

Seeking puppeteers to participate in development of new outdoor works in east Somerville.

The Somerville Arts Council (SAC) continues to support and present local puppet companies in the area. Since 2013, Puppet Palooza has been a collaborative event series designed to bring the art of puppetry to east Somerville in unexpected places. This year, we are pleased to expand our vision of this series by adding a professional development component in addition to a performance. We are seeking companies to create original new works designed for outdoor settings. Accepted companies will have the opportunity to work with Jana Zeller, a highly accomplished puppeteer from Sandglass Theater in Vermont. As a performer and educator, Ms. Zeller has showcased her lively theatrical style throughout the United States and abroad. This series focuses primarily on the development of new works. Each company will have the opportunity to workshop a new piece with Ms. Zeller for (3) three hour workshops over the course of the Spring and Summer.

In September 2018, the four chosen performers (or companies) will work with the Somerville Arts Council to produce their final works derived from the workshops for an outdoor production, which will be free to the public. Each performer must have at least 15 minutes of work for the performance. We anticipate supporting four performers (or companies) for workshops and productions. As in previous years, puppet performances have been presented in various outdoors locations in east Somerville.

The SAC will provide:

- (3) three hour workshops with Jana Zeller and rehearsal space for this work at the Puppet Showplace Theater; development support
- Permitting
- Sound support, pa/mixer, and speakers
- Joint marketing
- \$3,000 stipend for company and artists

Performers will provide:

- Commitment of all performers to attend and prepare for each of the workshops
- A proposed public production that is a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 25 minutes in length
- Joint marketing
- An appreciation for the complexity of outdoor productions and the ability to self-direct

Deadline: March 5

How to Apply:

Send an email to hbalchunas@somervillema.gov with "Puppet Palooza-New Works" as the header, and provide the following info:

1. Name of performer or puppet company (if applicable)
2. Contact person, e-mail, and phone
3. Description of new work you wish to workshop with Ms. Zeller. Do make comparisons to older work and link back to video samples below.
4. If you are applying as a group, please indicate the number of performers.
5. Web site url with 3 video samples. These samples should either be an entire work or a single section from a longer piece. Do not send link to edited samples from a number of performances.
6. Provide a narrative addressing these questions (2,000 word max):
 - 1. Briefly describe your puppetry/theater background and artistic accomplishments. What are the most important influences on your approach to puppetry? What is your piece about and who are you creating it for ?
 - 2. Describe your interest in with professional development.
 - 3. Why do you want to make an outdoor piece?
 - 4. What are you looking for in getting coached by the workshop leader?

Accepted applicants must be available for the first workshop on April 9

Funding provided by the Somerville Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, with support from the Puppet Showplace Theater

