

PUPPETRY in PRACTICE



Fall 2016



PiP Center at Brooklyn College / 2900 Bedford Ave. / James Hall, Rm 0712 / Brooklyn, NY 11210

For more information about PiP, our programs or to book a residency, contact:

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**Council on
the Arts**



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Cover: Puppet filmmaking at PS 224 in Brooklyn, NY. Magazine design by Jason Leinwand 2016

WHAT'S NEW AT PIP?



BUILDING NEW RELATIONSHIPS, EXTENDING OUR REACH AND EXPANDING OUR PROGRAMMING THROUGHOUT NYC

It is an exciting time at Puppetry in Practice! As we continue to grow, we remain proud providing hundreds of students with the opportunity to explore their surroundings, discover new cultures and increase English language-learning through our literacy-based, arts programming. We are strengthening our connection to The School of Education at Brooklyn College and integrating our work into teacher training for pre-service teachers. PiP's Jason Leinwand has begun adjunct work in the Early Childhood Arts Department while Michael Perreca teaches Performing Arts Techniques for the Classroom Teacher in the Childhood Bilingual and Special Education Department. Through this work, we will provide teachers with new skills and the confidence to effectively use the arts in their teaching.

We are also forming new relationships with Early Childhood Centers throughout the CUNY school network through the work of PiP's Early Childhood Specialist and resident puppeteer Luciano Cohen. After nearly a decade of partnering with the ECC at Brooklyn College PiP is thrilled to be expanding into additional CUNY ECC's.

Our new school partners include all three Joan Snow Pre-K Centers in Brooklyn, where students and teachers explored storytelling and puppet play. Additionally, elementary and middle-school students transformed and re-imagined established literature into visually stunning stop-motion animations at IS 240 Andres Hudde Middle School and PS 193 in Brooklyn.

Furthermore, PiP is launching outreach programs with other community based organizations. Through a partnership with NIA, PiP's Xun Ye led a series of workshops in Chinese Folk Arts in a Brooklyn Senior Center.

PiP extends a huge THANK YOU! to all the schools, organizations and people who we consider partners and collaborators. We look forward to the coming year with more community and creativity!





EARTH DAY

CELEBRATION at PS 57





PAPER MACHE and PUPPET MAKING for an EARTH DAY PARADE

Students from PS 57 in Staten Island collaborated to create larger-than-life puppets for an Earth Day celebration and parade at their school. Students worked with PiP's teaching artists Andrew Murdock and Meredith Holch to design, paper mache, paint and decorate their puppets that focused learning on environmental science and issues. This residency was part of PiP's fast-growing *Care of the Earth* programming, which provides various approaches to developing a sense of environmental responsibility through the arts.





5th Grade: Making Connections Through Visual Arts - Students recognize the societal, cultural, and historical significance of art; connect the visual arts to other disciplines; apply the skills and knowledge learned in visual arts to interpreting the world.



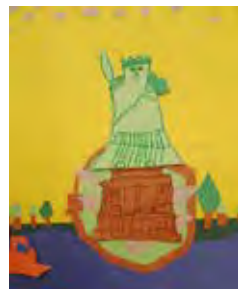
AN EXPLORATION OF WHAT MAKES NEW YORK CITY GREAT!

Responding to New York City social studies curriculum for multiple grades, Puppetry in Practice expanded its popular *Bridging Brooklyn* artist residency into a citywide exploration called **MY NEW YORK**. Technology-driven arts programs are in high demand, combining time-honored traditions such as puppetry with contemporary techniques such as stop-motion animation and filmmaking, the **MY NEW YORK** program uses these art forms, and others, to explore historic figures, neighborhoods, current issues and landmarks of New York City. General population, English Language Learner and Special Education students are engaged on multiple levels as these residencies develop creative problem-solving, critical-thinking, communication and collaboration skills through hands-on learning.

This multi-grade-level residency provides early childhood, childhood and middle school students with a strong foundation in

the arts, puppet play and collaboration, in addition to reinforcing social studies curriculum. **MY NEW YORK** looks to inspire students to appreciate all the amazing things in and around New York City, to respect their neighborhood, and to preserve the rich landscape of peoples, cultures and history.

