

## Anne Sawyer-Aitch

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### Areas of Achievement:

Performance • Puppetry • Stilting • Teaching • Curriculum Development • Arts Criticism • Production Management • Arts Administration • Grant-Writing • Foreign Languages • Script Development • Total Physical Response Storytelling

### Theater, Puppetry & Stilting:

#### Galumph Interactive Theater, Full -Time Producing Artist, 1996 - 2003:

- **Involved** in all aspects of development and performance of shows: writing, directing, building puppets, sets, & props; curriculum development, performance, production & publicity
- Teach theater & puppetry residencies in schools
- Work collaboratively with other producing artists in day-to-day management of theater
- Perform in venues such as: The Hennepin History Museum, The Ordway Music Theater, The MN Science Museum, The MN Zoo, The MN Children's Museum, Patrick's Cabaret, The National Puppetry Festival, & In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theater.
- **Starred** in: *Dumpster Duels* (2003); *Paint, Snack, and Nap* (2003); *The Trouble with Leo* (2002-03); *Séance* (2003); *Parsnip County Shindig* (2002); *Da Vinci's Defense* (2001); *Choompa Woompa 101* (2000); *Success! Now It's Your Turn* (2000); *Tales from Tuntumerau* (1998-99); *MN Children's Museum Series* (1998); *Madame Freux-Freux's Cafe of Love* (1997)

#### Magic Lantern Puppet Theater, Co-Founder, 2001 -Present

- Puppeteer: created puppets & performed in: *The Tale of Fatima the Spinner & Parvatibai, the Cleverest Woman in India* for girls groups around the state. Performed with Amy Ballestad and Laura Harada
- Grant-writer: twice awarded Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Community Arts Grant, & obtained matching funding from private donors
- Project Coordinator: in charge of bookings, publicity, hiring & finances.

#### In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theater, 1997 -Present

- Stilt & puppet in annual May Day Parade & pageants (1997 -present)
- Perform in Saturday Matinee puppetry series (2000 -2004)
- Hired to stilt at venues such as National Aveda Congress & Women's Breast Cancer Awareness Conference (2000 - present)
- Hired to teach color shadow puppet workshops (2003 -04)

### Chicks on Sticks, 1999 - Present

- Build puppets & costumes & stilt in venues all over Twin Cities, including: Walker Art Museum, NHL Fan Fest, Mill City Museum Opening, St. Paul's Capitol New Year Celebration.
- Perform in pyrotechnic stiling extravaganza *Tyger Tyger* (2000).

### Other Related Experience:

- Performed with:
  - Three Legged Race (Blizzard, Southern Theater, 2003)
  - Barebones Puppet Collective (Halloween Show, 2000, 2003)
  - Lisa Abbatomarco, (Heart of the Beast, 2004)
  - PS: Knocked Senseless (Kingston, New York, 2002)
  - Kats Fukasawa (from Ragamala Dance Theater, 2002)
  - Kari Tauring & Company (2001,2003)
  - Commedia Theater (MN Renaissance Festival, 1987)
  - Teatro del Pueblo (Ordway Music Theater, 1995)
- Interned with Wise Fool Puppet Theater (New Mexico, 2000)
- Worked with Teatro Latino de MN (Production Manager, 1996-97) & Three Legged Race (Stage Tech, Hand Driven, 1999)
- Puppeted for television pilot for The Puppet Forge (Rex's Room, 1999)
- Studied with world-renowned stilt artist David Clarkson (Aerial Dance Festival, Denver, Colorado, Summer 2002).

### Other Arts Administration:

#### Young Dance (Minneapolis, 1998-2000)

- Company Administrator: responsible for all aspects of running non-profit arts group, from volunteer coordination & bookings to grant writing & event coordination.

#### Teatro del Pueblo (St. Paul, 1995-1997):

- Publicity & marketing Coordinator, Grant-writer; Associate Producer.

Teatro Latino (Minneapolis, 1996 - 1997):

- Assistant to the Artistic Director, responsible for publicity, volunteer coordination, production.

**Teaching Experience:**

Galumph Interactive Theater (1996 - Present)

- Teach Puppetry, History/Theater, & Theater Arts Residencies
- Develop new curriculum in collaboration with schools
- Receive training in A+ Arts Integration Model (U of M) & working with students with disabilities (VSA Arts of MN)
- Conduct teacher trainings.

University Language Center, Minneapolis, MN, 1995 - 1998

- Teach Spanish to adults & children using approach integrating 8 Intelligences training, Lozonov technique, & Total Physical Response Storytelling.

Minnesota History Center, St. Paul, MN, 1994

- Museum Lesson Interpreter: teach school-age children about MN history.

Pima County Adult Education, Tucson, AZ 1993-1994

- Bilingual English as a Second Language & GED Instructor, teaching in outlying communities of South Tucson.

Other Related Experience:

Presented TPR Storytelling workshops to:

- Minneapolis College of Art and Design (2002, 2003, 2004)
- St. Paul Public School Adult Educators (2003)

**Arts Criticism & Free-lance Writing:**

Free-lance writer from 1993 -1996 for:

- La Prensa de Minnesota
- Southwest Journal
- Highland Villager/Grand Gazette
- Colors Magazine (National Publication)
- Girlfriends (National Publication)

### **Education:**

University of Arizona, Tucson, **M.F.A. Courses in Creative Writing**. *GPA: 4.0*. (1992 - 1993)

University of Wisconsin, Madison, **Bachelor of Fine Arts** in Latin American Studies, with emphasis in Writing; *Graduated with Distinction, Phi Beta Kappa* (1991).

University of Granada, Spain: **Certificate in Hispanic Studies**, one year course, (1989).

### **Awards:**

Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Community Arts Grant, 2000, 2002

Jerome Travel Study Grant, 1999: to present show at National Puppetry Festival.

Center for Arts Criticism Grant, 1995: to travel to California and study Latino theater.

Phi Kappa Phi Travel Study Grant, 1990; to study Portuguese in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

### **Scripts by Anne Sawyer-Aitch:**

#### **Tales from Tumtumerau**

Presented by Galumph Interactive Theater, 1998 (at In the Heart of the Beast) & 1999 at National Puppetry Festival in Seattle.

(Co-authored with Shari Aronson, Erik Esse, and Chris Griffith)

Audience members become a part of a puppet town full of revolutionaries and toy-makers

#### **The Case of the Untoasted Bagel**

Educational puppet show written and built for MN Children's Museum, and presented by Galumph Interactive Theater, 1998

A girl named Vicky is frustrated by a power outage and builds a water wheel to power her toaster.

### **Choompa Woompa 101**

Presented by Galumph Interactive Theater, 2000

Audience members learn a made-up foreign language and use it to communicate their solutions to an environmental problem in the mythical country of Wooker.

### **The Tale of Fatima the Spinner**

Presented by Magic Lantern Puppet Theater, 2001

Color shadow puppet show based on a Turkish folk tale, presented to girls' groups around the Metro area.

### **The Great Count Pork Comes to Bologna**

Presented by Galumph Interactive Theater, 2004

A farce with masks. Based on the style of Commedia dell'Arte (17th century Italian slapstick).

