

ARM-OF-THE-SEA THEATER

PO Box 175, Malden-on-Hudson, NY 12453

www.ArmofthetheSea.org

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Introduction

Arm-of-the-Sea's residency programs are intensive, hands-on workshops in which the arts are at the center of the learning experience. The programs seek to provide participants with an experience of collaborative creativity. Each residency is organized around a particular theme drawn from literature, science, art, social studies or a combination of these. Under the direction of the Theater's co-founder, Patrick Wadden, participants engage in painting, sculpture, mask-making, puppetry, creative writing and music to create the elements of a theater production. The "artifacts" produced in the residency are woven together in rehearsals, sometimes with additional puppet & mask characters from Arm-of-the-Sea's repertoire. The culminating performance event is customarily presented to the entire school or community.

Residency programs are generally 5 to 10 days in length and can involve anywhere from 15 to 100 participants. Requirements include a designated workspace where projects and materials can remain set-up. Pre-planning is essential. Flexibility in regards to time schedule is also an asset. In a school setting, our residency programs are effective not only with high achievers but often & most notably with students lagging in academic and language skills. We have conducted very successful residencies with young people at inner city schools, immigrant families, adjudicated youth and hearing-impaired youth.

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Sample Residency Projects

Dec. 2023- Warring School, Poughkeepsie, NY "Three Fables for our Times" – Five-day project with 70 fifth graders rehearsing three short original plays. The students presented the plays to the school and parents.

Dec. 2022- Feb. 2023 Saugerties Jr High School, Saugerties, NY – Afterschool program with students creating a large processional puppet figure for the Snow Moon Festival.

Dec. 2022- Warring School, Poughkeepsie, NY "Water is Life"- Fifth grade students created visual elements, text, and music for a special performance based on local history and geography.

May. 2022- Warring School, Poughkeepsie, NY "Five Key Words"- A residency project with fifth graders emerging from the isolation of the pandemic. Theme was empowerment. The culminating presentation was performed for the entire school community.

Jan. 2020 – George Washington Elem. Kingston NY - "You and Me and The Remedies - A Visual Poem in Four Parts". Fifth grade students created visual elements, movement and music for a giant puppet spectacle presented to the school community.

Dec. 2019 – Saugerties Jr High School, Saugerties, NY – Afterschool program with students creating large processional puppet figures for a community parade.

May 2019 – George Washington Elem. Kingston NY – "Spring Wake Up and Shake Up" – Residency with 4th graders about change and growth. Students creations included the metamorphosis of frogs, the sprouting of seeds, the migrations of birds and fishes and four large Remedies puppets who chased away The Troubles.

Nov. 2018 Webster Magnet School, New Rochelle, NY – "Between Two Worlds: Henry Hudson's Voyage of 1609" – A puppet play created with 4th grade students enacting Hudson's ocean voyage to the River that now bears his name.

Oct. 2018 – Youth Climate Summit at Frost Valley YMCA Camp –Workshop with high school students culminating in a performance about confronting climate change.

Jan.2018 – Newcomb Central School, Newcomb, NY – "Seeds of Change"- Five-day performance project that included all students in this II K -12 school in the Adirondacks. Funded by a Decentralization grant.

Dec. 2017- Warring School, Poughkeepsie, NY ---"The Troubles & the Remedies" – Theater arts project with 75 fifth graders, constructing giant puppets and creating a performance spectacle for their school.

Nov. 2017 – Webster Magnet School, New Rochelle, NY - "Peacemaker & The Tree of the Great Peace" – Students created images based on the famous Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) story about the man who brought a message of peace to five warring tribes, creating the Iroquois Confederacy.

July 2017 – Dutchess Arts Camp, Red Hook, NY – "The Seeing Eye Circus" – Participants created puppet clown characters from 1gallon milk jugs and performed a series of skits with them.

Jan. 2017 – Webster Magnet School, New Rochelle, NY – "Between Two Worlds: Henry Hudson's Voyage of 1609" – A puppet play created with 4th grade students enacting Hudson's ocean voyage to the River that now bears his name.