For younger grades, students learn pop-up mechanisms and practice paper engineering techniques as they create the backdrop for an interactive puppet theater representing their very own neighborhood. With Stop-Motion Animation, the computer and the camera become tools for showcasing and sharing collaborative work. Students use technology and teamwork to gain a deeper understanding of some of the city's most colorful, historic figures and neighborhoods. Students become virtual tour guides of their surrounding boroughs via the computer and animation.



NEIGHBORHOOD TOY THEATERS



The program allows students to be creative to show what they learned. I also had some parents tell me that their child goes home and talks about how much they learned about animation and that they had a lot of fun learning about Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

-2nd Grade Teacher, PS 217



NYC LANDMARK ANIMATIONS





CELEBRATING CHINA

THE YEAR OF THE ROOSTER

PiP has the unique capability of offering a wide variety of high-quality, Chinese-focused arts activities, immersing students in a dynamic and colorful cultural exploration. From traditional folk arts to contemporary stop-motion animation, and from a Chinese dragon walk to flour dough sculpture, PiP presents various ways to celebrate the beauty and wonder of Chinese culture.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Puppet Making and Storytelling for Pre-K/Early Childhood



This residency, for Pre-Kindergarten and Early Childhood learners, is inspired by the book *Apartment for Rent* by Leah Goldberg. Adapted as an interactive puppet presentation, this story focuses on what it means to be a good citizen, living in harmony with different-minded neighbors and adapting to new situations.

This residency uses a variety of puppet, costume and instrument-making techniques with a wide array of materials, textures and processes. Young children from diverse populations and at various language levels gain a deeper insight, appreciation and understanding of the story, its characters, themselves and each other.

In each session, the children explore the animal characters and setting of the story. The children deepen their understanding of these elements physically and vocally, through music, movement and interactive storytelling. They create puppets, costumes and a puppet stage and learn the art of animating their puppets to share their own stories.



I noticed significant growth in my students. Students who never would speak up came alive in performances. When this happened I was eager to catch it on video to show the parents what progress my students had made.

-Pre-Kindergarten Teacher, Joan Snow Pre-K Center



THE ROOTS OF LEARNING

A MURAL GROWS IN BROOKLYN

The Joan Snow Pre-K Center on Coney Island Avenue is the home to a spectacular new mural project from Puppetry in Practice. Designed by PiP's Jason Leinwand, and painted with teachers and parents from the school and PiP's Xun Ye, the mural spans two walls in the entrance hallway to the school.

The Roots of Learning, the concept of the mural, was created by the schools Assistant Principal Margaret Graves and PiP's Tova Ackerman. They envisioned imagery of trees in summer, spring, winter and fall, growing in the hallways of the school. These majestic trees would then have an intricate root system that spelled out words that the school felt were the foundations of fostering learning and growth in Pre-K students.

The roots intertwine to spell words like:

- Creativity
- Friendship
- Community
- Discovery
- Imagination

All the words were then translated into 10 different languages including Urdu, Bengali, Russian, Spanish and more to reflect the many different cultures represented in the school.

This project accompanied a full residency in the school with PiP's Early Childhood Specialist Luciano Cohen and Resident Storyteller Nadine Grisar. The goal was to give the school and the students an immersion into the arts both inside their classrooms and throughout the hallways.

