

Lisa Aimee Sturz

720 Chula Vista Road, Tucson, Arizona 85718 • 828-273-1488
lisa@redherringpuppets.com • www.redherringpuppets.com

Education

UCLA, MFA in Puppetry, 1985
University of Connecticut, MA in Experimental Theater, 1978
Grinnell College, BA in Theater, Religious Studies, 1976

Puppetmaster

Womansong of Asheville, *30th Anniversary Concert*, 2017
Asheville Community Theatre., *Young Frankenstein*, 2016
Bubbleland Imagination Co., *Tales of Bubbleland*, 2013
Birmingham Children's Theatre & the Alabama Symphony, *Peter and the Wolf*, 2012
Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music & The Atlanta Opera, *The Magic Flute*, 2009
Huntington Symphony, *Pictures at an Exhibition*, 2009
Asheville Symphony, *Petrushka*, 2007
Actor's Express, *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, Atlanta, 2005
The Lyric Opera of Chicago, *The Ring Cycle*, 1995-2005
Asheville Community Theatre, *Fiddler on the Roof*, 2003
North Carolina Stage Company, *A Wrinkle in Time*, 2001
Spoleto Festival, *Lulu Noire*, a jazz opera by Lee Breuer & Jon Faddis, 1997
The Actor's Alley, *The Puppetmaster of Lodz*, 1995
Los Angeles Women's Shakespeare Company, *Romeo and Juliet*, 1993
Mark Taper Forum, *Terra Firma*, 1992
La MaMa E.T.C., *The Book and the Stranger*, 1989
Mark Taper Forum, *PH*reaks*, 1987
La Mirada Civic Light Opera, *Little Shop of Horrors*, 1987
Jordanian National Puppet Theater, *Uncle Zarur*, 1981

Film & Television

My Grandfather's Prayers, JLTV, Los Angeles, co-producer, writer, director, performer, 2018-20
Flush GerryMander, North Carolina Common Cause, Puppet builder, principal puppeteer, 2017
Internet Scam, Health Security Solutions, principal puppeteer, 2016
Scooter Learns to Cook, BrokenHeart Pets, Puppet builder, principal puppeteer, 2013
If Dragons Could Fly, Bubbleland LLC, Line producer, principal puppeteer, 2013
BeeSting, Red Herring Puppets & BlueString Productions, producer, creator, puppeteer, 2012
Let's Go Shopping READ-A-ROO, UNC-TV, lead puppeteer, puppet builder, 2007
Muppets from Space, Jim Henson Productions & Sony Pictures, puppeteer, 1999
Elmo in Grouchland, Jim Henson Productions & Sony Pictures, Oscar's left hand, 1998
Shrek, DreamWorks Studios, puppeteer for motion capture film tests, 1996
U to U: On The Road, Nickelodeon, shoe puppets, 1995

The Flintstones, Amblin Productions & Jim Henson Productions, dict-a-bird, brontosaurus, 1994
Puzzle Place, Lancet Media & KCET (Los Angeles Public Television), puppeteer, 1994
Geo Kids, National Geographics & Lost Kitty Productions, principal puppeteer, 1994
Pigasso's Place, Kuschner-Locke, Lead Puppeteer, Snail, Gabby, Tommy, 1994
Murphy Brown: It's Not Easy Being Brown, Warner Brothers & CBS, Murphy Brown Bear, 1993
Fire in the Sky, Paramount Pictures & Industrial Light and Magic, puppeteer, 1992
Ninja Turtles III, Golden Harvest Productions, All Effects, Splinter's hands, 1990
The Land of I, TLC & Images in Motion, Gabriel, 1992
Batman Returns, Warner Brothers, Stan Winston Effects, penguin puppeteer, 1991
Puppetmaster III, Full Moon Features, David Allen Effects, stop motion puppeteer, 1991
Animal Crack-Ups, ABC & Di Bono Productions, Reggie the Heggie, 1987 to 1990
*Muppet*Vision 3D*, Walt Disney Pictures & Henson Associates, puppeteer, 1990
Robocop II, Orion Pictures, Phil Tippit Effects, robot, 1989
Gremlins 2: The New Batch, Warner Brothers, Rick Baker Effects, puppeteer, 1989
Who Framed Roger Rabbit, Touchstone Pictures & Amblin Entertainment, puppeteer, 1988
Short Circuit, Showcase Film Company, Special appearance of Johnny 5, telemetry suit, 1988
59th Annual Academy Awards, ABC, Audrey II puppeteer, 1987
Hollywood Squares, Sid & Marty Krofft, principal puppeteer, 1988
The Absent-Minded Professor, Walt Disney Pictures, puppeteer, 1988
D.C. Follies, Sid & Marty Krofft, principal puppeteer, 1987
Howard the Duck, Universal Pictures & Industrial Light and Magic, Howard's hands, 1986
Captain EO and the Space Knights, Walt Disney Pictures & Lucasfilm, Hooter, Geek, 1985
Muppets Take Manhattan, Tri-Star Pictures & Henson Associates, extra puppeteer, 1984

