

# Puppeteers of America

## Steve Abrams Bio:

For the past 15 years I have worked as a columnist and associate editor of Puppetry Journal giving me the joyous opportunity to learn from Journal editor Paul Eide. In the 1990s legendary Journal editor, George Latshaw encouraged me to keep writing. I served as North American editor for the “World Encyclopedia of Puppetry Arts” published by UNIMA in 2009. For more than 40 years I have been performing as a solo puppeteer (mostly hand puppets) working in many hundreds of schools and libraries in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.



I grew up in a modest suburban home but loved the frequent trips to my dad's studio in the city where he built architectural models and displays. My “puppetry apprenticeship” began at the age of eight, helping my dad do birthday party shows for family members. In high school and college I studied dance and theatre, spending my first 2 years of college at Butler University in Indianapolis. I toured in Swan Lake but also found time to do Punch and Judy at the Indianapolis Children's Museum. At Temple University I earned a masters degree in dance education. As a new PofA member in 1970 I attended my first festival. In 1976 I built Petrushka, Caspar, and Guignol for “Folk Heroes of the Puppet Stage,” a multi-cultural program for the Penn Museum at University of Pennsylvania and I performed the show at libraries in nearly every county of Pennsylvania.

In 1993 a friend persuaded me to “give something back” and serve as a Regional Director. Soon after I was elected to the PofA Board and from 1999 to 2001 I was honored to serve as President.

The history of puppetry happens moment-by-moment as audiences see our work in towns and cities and on screens both large and small. Paul McPharlin began recording those moments in print in 1930. For 85 years the “puppetry journalists” of PofA have valued the work of puppeteers and tried to provide a continuous year-by-year documentation that captures at least some of our vast creative diversity. I modestly submit a few more bits of fabric to the crazy quilt of American puppetry.