

Our main programs (we serve the Twin Cities and surrounding area):

Monkeybear Workshops

One to two day workshops on making a specific type of puppet and our *Puppet Performance Intensive* (prerequisite for *New Puppetworks*): 7-day long (4 hours each evening) workshop teaching the fundamentals of puppet performance. Participants learn how to give an object breath, focus and weight and learn to perform rod puppets, table-top, shadow, marionettes, hand puppets, objects, masks and how different styles of puppetry enable different kinds of storytelling.

Participants improvise and devise scenes each day, alone and in small groups, and receive feedback from teacher and peers after each piece is shared. At the culmination of the week, participants create and share a narrative that incorporates all the styles with a sound designer providing improvised music for the showing. Artists automatically get to be in *New Puppetworks* if they complete the Intensive. A very transparent path forward to access our opportunities. Meals provided at each session.

New Puppetworks

Eight month mentorship program for Intensive alumni to create 5-8 minute puppet theater pieces. Participants receive a stipend, over 40 hours of mentorship, group feedback sessions, access to Monkeybear studio, workshops to build skills in puppetmaking, culminating show at a theater, and photo/video documentation of their work. A sound artist is hired to create sound design and perform live to each artist's piece. After finishing this program, participants have the experience and work samples needed to access other puppetry opportunities in Minnesota. Alumni get lifetime free access to our studio!

Participants fill out written surveys and we do evaluation interviews, which helps us improve the program for future years.

Monkeybear Puppet Cinema

Eight month mentorship program for New Puppetworks alumni to create 5-7 minute long puppet films. The goal is for puppet artists to gain a basic knowledge of filmmaking principles for puppetry so when they create more puppet films after this one, they know how to converse with cinematographers, sound designers, and editors to successfully realize their vision, and/or feel confident in doing one or more of these roles themselves. Puppet Cinema was piloted last fiscal year, we are currently on our second cohort.

Participants receive a stipend, sound designer, filmmaking workshops geared towards puppetry, group feedback sessions, access to Monkeybear studio and our filmmaking equipment, mentorship as they write script and develop their piece and a culminating online film screening, so all Minnesotans can enjoy the work our participants have created.

The first few months are full of filmmaking workshops as it pertains to puppetry and one on one sessions to develop script, as artists figure out their narratives. Artists then build mock ups and do test shots, then start building the actual puppets and sets. Group work sessions, feedback sessions continues. Professional editors are hired to mentor the artists in editing their films.

Participants fill out written surveys and we do evaluation interviews, which helps us improve the program for future years.

Open Studio Work Sessions

Held twice a week, a time for alumni and current cohorts to work in community with each other, a time to make, get feedback on projects and get help from others on devising scenes, etc. Because alumni and current cohorts are sometimes in the space at the same time, there's knowledge passed down to new folks and connections made, which have led to collaborations amongst artists from different cohort years, which is really exciting! We provide use of our materials, tools, supplies and equipment.