



Call for Participants:
Puppeteers, Poets, Musicians and Other Artists

“You are the one person who could preeminently write a play for marionettes in a manner that has never before been devised, that would suit marionettes as they have never before been suited.”

—Puppeteer Donald Vestal in a letter to poet Gertrude Stein,
August 13, 1935¹

NYC-based artist collective, Alphabet Arts, seeks **puppeteers, poets, musicians and other artists** to participate in ***Puppets & Poets***.

Alphabet Arts will offer a series of workshops for artists interested in collaboratively exploring the relationship between puppetry and poetry, two of the world’s oldest and most diversely practiced art forms. The workshops will culminate with a showcase **performance at Brooklyn Arts Exchange (BAX)**.

Participating artists will form groups and work for several weeks to create short, experimental performances blending poetry and puppetry. We are **open to puppetry and poetry of all styles**. Participants are welcome to incorporate other art forms into their performances as well (e.g. music, dance, film). The showcase will be advertised **“for mature audiences,”** so participants need not restrict themselves to “kid-friendly” content.

Alphabet Arts will offer participants technical support and guidance, access to Materials for the Arts for free materials, access to discounted rehearsal space, as well as the opportunity to perform at BAX, one of NYC’s finest artist development institutions.

Key Dates*

Sunday, January 8, 2012, 2-6pm	(1 st workshop: Introduction to project, formation of groups)
Sunday, January 22, 2-5pm	(2 nd workshop: Presentation/discussion of works-in-progress)
Thursday, February 2, 6-10pm	(Load-in, mandatory tech/dress rehearsal)
Friday, February 3, 7-10pm	(Performance begins at 8pm)
Saturday, February 4, 7-11pm	(Performance begins at 8pm, followed by load-out)

*All of the above will take place at BAX (421 5th Avenue at 8th St. in Brooklyn, NY). In addition to the mandatory dates/times listed here, each group will determine its own schedule for creating and rehearsing its performance.

To become a participating artist in *Puppets & Poets*, register through our website. For more information, contact us at (718) 287-1670, info@alphabetarts.org, or visit: **www.alphabetarts.org**.

¹ When Gertrude Stein let Donald Vestal adapt her poetry to the puppet stage, the collaboration opened American artists’ eyes to the possibilities of “entertaining and thought-provoking modernist puppet theatre” for adult audiences (see John Bell’s *American Puppet Modernism*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2008).

Alphabet Arts is a nonprofit artist collective founded in Brooklyn in 2009 by a poet, a puppeteer, and a producer. The collective blends a variety of art forms to create innovative performances and educational programs for both family and mature audiences. Puppets & Poets is made possible in part with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts’ Decentralization Program, administered by the Brooklyn Arts Council.