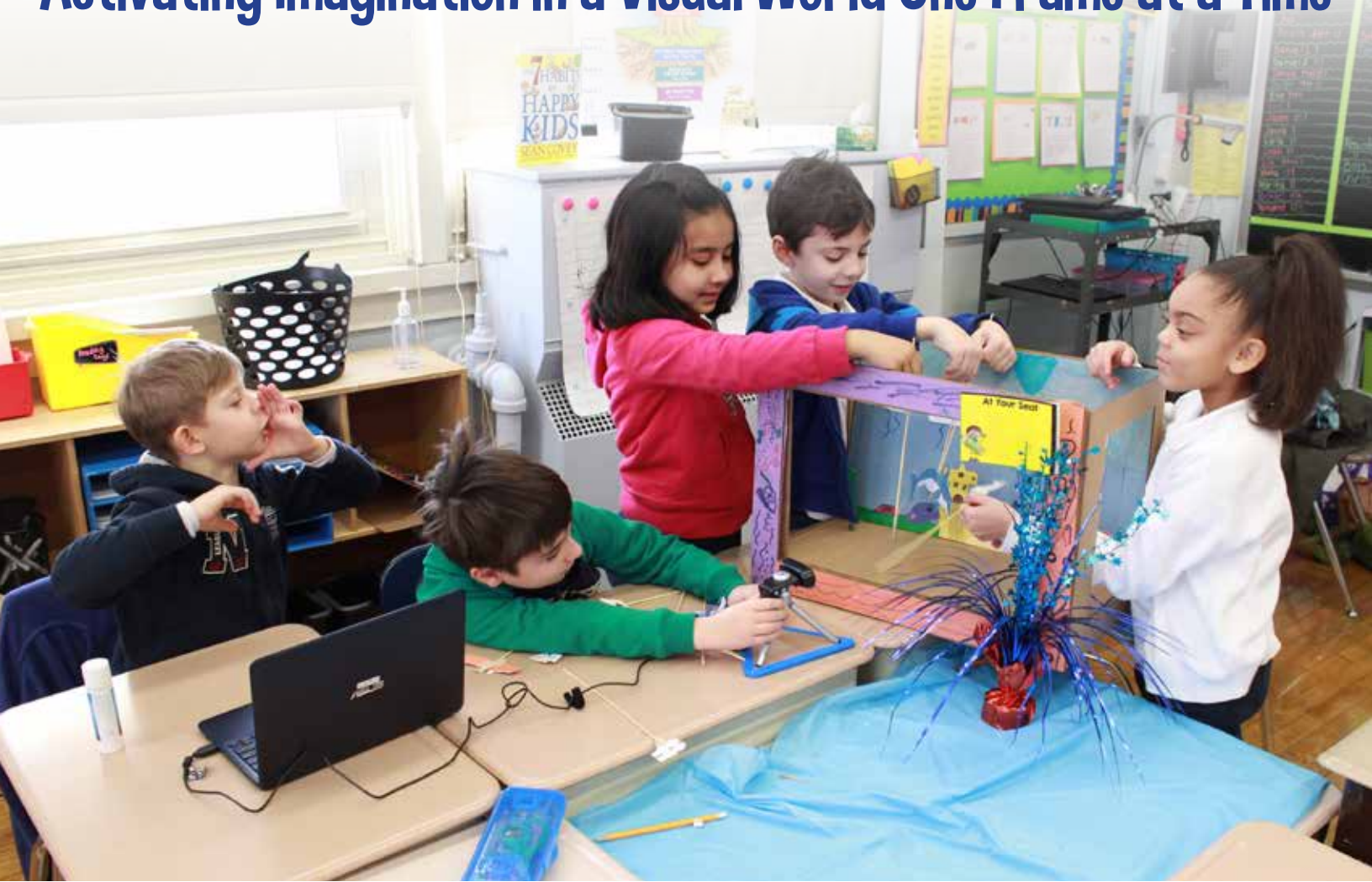
This program was made possible, in part, by the generous support of the NYC Department of Education.





ANIMATION and FILMMAKING

Activating Imagination in a Visual World One Frame at a Time





Collaboration, Communication and Creativity

PiP's Stop-Motion Animation and Filmmaking residencies are among our organization's most-requested programs and address 21st century literacy needs with excitement and imagination. This innovative approach to supplementing classroom learning provides students with the essential tools to bring their learning to life with fun and engaging animation techniques. Students use laptop computers and webcams, animation software and their imaginations to create high-quality animated shorts and features they can share with their peers or broadcast to the world via social media. This residency develops creative problem solving, critical thinking, and communication and collaboration skills through hands-on learning with technology. Students work together in groups and discover it takes teamwork to succeed beyond their expectations.



