



W.P. PUPPET THEATRE SOCIETY
Box 61116 Kensington PO, Calgary AB T2N 4S6
e: wppuppet@telus.net p: 403 228 3373

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES Artists in Residence – FAQ

What is an “Artist in Residence”?

An Artist in Residence is a wonderful opportunity to have an in depth artistic experience in all aspects of puppet theatre production and performance. Schools or communities typically book 1 – 3 weeks of time with Wendy, Artistic Director and principle performer and designer for WP Puppet Theatre.

Past participants have said: *“The creative skills and activities were absolutely age appropriate and engaging, I think the students were challenged to think outside the box which was great to see!”*

TWO RESIDENCES TO CHOOSE FROM:

- 1) The Tailored Residency is planned with the teachers, is specific to your schools chosen themes and curricula being taught at the time of the residence. The extra planning time is reflected in a higher cost. See specifics below.
- 2) The Keylock Residency is comprised of our most popular and successful lesson plans for each grade level. It includes a variety of puppet genres and curriculum subject links. The fee for this residency is less. See specifics below.

How to book an Artist in Residence?

Contact W.P. Puppet Theatre to discuss your residency plans and proposed dates!
Also check out The Alberta Foundation for the Arts grant called Artists and Education– due April 1st. Information and application forms are at www.affta.ab.ca/artists-and-education.aspx

TAILORED RESIDENCY:

1. *Is your Artists in Residence program a Kindergarten to Grade 8 program?*

My programs can be designed for all grades. Together we plan a range of activities from puppet making, script writing, character development and performance that meet your goals and logistical needs. As you saw there are a few workshop ideas on our web site — and I have a great deal more to draw from. Most recently I have worked on overall school inquiry questions such as "Where do ideas come from?" and "How can objects inspire creativity?" I can also design workshops that link to what the teachers are teaching at the time of the residency (e.g. in science or social studies) or if they have a particular type of puppet they like or a class inquiry question.

2. *Is there an “End Production”?*

We can have one — I like to call it a 'sharing', it's not polished but it's lots of fun and everyone is involved. It can be evening or afternoon or both.

3. *What is the cost of your program?*

As far as fees — *I am open to discussion –*

Base Fee includes workshop development and research, materials preparation, trips to purchase, workshop delivery, preparation and attendance at final daytime sharing.	3600.00
GST (R128 831 476)	180.00
Sub-total	3780.00
Travel to and from school (if outside Calgary)	
Accommodations and per-diems (if outside Calgary and region)	
Attendance at evening sharing	
Special Materials and supplies	200- 400

4. *Are there other resources needed? E.g. Costumes, Paper, Tape, Instruments, etc?*

There will probably be an extra cost for some supplies. It's dependent on the workshops we choose to do and I supply a list. The supplies break down into 3 categories.

- 1) Things that we ask the students to bring in (e.g. cereal boxes, found objects, haberdashery) which are free.
- 2) Things the school already has (e.g. masking tape or construction paper) which may be free or the school may want to have them come from this budget.
- 3) Special items that I need to buy, but that the school would pay for. Dependent on what we've planned to do.

KEYLOCK RESIDENCY

1. *Is there a final presentation?*

Yes. Seven classes, doing the seven different workshops can present at any one assembly. The assembly is MC'ed by Wendy and is about one hour. Parents are welcome. In larger schools we can discuss alternatives.

2. *What is the cost of the program?*

Base Fee includes workshop delivery and supplies and attendance at final daytime and/or evening sharing.	2860
GST (R128 831 476)	143
Sub-total	3003
Travel to and from school (if outside Calgary)	
Accommodations and per-diems (if outside Calgary and region)	

3. *What about Supplies and Equipment?*

I would bring all the supplies required for the residency and they are included in the fee. Students would need scissors, glue sticks, pencils and note paper. I would need a digital projector for the classroom.

4. *What are the workshops we would do?*

Here is a brief outline the workshops. In all the workshops we prepare a simple presentation for the end of week sharing and if time allows, students improvise play-lets and learn more about characterization and puppet manipulation.

Kindergarten	Students have fun when they help tell a folk story with the simple paper sculpture puppet they have learned to make.	Language Arts, Drama, Art
Grade One	Students review their knowledge of insects as they make shadow puppet bugs and manipulate them to music.	Science, Language Arts, Art, Drama, Music
Grade Two	Students review their knowledge of 2 and 3D geometric shapes as they create animal puppets for a charming tale, for which they all have a part.	Math, Language Arts, Art, Drama
Grade Three	Students learn about the culture and traditions of the Indian Rajastani puppet. They make a puppet and learn to dance it.	Social Studies, Music, Art, Drama,
Grade Four	Students make a basic rod puppet, develop characters and create play-lets based on Virtues.	Language Arts, Math, Health, Art, Drama
Grade Five	Students delve into characterization and stretch their imagination as they explore the genre of Object Puppetry.	Language Arts, Art, Drama
Grade Six	Students explore Black light, neon and paper sculpture as they design an authentic alien puppet from another planet.	Language Arts, Math, Science, Art, Drama

INFORMATION PERTINENT TO BOTH RESIDENCIES

1. *With the Artists in Residency Program, what assistance do you provide in completing the applications?*

I'll read over your application and provide suggestions; I can provide a sample schedule and the contract, I'll certainly be happy to discuss ideas too.

2. *What is the volunteer base that you require to begin & complete your program?*

I would suggest we'd like volunteers to sort the found materials that children bring in and sort the school-supplied materials to the residency room. (For the Tailored Residency)
During the residency it's nice to have 1-2 volunteers in the classrooms to help with hot glue guns or small groups planning their shows, etc. Volunteers might also be used if young students are writing plays to help type them into the computer.

3. *What kind of Schedule would we have?*

There is only one artist doing the residency — namely me. We would design the projects to fit the time

available - but it's nice to have at least 3 sessions of 1 - 1.5 hours with each class. And I like to just work with one class at a time. I usually follow this process:

1st session: intro theme, project and start puppet building.

2nd session: characterization, manipulation and finish puppet building.

3rd session: drama games and work on final presentation.

Puppets are both a visual and a performing art form and I try to do both in a workshop — so they need time. If we need a second week to accomplish this I can give a discount. If not then we'll go with a 'taste' of puppets. Teachers need to be comfortable and committed to doing finishing work in their classroom.

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4. *Do you offer adult professional development?*

A nice way to begin planning the Tailored Residency is to present an 'Overview of Puppets'. This is more feasible if the school is local but might be possible within Wendy's touring schedule. Otherwise an evening during the residency can be planned for teachers and other leaders i.e: Parent Link, Boys and Girls Club, Brownies, Daycare workers to attend a PD session on puppetry.