Dec. 2016 – Warring School, Poughkeepsie, NY ---"May the Real Stars Rise" –Performance project with 5th graders inspired by the book "Esperanza Rising".

July 2016 - Dutchess Arts Camp, Red Hook, NY ---"The Raft" - Campers created puppet figures and other props, then performed this original play about two boys leaving their Caribbean Island home in search of a better life.

June 2016 ---Poughkeepsie Day School-- " Hudson River Reverie" --- A puppet play about the Hudson River. Featuring an 8' eel puppet.

May 2016 ---Seymour Smith Elem., Pine Plains, NY --- "Thinking Like a Watershed" ---Five day project with third graders based on the Wappingers Creek watershed. This project supported by a grant from the Arts Education Program of the NYS Council on the Arts.

Dec. 2015 – Warring School, Poughkeepsie, NY – “The Unexpected Guests” – Based on the book Esperanza Rising, fifth grade students created a performance piece touching on the refugee crisis.

Nov. 2015 – Daniel Webster Magnet School, New Rochelle, NY – “Peacemaker & The Tree of the Great Peace” – Students created images based on the famous Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) story about the man who brought a message of peace to five warring tribes, creating the Iroquois Confederacy. They performed the story for the whole school. Funded by a grant from NYS Council on the Arts.

July 2015-Dutchess Arts Camp, “Dingo Tale” – Campers created puppet figures and other props, then performed this original play based on themes from Australia.

Nov. 2014 – May 2015 King School, Stamford, CT “Popol Vuh” – Multi-phased project in which students created characters based on the Mayan origin story. They rehearsed movements and music and then enacted the story for the school community.

Dec. 2014 Morse School, Poughkeepsie, NY ” Patterns in Time”– Students created mosaic headresses for the annual Celebration of Lights parade. Project sponsored by the Bardavon Opera House.

October 2014 Seymour Smith Elementary, Pine Plains, NY – “Peacemaker & The Tree of the Great Peace” – Students created images based on the famous Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) story about the man who brought a message of peace to five warring tribes, creating the Iroquois Confederacy. They performed the story for the whole school. Funded by a grant from NYS Council on the Arts.

August 2014 Dutchess Arts Camp, Red Hook, NY – “The Purple Heart”– Campers created and performed an original play about a elderly vet and his granddaughter.

July 2014 Sense of Wonder Summer Camp, Martha’s Vineyard, MA – “The Oyster Chorus” – Young people created paper mache oysters for a skit about how bivalves help clean the water.

May 2014 Cahill School, Saugerties, NY – “Seasons of Saugerties” – Ten-day residency with fifth graders creating a play about their hometown during the Great Depression. Inspired by the WPA murals in the school. Project funded by a grant from the NYS Council on the Arts.

April 2014 Ellenville, NY – “Cinco de Mayo” A series of free public workshops in which community members helped create a large puppet figure for the annual Cinco de Mayo procession. Sponsored by the Ellenville Public Library and Museum.

Jan. 2014 St. Clements School, Saratoga Springs, NY ---"The Giant Slayer & the Flying Samaritan"--- Exploring globalization issues as well as 6th century Ethiopian illuminated manuscripts, students created and performed a free-wheeling contemporary parable on the theme "Am I my Brother's Keeper?" Newspaper article with photos at http://issuu.com/saratogapublishing/docs/st_21314_full2 See page two.

Jan. 2014 Webster Magnet School, New Rochelle, NY --- "Tales from The Odyssey"---- A ten-day project with fourth graders exploring Homer's epic poem. Students created puppets based upon figures depicted on ancient Greek vases. Then they enacted the story of Odysseus on his adventure-filled journey home from the Trojan War. This project supported by a grant from NYSCA's Arts Education program.

Dec. 2013 Morse Magnet School, Poughkeepsie, NY --- "Old Man Winter" ---Students created a thousand snowflakes and giant puppet figure of Winter. The project, sponsored by the Bardavon Opera House, culminated with the students presenting a series of scenes to their schoolmates.

Nov. 2013 King School, Stamford CT --- "The Story of Turtle Island" ---- Drawing from the Algonquian Indian origin story, students created masks of the Earthdivers and performed a play about the four animals that re-start the world after a Great Flood.

