice.

Popular festival offerings include:

## Earth Day

Using recycled materials students create a variety of giant puppets for a school-wide parade!

## Poetry Festival

Students recreate classic poetry, create their own poetry and perform their new works.

## Chinese Lunar New Year Dragon Parade

Students are transformed into a large papier-mache dragon. The dragon parade welcomes the Lunar New Year all around your school.

## Dragon Books

Origami Dragon Books are filled with student's new year wishes to be displayed around the school.

## Puppet Making

Students learn to create puppet characters and dramas related to the theme of the Lunar New Year or a Chinese Folktale.





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