Commercials

Aaron's Rent-To-Own, clothing puppets, principal puppeteer, 2013
 Fox Rent-A-Car, hand & mouth puppet designer, builder, and lead puppeteer, 2010
 Snapple, *The Ultimate Frontier*, sock puppet designer, builder, and puppeteer, 1996
 Folgers Coffee, hand puppet designer, builder, puppeteer, 1995
 Honda, marionette designer, builder, and lead puppeteer, 1993
 Honey Nut Cheerios, actor inside life size robot costume, 1992
 Energizer, All Effects, costumer and puppeteer for remote control Energizer Bunny, 1990
 McDonalds, Renee and his Artists, cheeseburger & fries puppeteer, 1990
 The Collector, Chevrolet, Boss Films, principal puppeteer, 1987

Fabrication

Children's Museum of Tucson, *Giant scorpion, milk bottle, & snake, outdoor fort, cactus beanbag game* 2020
 Silver Dollar Theme Park, *Xmas show*, 2016
 Parelli Natural Horsemanship, *Mini-Parelli educational videos*, 2014
 Bubbleland LLC., *Tales of Bubbleland*, 2012
 Blue Ridge Motion Pictures, *Uncle Rhubarb*, 2008
 City of Asheville, giant parade figures - snowmen, nutcracker, reindeer, 2008
 UNC-TV, *Let's Go Shopping READ-A-ROO*, featured special, 2007
 Fort Fisher Aquarium, exhibition figures - lionfish, oyster reef, 2005-2006

The Field Museum, giant exhibition figures - Tyrannosaurus Rex, Triceratops, 2005
Harrah's Cherokee Casino, giant parade figures - Uk'tena, water beetle, buzzard, 2005
Shedd Aquarium, giant exhibition figures - crab, shark, octopus, stingray, starfish, 1999 to 2005
Flat Rock Playhouse, *Beauty and the Beast*, enchanted costumes, 2004
Tennessee Aquarium, jellyfish Installation, 2002
UNCA Theatre Department, *Velveteen Rabbit*, fabricated costumes, 2001
MCA/Universal, *Wee Sing: Wee Singdom*, video feature, 1996
The Biltmore Estate, *St. George & the Dragon*, theatrical spectacle, 1996
M3D Entertainment, *Pigasso's Place*, puppets and costume characters for TV show, 1994

