

# PUPPETRY IN PRACTICE



Celebrating over 30 years of quality Arts Education



# PIP PUPPETRY IN PRACTICE PIP

Since 1980, Puppetry In Practice, Inc has provided thousands of students, teachers, and administrators with quality arts education programs, performances and events. Our Puppet Center at Brooklyn College in the School of Education allows us to provide resources and support to many budding teachers while our Folklore Museum in Marine Park, Brooklyn keeps us active in and connected to the diverse communities of Brooklyn.

Throughout the years, PIP has placed dynamic and professional teaching artists into schools to cover a broad range of curriculum topics and areas of study with a hands-on, arts based approach. PIP continues to evolve in order to meet the current changes in educational standards throughout the state and country in order to continually produce unique, high quality arts programming.

Ranging from traditional puppetry to stop-motion animation, PIP is committed to exploring the wide range of possibilities available for students to express themselves, tell stories and contribute to the rich cultural landscape of New York City and the world.

We believe our programs promote a higher quality of learning, awareness and growth in students while developing critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork and other essential life skills. Puppetry In Practice is committed to using the arts as a lens through which students experience, learn from, and appreciate the world's rich history of ideas, cultures and imagination.

Our programs align with NYS and NYC Learning Standards, the Common Core Learning Standards and the NYC Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts.

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

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Magazine designed by Jason Leinwand 2013

PIP's Programs are  
Positively Perfect!

I AGREE!!!



An Interdisciplinary Study of an Iconic NYC Landmark

# BRIDGING BROOKLYN



## 2nd Graders in 5 schools across 5 districts take on the Brooklyn Bridge

**B**ridging Brooklyn: *A Journey Through Time* was a year-long, in-school, Puppetry In Practice program for 2nd grade classrooms in five Brooklyn schools across five New York City school districts. Using an interdisciplinary approach, students explored the history of the Brooklyn Bridge and its environs. Along with researching facts about the history and construction of the bridge, students also discussed the symbolic nature of bridges and the idea of “bridges” between people and places.

The residencies used a variety of art-based activities to explore the bridge called “the eighth wonder of the world” when it opened in 1883. Each school investigated the Brooklyn Bridge with a particular art form ranging from stop-motion animation, a spectacular circus performance, Toy Theater productions, model building and more.

The students in all five schools often worked in small groups. Children with different skills and talents all contributed to the process. Multiple Intelligence theory points to the ways that individual students



learn and current research has shown that “triple coding”, the presentation of new ideas through a minimum of three different intelligences, fosters information retention.

When students work in groups to create a final project, they all take ownership in the final result. They demonstrate a greater willingness to share their strengths and try new things when they worked alongside their peers in a supportive group environment. Teachers and artists are all working on ways to generate more effective rubrics as well as to assess true learning through new assessment tools involving student feedback.

Additionally, several activities for parents were created on an ongoing basis. Parents were encouraged to participate in classroom activities and to add anecdotes and recollections related to the Brooklyn Bridge. Parent workshops focused on activities for parents and their children to work outside the school day to strengthen the project.

Bridging Brooklyn was made possible through funding by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and New York State Council on the arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



# BUILDING THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE

## Creating a FULL City Model at PS 216



The Principal of PS 216, Celia Kaplinsky, was excited by the idea of a large, scale model of Brooklyn, Manhattan and the Brooklyn Bridge that the kids could create and showcase in the school. Working with PIP's Teaching Artists Jason Leinwand and Xun Ye, students mapped, designed and constructed the buildings, cars, boats and the bridge out of cardboard.

The model is on display in the school and has had many visitors. Borough President Marty Markowitz asked for a picture of it to hang up in his office.

# A BROOKLYN BRIDGE CIRCUS EXTRAVAGANZA AT PS 46



At PS 46 in Brooklyn, students worked with Teaching Artist Laine Barton, who initially brought the theme of the Brooklyn Bridge project to us, to create a spectacular circus performance.