PLAYWRITING

USING IMMERSIVE THEATER FOR MULTICULTURAL EXPLORATION



Theater encompasses many skills that enhance and speed language and literacy development. It is also an art form that, by its nature, develops public speaking skills and self-confidence. From the writing of plays, to creating character traits, to physicalizing those traits, to the performance of a complete work, theater can impact student learning via multiple approaches. Through PiP's playwriting- and performance-based **Immersive Theater** residencies, students explore folktales of various cultures, countries or regions (based on a school's preference or curriculum) and ultimately adapt and perform their own versions of these folktales.



Recent residencies have focused on the *Tales of the Panchatantra* of Southeast Asia, African folktales, Native American folktales, Egyptian folktales and others. Using a variety of performance techniques, enhanced by incorporating puppetry or visual art extensions, students are involved in a comprehensive immersion in the elements of theater. The process can be tailored to enhance key skills for English Language Learners and Special Education populations.

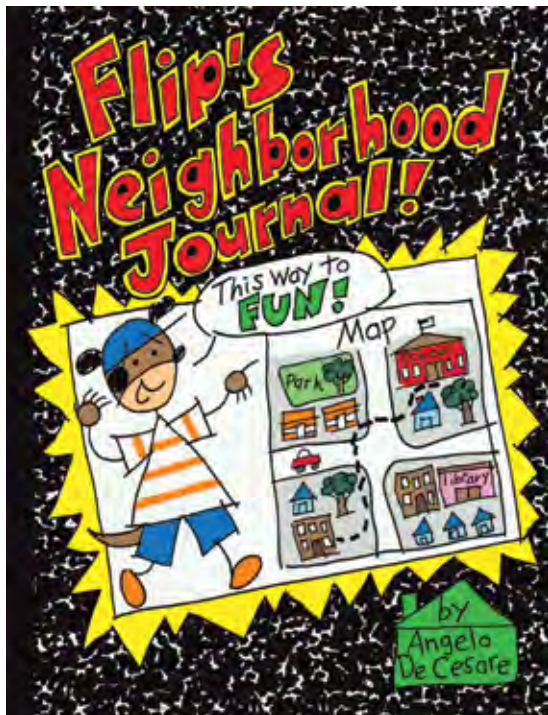
Through vocal warm-ups, tongue-twisters, breathing techniques, improvisation, identifying and physicalizing character traits, honing performance skills, storyboarding and the creation of dialogue, students read, deconstruct, re-imagine and adapt folktales into plays, which they then perform.





Discover what's great about your NEIGHBORHOOD

Toy Theater projects and performances with an Author/Illustrator



An excellent way for young students to become engaged with their community is through a fantastic residency that focuses on neighborhood studies and community helpers with PiP's author/illustrator Angelo DeCesare.

By using his popular book, *Flip's Neighborhood Journal*, he inspires students to think deeply about what is in their neighborhood. The story involves Flip telling the readers about his life in Brooklyn and some of the community helpers in his neighborhood. Before long, Flip and his family have new adventures, new friends and make new connections with their surroundings.

During the residency, the Toy Theater, or miniature puppet stage, is the center of activity. Steadily, throughout the residency, a simple cardboard box is transformed into a specific neighborhood place. Teachers and students select a busy Supermarket or the quiet Library, the exciting Fire Station or a favorite Restaurant as the focus of the project.

As their knowledge of these neighborhood places grow, they are able to create puppet characters that activate the Toy Theater. Students then create mini-scenarios and perform them for their classmates and teachers to celebrate the people and places they have discovered in the neighborhood.

PIP'S PROGRAMMING

High quality, literacy-based, arts programs since 1980

•PUPPET SHOWS

Interactive Storytelling with Puppets

•MY NEW YORK

An Arts-based Exploration of New York City

•STOP-MOTION ANIMATION

Activating Imagination in a Digital World

•FLIP'S FANTASTIC JOURNAL SERIES

Students become Writers with an Author/Illustrator

•EARLY CHILDHOOD EXPRESSIONS

Fostering Creativity and Imagination in our Youngest Students

•PLAYWRITING

Using Immersive Theater for Multicultural Exploration

•CELEBRATING CHINA

Chinese Folk Arts and Lunar New Year Celebrations

•CARE OF THE EARTH

Residencies that Address Environmental Awareness

•MURAL PAINTING

Colorful and Creative Public Art Projects



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