Related Experience

Asheville Puppetry Alliance, Executive Director, 1998 to 2019
The Ice Capades, Character Costume Department Head, Lead patternmaker, 1994-1996
NBC Costume Shop, Character Costume Division, Department Head, 1993-1994
Industrial Light and Magic Creature Shop, puppet fabrication, 1993
Larry Reed's ShadowLight Productions, *In Xanadu*, puppeteer, 1993
All Effects, Puppet construction and performance, 1990 to 1992
Pasadena Puppet Shop, *Honey I Blew Up the Kid*, puppet fabrication, 1992
The Jim Henson Company's Creature Shop, *Dinosaurs*, creature costume fabrication, dresser, 1991
Dorothy B. Chandler Performing Arts Center, *Julie Taymor's Award Presentation*, principal puppeteer, 1989
The Character Shop, puppet fabrication, 1988
Walt Disney Imagineering, Puppetry Consultant, 1987 to 1988
Sid & Marty Krofft, lead puppet builder & performer, 1987
Walt Disney Imagineering, properties construction, character fabrication, 1986 to 1987
The Hand Prop Room, moldmaker, 1985
Bruce D. Schwartz, assistant puppet builder & performer, 1983 to 1985
St. Paul Opera, prop & puppet fabrication, 1981 to 1983
Chanhassan Dinner Theatre, properties & puppet fabrication, 1980 to 1982
The Children's Theatre, properties fabrication, scenic artist, 1980 to 1982
Haya Arts Center, Director of Puppetry, Jordan, 1980 to 1981
Pickwick Puppets, principal puppeteer, 1979

Red Herring Puppet Productions

Soft Rains, shadow puppets, with Noa Moquin and Luis Castillo Silva, original music by Noa Moquin, 2024
The Friendly Chupacabra, hand and rod puppets, scrolling backdrop, original music by Salma Diaz from Las Azaleas, 2023
The Barking Mouse and the Blue Frog, hand and rod puppets, bilingual, original music by Diana Olivares and Salma Diaz from Las Azaleas, 2022
La Calavera Katrina, giant Day of the Dead puppet, used in numerous Tucson, AZ performances, 2021-2023
Three Sisters, large rod puppets, sound recording and instrumentation by Kevin Larkin, 2021
The Ugly Duckling, hand and rod puppets, original score by Brandon Leatherland, 2021
The Chicken and the Egg, shadow and rod puppets, live music, 2019
My Grandfather's Prayers, shadow puppets, tabletop marionettes, digital compositing, 2017
Little One Inch tabletop marionettes, 2015

ELECTRICITY! tabletop rod puppets, 2D paper puppet animations, 2014
GREED! hand puppets, shadow puppets, marionette, costume characters, giant masks, oversized props,
2D cutouts, 2012 to present
BeeSting, Red Herring Puppets & BlueString Studios, producer, creator, puppeteer, 2012
Beware of Delaware, cranky, toy theatre, marionette, animated props, 2012 to present
Hansel & Gretel, marionettes, shadow puppets, 2011 to present
The Big Dipper: Calendar, Compass & Clock, marionettes, overhead projected shadows, 2007 to present
Aesop's Fables, tabletop rod puppets, marionette, hand and mouth puppet, 2003 to present
The Mystery of the Salt Crystal, rod puppets, character costumes, 2002 to 2005
Guignol, hand puppets, 1999-2009
The Legend of La Befana, rod puppets, marionette, hand puppets, black light puppets, 1997 to present
Still Life, hand puppets, black light puppets, 1996
Facing Both Ways, Bunraku style rod puppets, hand puppets, overhead projected shadows, 1994
Adventures in Folklore, hand puppets, hand & mouth puppets, 1992 to present
Eros and Psyche, Bunraku style rod puppets, giant puppets, black theatre sequence, 1986
Life of the Buddha, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, overhead projected shadows, 1984
The Hungry Child, tabletop marionettes, 1979 to present
Life After Death, shadow puppets on overhead, 1978 to 1984
Adult Puppet Slam Network, various puppet styles, short vignettes, ongoing since the 1980s in Minneapolis,
Los Angeles, Asheville, Tucson

