

Stephanie Reeves

8 Windsor Grove
Easton,
Bristol, BS5 0EQ
Mobile: 07876051591

Email steph_puppets@yahoo.com

Websites

www.rawkus.org.uk
www.parasolcarousel.co.uk
www.artsenlarge.com

Nationality: British
D.O. B 30/08/74

Curriculum Vitae

Personal profile:

I am a creative professional with 20 years of experience working as a giant puppet maker, lantern maker and community artist. I have a keen and determined attitude towards work and an eye for detail. I am confident with working with people of all ages and abilities. I am versatile and able to use my initiative, but also friendly and easy to approach. I have been police checked for working with children and vulnerable adults, and have my own public liability insurance. I have a full, clean driving licence and am willing to travel for the right employment.

Summary of skills and experience:

20 years' experience of delivering interactive performance with puppetry.
A broad range of artistic skills
A comprehensive knowledge of practical techniques and applications.
Good administrative and organisational skills.
20 years' experience in workshop facilitation working with all ages and abilities

Employment history:

I have been a self-employed prop and puppet maker for the past 20 years. I have devised and participated in a range of artistic projects working with a wide variety of organisations, youth groups and schools, with people of all ages, abilities and social backgrounds.

Current ongoing projects include:

- I am a lead artist with the Lamplighters Artists Association. Our most recent major commission was The 100 years of Suffrage Lantern Parade, commemorating the centenary of British women's suffrage. We made two 15-foot-tall giant puppet lanterns of Edwardian suffragettes and facilitated groups across the city to make banner lanterns with the own personal messages of equality and hopes for the future.
- I am a director/artist with Arts Enlarge CIC. Over the past three years we have worked alongside Bristol Museums and Bristol City Council to develop heritage and community focused projects based around The Goram Fair and the Goram and Vincent Legendary Giants. This folklore tale explains how they created the Avon Gorge.
- I am a lead artist every year at Walcot Lantern Parade and am part of the creative team at Bedminster Lantern Parade, Church Road Lantern Parade and Patchway Carnival, working with children of all ages and abilities. This builds on the years of experience I accrued running costume and arts workshops for St Pauls' Carnival.
- I teach a series of making skills workshops to third-year Circomedia Students on all aspects of prop-making, materials and 3D arts construction.
- I design, create, promote and site The Parasol Carousel, a series of solar-powered, wind spun umbrella sculptures. I install these at outdoor events throughout the year.
- I made two giant puppet reindeer which I perform every Christmas at events all over the country. I am the maker and performer of three oversized carol-singing Victorian mice costumes to perform at social events.
- I made a giant ventriloquist dummy puppet called Oggy for the BBC4 production of Eric, Ernie and me. The puppet was featured on the programme.

September 2011-July 2016

I became a fully registered childminder working with children between the ages of 18 months and 10 years. In this role I have gained considerable experience in teaching the EYFS through play. I learned all aspects of planning and evaluation for the early years. I am trained in safeguarding, and paediatric first aid.

January 2005 – July 2010: working for *Active Inclusion* as an intensive support worker and art tutor. During this time I worked with teenagers with extreme behavioural problems who had been excluded from school, offering one-to-one emotional and educational support. I was also responsible for keeping budgets, planning sessions, writing reports and evaluating the young people I worked with.

Work with Gynormous Rawkus

Myself and Dee Moxon founded Gynormous Rawkus in 2001, a creative partnership which continues to the present day. I have been responsible for all aspects of running an organisation including proposal-writing, administration, accounting and employment. Some of our most memorable projects include:

- The design and creation of two 18-foot-tall giant puppet mascots for Manchester United and Chelsea football clubs. These were performed at Wembley Stadium for the opening of the Charity Shield football match.
- The design and creation of a giant Triffid as part of “The Great Reading Adventure”, a government initiative to promote literacy.
- Workshops with teenagers at Southmead youth centre to design and create two giant sculptures of human genitalia to encourage awareness of sexual health issues. This was so successful we repeated it the following year in London.
- We then returned to Southmead in to make a giant baby as part of a focus on teenage pregnancy.
- We created bespoke installations covering Clarks Village Shopping Centre in umbrella-themed décor.
- The creation and performance of the giant interactive puppets “The Golden Ladies” inspired by the legendary dancer Josephine Baker.
- We made bespoke costumes/puppets for Bluewater Shopping Centre for their Christmas light switch on celebration. They were based on the 12 days of Christmas. We made the 6 geese are laying and the 4 calling birds element.

Vocational training:

I have C.A.C.D.P level one in British Sign Language. I have undergone child protection training through Acta, Active Inclusion and as part of my qualification as a registered childminder. I completed a professional puppeteer’s course in Hand Puppet Manipulation with Horse and Bamboo Theatre. I have trained in Object Puppetry with Leibe Weasel from Lunatique Fantastique and participated in courses at the Puppet Centre in London, including mask manipulation, the voice and puppetry and using puppetry in education. I am also trained in business start-up and marketing techniques. I recently completed a training course in Digital media with Knowle West Media Centre.

Education:

1993 – 1997 Winchester School of Art BA (Hons) Fine Art Printmaking 2:1

1990 – 1993 Basingstoke College of Technology. I gained a first diploma in Design and National Diploma in Art and Design.