Working in small groups, the students created costumes, sets and props, researched historical events and re-enacted scenes focused on the history of the Brooklyn Bridge. They interpreted the feelings of the workers who built the bridge and explored the politics of the time through vignettes, circus skills and physical movement. Students also investigated history to see how culture evolved over the years and how it was reflected in clothing, music and dance.

Ilene Weiss, a songwriter, created Brooklyn Bridge call and response songs with the students, which were performed for a packed house in the final performance held in the school's auditorium.





**PERFORMING, JUGGLING, SONGWRITING, AND ELEPHANTS!!!**





A great way to motivate students and give them hands-on activities within the curriculum. Students learned the content and were able to work on their social skills and partnership/group interactions.

- 2nd Grade Teacher, PS 216



# BUILDING THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE

## Stop-Motion ANIMATION FILMS at PS 216

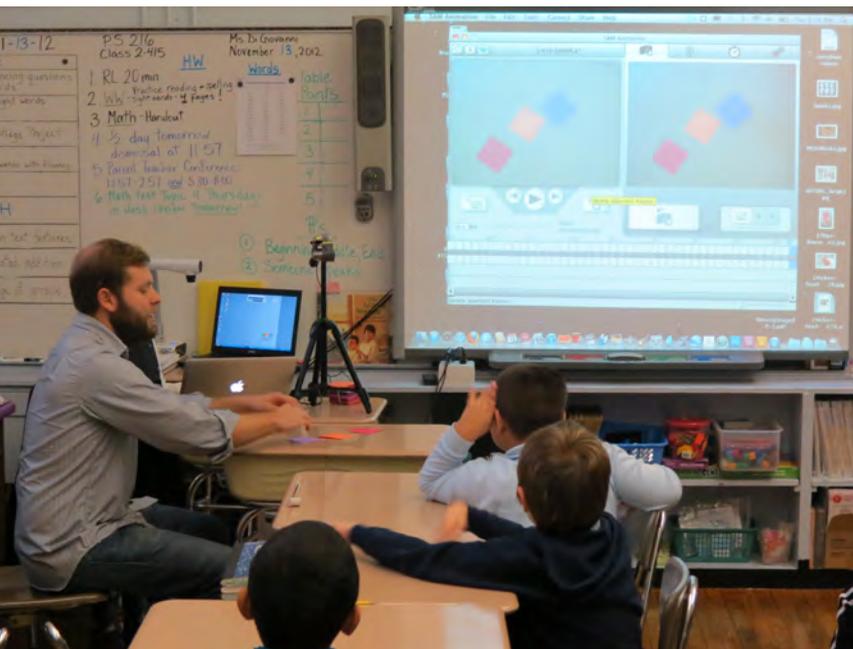


Working alongside PIP's Jason Leinwand and Xun Ye, students in PS 216 produced dynamic cut-paper, stop-motion animated movies that showed the major building components and feats of engineering that were used to construct the Brooklyn Bridge in the mid-1800's.

Working in small groups, students created the scenery and characters, wrote dialogue and narrative, and used new media technologies such as webcams, laptops and SAM Animation software to develop their work.

From the sinking of the caissons to the celebratory fireworks display that marked the Bridge's completion, the nearly 10 minute animated movies produced by the students show not only a clear understanding of the material, but a mastery over a complex and multi-faceted medium that requires patience, collaboration and constant communication.

Students work is shared and viewed on YouTube and on the PIP website for the world to enjoy!



# BROOKLYN BRIDGE TOY THEATERS AT PS 112



In PS 112 students in Grade 2 and ELL students in Kindergarten and Grade 3 worked with puppetry, masks and Toy Theater, to re-enact scenes from the building of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Students worked with PIP's Laine Barton and Xun Ye in both English and Mandarin. They paraded through the school with elephant masks to re-enact the elephant parade that tested the bridge and is part of its colorful history.