Grants & Awards

Telly Award, General Television, Bronze, *My Grandfather's Prayers*, 2021
Religion Communication Council, De-Rose -Hinkhouse Awards, Category winner: *Feature Video*, 2021
AZ Arts Commission, *Research & Development*, 2019
Amy Mandel & Katina Rodis Foundation, *My Grandfather's Prayers*, 2016
Regional Artist Project Grant, *Little One Inch*, 2014
The Puppeteers of America Endowment Fund, *Little One Inch*, 2013
Capelli d'Angeli Foundation Artist Grant, *BeeSting*, 2013
Breaking Boundaries Between Art & Everyday Life, Asheville Fringe Festival, *Greed!*, 2012
The Kramer Foundation, *BeeSting*, 2011
Breaking Boundaries Between Art & Everyday Life, Asheville Fringe Festival, *BeeSting*, 2011
Regional Artist Project Grant, *BeeSting*, 2011
UNIMA-USA Citation of Excellence, *Aesop's Fables*, 2009
The Puppeteers of America Endowment Fund, *The Big Dipper: Calendar, Compass & Clock*, 2007
Jim Henson Foundation, Southeast Regional Puppetry Festival, (Festival Director), 2004
NC Arts Council: New Works, *The Mystery of Salt Crystal*, 2002
Crystal Award of Excellence, *Air Adventures Puppet Show*, 2002
North Carolina Arts Council: Theatre Fellowship, *Still Life*, 2001
Regional Artist Project Grant, to attend The O'Neill National Puppetry Conference, 2001
Jim Henson Foundation, *Still Life*, 2000
The Puppeteers of America Endowment Fund, *Still Life*, 2000
North Carolina Arts Council: Theatre Fellowship, *The Legend of La Befana*, 1999
Jim Henson Foundation, *Icons Revisited*, 1994
Emmy Award, Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, California, *The Land of I*, 1993
The Puppeteers of America Endowment Fund, *Facing Both Ways*, 1993
Emmy Award: Outstanding Comedy Series, *Murphy Brown It's Not Easy Being Brown*, 1993
The National Endowment for the Arts Individual Artist Grant, *Life After Death*, 1992
Jim Henson Foundation, *Facing Both Ways*, 1991
The Puppeteers of America Endowment Fund, *Eros & Psyche*, 1984
The Disney Award, for academic studies in puppetry, UCLA, 1984

Teaching Experience

Warren-Wilson College, Adjunct Professor: Puppetry, 2015
Indiana University, Guest Artist: Puppet Manipulation & Construction, 2009
Numerous Classroom Residencies for grades K-12, 1997 to present
Asheville-Buncombe Community Technical College, Special Topic: short form puppetry (6 weeks), 2007
University of North Carolina/Asheville, Special Academic Services, Super Saturday Instructor, 1999 to 2006
Topics include: hand puppet performance, toy theatre, creating music videos with overhead projectors, calligraphy
UNCA Education Department & Asheville Area Arts Council, Teacher Training Institute for Arts Integration, Teaching Artist, 2002-2004
Grinnell College, Sesquicentennial Interim Session, Guest Lecturer: Puppetry, 1996
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Assistant Professor in Theatre, Guest Designer, 1989
UCLA, Teaching Assistant, 1984
Jordanian National Puppet Theater, Puppet Trainer, 1980 to 1981

