

# imagine a world of puppets

Series includes  
an emperor,  
animals and the  
Big Dipper

By Paul Clark  
PCLARK@CITIZEN-TIMES.COM

**A**SHVILLE — Asheville Puppetry Alliance has announced its 2007-08 Young Audience Series at Diana Wortham Theatre.

The three puppetry companies will present shows for the public and for school groups. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children and seniors for public performances and \$5 a person for school groups. Tickets for school groups are available at 257-4544, ext. 307. The public can buy tickets at 257-4530 and [www.dwththeatre.com](http://www.dwththeatre.com). An additional show time of noon will be added for school groups if the 10 a.m. performances sell out.

Grey Seal Puppets presents "The Emperor's New Clothes." Here's what the Asheville Puppetry Alliance's Web site says about the production:

"What's big and fat and pink and loves to dress up in fancy clothes? Give up? It's the Pig Emperor himself in Grey Seal Puppets' clever adaptation of The Emperor's New Clothes. The Hans Christian Andersen story takes on a whole new dimension as this classic is transformed into a fable. The crafty tailors are foxes; the prime minister a near-sighted camel; and the councilor, a befuddled old walrus."

Grey Seal Puppets was founded in 1976 and has performed more than 250 shows a year at theaters such as The Center For Puppetry Arts in Atlanta, The Detroit Museum of Art and The Smithsonian Institution's Discovery Theatre.

Golden Rod Puppets present "Animalia." Here's what the Asheville Puppetry Alliance's Web site says about the production:



Red Herring Puppets will present "The Big Dipper: Calendar, Compass and Clock" on April 11-12.

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"This beautiful production explores the world of animals through movement, music and visually stunning puppetry. (Founder Hobey) Ford breaks out of the traditional puppet theater booth, turning the whole theater into his performance stage. The pieces include a magnified look at butterfly and frog metamorphosis, the world of birds, his classic undersea ballet of whales, frolicking dolphins and otters."

Ford has won puppetry's highest honor, the UNIMA Citation of Excellence, and has received three Jim Henson Foundation grants. His intri-

cate shadow puppetry work and creation of the original rod puppets, the "Foamies," have earned him a place in the Kennedy Center's Partnership in Education Program.

Red Herring Puppets will present "The Big Dipper: Calendar, Compass and Clock." Here's what the Asheville Puppetry Alliance's Web site says about the production:

"Discover the Big Dipper through eons of scientific and mythological wisdom. With stories from the ancient Chinese, Greek, Micmac (Indian) and the American cultures, this production

explains how the stars have been used to keep track of the seasons, to tell time at night and to guide Southern slaves to freedom."

Lisa Sturz, artistic director of Red Herring Puppets, has been a puppeteer for more than 25 years, working in film, television, theater and special events. She has worked with Jim Henson Productions, Walt Disney Imagineering, Lucasfilm, PBS, Ice Capades and The Lyric Opera of Chicago.

For more about the performances or companies, visit [www.ashevillerpuppetry.org](http://www.ashevillerpuppetry.org).

## WANT TO GO?

■ "The Emperor's New Clothes," 10 a.m. Sept. 28 for school groups and 11 a.m. Sept. 29 for the public.

■ "Animalia," 10 a.m. Nov. 27 for school groups and 11 a.m. Nov. 24 for the public.

■ "The Big Dipper: Calendar, Compass and Clock," 10 a.m. April 11 for school groups and 11 a.m. April 12 for the public.