Students shared their projects with each other and with parents.



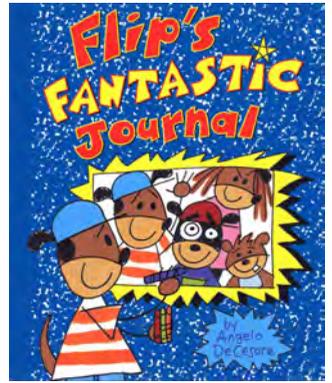


Some of my ESL students are shy and they became more outgoing with their peers when making the Brooklyn Bridge together as a team. After making the puppets, which had them completely engaged, they were more inclined to talk through their puppets than they would have been on their own.

- Kindergarten Teacher, PS 112



# Flip's Fantastic Journal meets The Brooklyn Bridge



## Stop-Motion Animation with PS 124 and PS 217



Classes in PS 217 and PS 124 worked with author-illustrator Angelo DeCesare and Alexandra Evans to create stop-motion animated films. Using Mr. DeCesare's characters from his Flip's Fantastic Journal series, students created scenarios where Flip and his friends visited the Brooklyn Bridge in order to learn about its history and purpose.

The students and teachers were familiar with the characters and have worked with Mr. DeCesare on previous projects. For this program they met two new characters, Zoomer and Diva, falcons that nested on the bridge.

The students learned about the ecology as well as the history of the bridge and the bridge's history through the eyes of the comic characters in the Flip journals.

Students in PS 124 also worked with Jody Gray, a professional songwriter, to create songs and choral renditions for their final animated films.

**The goal was to familiarize students with the entire animation process and to reinforce the Core Standards as they relate to the history of the Brooklyn Bridge.**

**- Angelo DeCesare, PIP Teaching Artist**



**Designing Background Sets!**



**Planning a Scene!**



**Working in Groups!**



**Using Technology!**



PIP turned PS 124's library into a top notch animation studio! Students worked with PIP's Angelo DeCesare to produce stop-motion animations with the characters from his *Flip's Fantastic Journal* series as they explored the Brooklyn Bridge.



The PIP-POP Players (Puppets on Parade)  
March through Brooklyn College  
for a spectacular Earth Day celebration!





The PIP-POP players, funded by the Meier Bernstein Foundation, have produced puppet shows, shadow puppet DVDs and spectacular puppet parades over the years working with PIP.

This year's PIP-POP Players were high school students from the Transition Center at Brooklyn College. They worked with PIP's Jason Leinwand to create giant backpack puppets that symbolized gentle Mother Earth and the destructive villain Hurricane Sandy.

Together, the students designed, constructed, papier mached, painted and dressed the nearly 10 foot tall puppets. After creating banners and hand painted signs, the puppets were brought outside and introduced to the Brooklyn College campus and community for a final parade during an Earth Day celebration.



## Partnering with Jobpath

Puppetry in Practice is teaming up with Jobpath to provide a vehicle for people with disabilities who have an interest in the arts to work their way into mainstream society. However, once these young artists leave the security of their high school programs there seemed to be no way to continue the process. Jobpath is an organization that encourages people with developmental disabilities to explore what they want out of life and then to chart their own journeys. Through Jobpath programs, participants are provided the opportunities and support to succeed at whatever they want - whether it's paid or volunteer work.

Together with Jobpath, the PIP-POP Players hope to continue the work that they started many years ago to bring their projects into the mainstream.

The Early Childhood  
programs at PIP are  
my favorite!!!



Mine  
too!!!

# EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE



Early Childhood programs at PIP introduce our youngest students to a variety of hands-on art, theater and puppetry activities. The Two's and Three's classes from the ECC at Brooklyn College used shadow puppetry to tell the story of *Henny Penny*, while the Four's class papier mached their own animals to tell *Anansi the Spider* stories in the life-size jungle drama center they created in their classroom.