Conferences & Presentations

Puppeteers of America National Puppetry Festival, *Workshop Director*, 2019
First Annual International Puppet Fringe Festival, *My Grandfather's Prayers*, NYC, 2018
Midwest Regional Puppet Festival, *My Grandfather's Prayers*, Iowa 2018
National Puppetry Festival, *Directing for Puppet Theatre, Shadow Puppets in the Classroom*, Minnesota 2017
East Tennessee State University, *Presenter for Arts in Education Conference*, Johnson City, Tn. 2015
Southeast Regional Puppetry Festival, *Performer and workshop leader for ON-Camera Puppetry*, Georgia 2014
Pizza Brain 1st year Anniversary, *Keynote Speaker: Puppeteering Splinter*, Philadelphia 2013
National Puppetry Festival, *Critical Response*, Pennsylvania, 2013
Puppet Power - The Fearless Face of Puppetry, *Featured Presenter*, Calgary, 2013
Experimental Puppet Theatre (XPT), *BeeSting*, The Center for Puppetry Arts, Atlanta, 2012
National Puppetry Festival, *Critical Response, BeeSting*, Atlanta, 2011
Puppetry & Education Symposium, *Integrating Curriculum*, Atlanta, 2009
National Puppetry Festival, *Critical Response, Puppets on Camera*, 2009
Arts Connection: Forsythe County Teacher Enrichment, *History of Puppetry, Hand & Shadow Puppet Construction*, Winston-Salem, 2007 & 2008
Warren Wilson College Social Justice Day, *Puppets and Political Protest*, 2007
Puppet Gumbo, *Co-Artistic Director*, Savannah, 2008
Expanding Literacy Through the Arts, *Shadow Puppets on Overheads*, Broward County, Florida, 2007
NC Theatre Arts Educators: Winter Focus: *Non-Western Theatre*, Artist in Residence 2007
National Puppetry Festival, *Puppets on Camera, Critical Response*, St. Paul, 2007
Tri-Regional Puppeteers of America Festival, *Technical Director*, 2006
Tri-Regional Puppeteers of America Festival, *Aesop's Fables*, 2006
Puppet Fest 2005, *Constructive Feedback: Critical Response Process*, St. Paul, 2005
Puppets on the Ridge: Southeast Regional Festival, *Festival Director*, Asheville, 2004
Mid-Atlantic Regional Festival, *The Mystery of the Salt Crystal*, 2002
Southeast Regional Puppetry Festival, *Workshop Co-Director, & performer*, Ft. Lauderdale, 2000
Late Night Henson International Puppet Festival, *The Hungry Child*, New York City, 1992
National Puppetry Festival, *Eros & Psyche*, Claremont, California 1984

Publications

Malls in Tucson Turning to Arts Entertainment, Arizona Star, 11/5/20
Local Artist Brings 19th century Cantor to Life in My Grandfather's Prayers, Arizona Jewish Post, 1/24/20
Connecting to Our Ancestors, The Puppetry Journal, Winter 2018
Salt, Puppetry International, Spring/Summer 2016
Full Steam Ahead, The Puppetry Journal, Winter 2015
Puppet Evolution: Film & Technology, The Puppetry Journal, Winter 2013
BeeSting, The Puppetry Journal, Fall 2011
Back to School: Curriculum-Based Performance, The Puppetry Journal, Spring 2009
Kinetic Steel: The Marionettes of John Payne, (with Hobe Ford), The Puppetry Journal, Fall 2008.
The Big Dipper: Calendar, Compass, and Clock, The Laurel of Asheville, April 2008
Lisa Sturz Thinks Big, Puppetry International, Volume 22 Fall / Winter 2006
Think BIG, The Puppetry Journal, Winter 2005

Puppets on the Ridge, The Puppetry Journal, Fall 2004
Constructive Criticism: Tell Me What You Think, The Puppetry Journal, Summer 2003
Creating New Works for Adult Audiences, (with Michael Davis) The Puppetry Journal, Spring 1995
On Camera: SAG Puppeteers: The Modern Practice of an Ancient Art (with Mark Bryan Wilson), Screen Actor Magazine, Summer 1991
On Camera, SAG Puppeteers (with Mark Bryan Wilson), The Puppetry Journal, Fall 1990
Puppetry at UCLA: East-West Fusion, (with Carol Sorgenfrei), The Puppetry Journal, December 1983

In The Press

Matt Peiken, *Puppet Theater for Adults: Lisa Sturz Brings Dimension to Her Grandfather's Story*, Blue Ridge Public Radio, August 27, 2018
Manon Manavit, *Generations: A Puppeteer's Daughter*, The Puppetry Journal, Summer 2012
Jean Cassidy, *BeeSting*, Asheville Online Magazine, October 2012
Alabama Symphony to Join Birmingham Children's Theatre Production of Peter and the Wolf, Birmingham Mom, February 28, 2012
Alli Marshall, *An Edge Piece for Everyone*, The Mountain Express, January 18-24, 2012.
Casey Blake, *Stung by Cancer*, Asheville Citizen Times, October 25, 2011
Jennifer McNally, *Stravinsky's Petrushka: Feature Artist Lisa Sturz / Red Herring Puppets*, The Laurel of Asheville, May 2008
Allie Goorick, *The World On A String*, Rapid River Magazine, May 2008
Paul Clark, *Symphony Ends Concert Series with a Puppet Play*, Asheville Citizen Times, May 4, 2008
Steve Hageman, *Interview with Puppeteer Lisa Sturz*, Asheville Symphony Magazine, 2007/2008 Season
Jonna Rae Bartges, *World Class Puppeteers Make the Mountains Their Stage*, WNC Woman, April 2008
Steve Hageman, *Lisa Sturz /Petrushka with the Asheville Symphony*, The Puppetry Journal, Summer 2008
Paul Clark, *Imagine a World of Puppets*, Asheville Citizen Times, September 3, 2007
Kerry Lee Daniel, *Pulling Her Own Strings: The Magical World of Lisa Sturz*, WNC Woman, July 2004
Amy McGraw, *Beauty and the Beast*, Asheville Citizen Times, June 20, 2004
Bob Hall, *Archy! The Video*, The Puppetry Journal, Spring 2001
Fred Putz, *Chicago Lyric Opera's Ring*, The Puppetry Journal, Summer 1996
Ray Loynd, *Icons: A Challenging Adult Puppet World*, Los Angeles Times, November 27,1992

Reviews

Pierre Ruhe, *The Magic Flute—Charming and Whimsical*, Atlanta Journal Constitution, April 25, 2010
George Walker, *Mozart's The Magic Flute*, Indiana Public Media, November 16, 2009
Peter Jacobi, *Set, Costumes are Stars of the Magic Flute*, Indianapolis Herald Times, November 16, 2009
Natalie Mornu, *Beauty and the Beast*, Hendersonville Times, 2004
Ann C. Anderson, *Outstanding Display of Creative Genius*, Asheville Citizen Times, December 19, 2002
Wynne Delacoma, *RING: A Winner*, Chicago Tribune, March 1996
John von Rhein, *Golden RING*, Chicago Tribune, March 1996
Wynne Delacoma, *Opera Gems*, Chicago Tribune, March 18, 1996
Wynne Delacoma, *Siegfried Rings True*, Chicago Tribune, January 1996
Wynne Delacoma, *Siegfried Scorecard*, Chicago Tribune, January 1996
James Oestreich, *Going Up Against the Dragon*, The New York Times, February 1995
William Shackelford, *Opera Around the World: The Dragon Business*, Opera, May 1995
John von Rhein, *Siegfried Simply Soars*, Chicago Tribune, January 26, 1995
M.L. Cappelli, *Icons Revisited*, Los Angeles Reader, October 28, 1994
Richard Scaffidi, *Icons Revisited*, Drama-Logue, October 20-26, 1994
Lynne Heffley, *Red Herring Puppets Full of Charm*, Los Angeles Times, October 20, 1994
Thomas O'Connor, *Little Shop of Horrors*, Los Angeles Times, April 1987
Suzanne M. Sturn, *An Evening of Adult Puppet Theatre in Minneapolis*, The Puppetry Journal, Spring, 1981

Additional Training

Golden Seed Productions, Frame Drum, Layne Redmond, 2007 to 2010
The NC Blumenthal Performance Arts Center Education Institute & The J. F. Kennedy Center,
Artists as Educators: Presenting Effective Workshops for Teacher, 2008
The NC Blumenthal Performance Arts Center Education Institute & The J. F. Kennedy Center,
Artists as Educators: Planning Effective Workshops for Teacher, 2007
O'Neill National Puppetry Conference, 2000
Puppet Improv Players, Los Angeles, 1989 to 1991
Sue Blue Studio, Character Voices, 1989
The Iowa Theatre Lab, Physical Theatre, 1976
The Guthrie Theatre, internship in scenery and properties construction, 1975
Eugene O'Neill Theatre Institute, Acting, Directing & Puppetry, 1975

Professional Affiliations

UNIMA-USA
Puppeteers of America, Past Trustee
SAG-AFTRA
American Guild of Musical Artists
Actors Equity Association
Asheville Puppetry Alliance (Co-Founder, Executive Director)
Asheville Female Filmmakers