Pre-K students and their parents at PS 28 in Queens, worked together to create a puppet performance of *Too Much Noise*. The classroom was filled with many noisy animals! Their performance was met with rave reviews by a neighboring Kindergarten class who came to support this group of young performers.

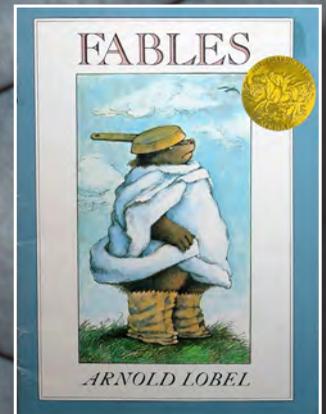
## PRE-K AT PS28 IN QUEENS



Need advice???  
Just ask the Wise Man!

PS 46 (Bronx) & Our Lady of Refuge present

# Fables



## Transforming Arnold Lobel's Fables with Technology and Animation

Thanks to Principal Jennifer Ade and a 3-year renewal of a NYS Learning Technology Grant, 3rd grade students in the Bronx at PS 46 and Our Lady of Refuge continued their long relationship of exciting work with Puppetry In Practice.

Working with PIP's Jason Leinwand and PS 46's Library Media Specialist, Karen Ramirez, students re-interpreted Arnold Lobel's *Fables* in the form of incredible, cut-paper, stop-motion animations.

Students worked in small groups to develop storyboards, create collaged backgrounds, and animate their movies. New skills developed in this year's program included recording dialogue and narration as well as learning basic GarageBand techniques to create their own soundtracks.

This project linked directly to

the 3rd grade curriculum map and overlapped with the work the students were doing about fables in their classroom. The project also was intended to introduce the next Social Studies unit in the curriculum map which targeted the countries of Africa and South America.

The teachers selected one of Lobel's fables situated in a country of their choosing for their class. Examples include *The Camel Dances* (Egypt), *The Frogs at the Rainbows End* (Brazil), and *The Hippopotamus at Dinner* (Ghana).

The final projects were shared on the big screen in the school's library at the conclusion of the residency and are all available on YouTube or the PIP website.

PIP is excited about the continuation of this ongoing project in the Bronx.



# What else is happening at PIP?

## SHADOW PUPPETRY AT J.H.S. 185

7th Graders at JHS 185 in Queens explored the traditional Chinese art of shadow puppetry. They created their own puppets and performance.



## ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAM with FLIP'S COOL VIDEO JOURNAL

An exciting new program! Students hear Flip's Cool Video Journal, where Flip learns about some of the causes of anger and how to make the right choices. Students then write a simple anger-related scene and perform it with wonderful tabletop Flip puppets. The classroom audience then suggests different solutions to the anger problems. A fun and effective way of addressing a serious problem!

## CHINESE FLOUR DOUGH FOLK ARTS at the Kings Bay YMHA



## PARENT and TEACHER PROGRAMS

## PUPPET SHOWS



Puppet shows like *Zoo Hullabaloo* and *Group Soup* are performed in school libraries, auditoriums and classrooms or in the Center at Brooklyn College or our Folklore Museum in Marine Park, Brooklyn.

## VISITORS TO THE PIP CENTER at Brooklyn College

PIP's doors are always open to visitors and the puppets are always happy to welcome anyone into the Center. Plan a fun puppet making class trip, like PS 169 or IS 185 did, or come visit to view our puppet collection. Teachers are always welcome to use our Center as a Resource Room and art activity treasure trove.



# COMING SOON!



## IT COULD BE WORSE!

Peter's tiny, old house creaks and squeaks and is just TOO NOISY! When he visits the Wise Man in town, he gets some curious advice as to what he should do. Upon the Wise Man's request, Peter brings all his farm animals into his small abode. Will all the additional noise fix Peter's problems?

A new interactive puppet show from Puppetry In Practice that can be coupled with engaging residencies and workshops for students of all ages!



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