July 2013 Dutchess Arts Camp, Red Hook, NY --- "Down on the Farm" ---- Arts Camp participants worked with Patrick Wadden to create a play about two farmers--- one whose crop was destroyed by insects and the other whose crops survived. For the finale, a giant cow appeared and cheered everyone up with Holy Cow Ice Cream. Really. The piece featured music by guest artist Joakim Lartey.

May 2013 Marletown School, Stone Ridge, NY — “Four Variations on ‘Three Little Pigs’ ” — A five-day ELA-based project in which 2nd graders created puppet figures and then enacted four different versions &/or off-shoots of the Three Little Pigs story. Variations included "There's a Wolf at the Door", The True Story of the Three Little Pigs" and "Three Little Wolves & the Big Bad Pig".

April 2013 Hart Magnet School, Stamford, CT — “Mill River Rhapsody” — Fourth grade students created a paper “crankie” show to tell the story of the restoration of the Mill River. They performed it at the opening day festivities of the new Mill River Park and Greenway. The project was carried out in conjunction with the Mill River Collaborative.

Nov 2012 Morse Magnet School, Poughkeepsie, NY --- "Between Light and Shadow" ---Five-day project focused on Human Rights issues. Students created lanterns and processional images for the annual Celebration of Lights parade.

Nov. 2012 Cahill School, Saugerties, NY ---"Port on the River of Time" ---This project started with two WPA murals installed in the school and depicting scenes from Saugerties from the 1930's. Fifth grade students explored aspects of the Great Depression. They created a scenes of workers at the local paper mill and also the local steamboat company. The six day project culminated in a performance for the community. The residency was part of STORIES FROM HERE, our Saugerties history & art project and made possible by support from the Dutchess Co. Arts Council and the Cahill PTA.

July 2012 Dutchess Arts Camp, Red Hook, NY ---"Baba Froga & the Magic Swans" ---Under the direction of Patrick Wadden, young artists adapted one of the Baba Yaga tales (from Russia) to create an original performance event.

May 2012 Webster Arts Magnet School, New Rochelle, NY --"Peacemaker & the Tree of the Great Peace" -- This residency involved 4th graders in the creation of a theater performance based on the story of Peacemaker and how the five-nation Iroquois Confederacy came into being. Students created dozens of images, rehearsed the movement, narration and music and presented the story to the school community.

March 2012 High Meadow School, Stone Ridge, NY -- "Journey to Tir-na-nog" -- Middle school students worked with teaching artist Patrick Wadden to create a puppet play inspired by the Irish legend of Finn McCool.

Dec 2011 Morse Elem. School, Poughkeepsie, NY -- "Let There Be Light" -- One hundred fifth grade students created One-of-a-Kind Tophats for the Festival of Lights procession. Sponsored by the Bardavon Opera House.

July 2011 Dutchess Arts Camp, Red Hook, NY --"Peacemaker & the Tree of the Great Peace"

Jan 2011 Zena Elem School, Kingston NY --"Peacemaker & the Tree of the Great Peace" - This 2-week residency involved 4th & 5th graders in the creation of a theater performance based on the story of Peacemaker and how the five-nation Iroquois Confederacy came into being. Sponsored by the Bardavon Opera House.

Dec 2010 Kreiger School, Poughkeepsie, NY -- "The BlueBird of Inexplicable Happiness"- Fourth grade students created a magnificent bird figure for the annual Festival of Lights procession through downtown Poughkeepsie. This residency sponsored by the Bardavon Opera House.

October 2010 Netherwood School, Hyde Park, NY -- "Peacemaker & the Tree of the Great Peace" -- Every student in the school helped make the masks and props for a staging of the famous Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) story about the man who brought a message of peace to five warring tribes, creating the Iroquois Confederacy. Funded by a grant from the Dutchess County Arts Council.

August 2010 Dutchess Arts Camp, Red Hook, NY "Snake Hair Pie" A tragic/comic masked musical based on the Medusa myth and a strange yearning for pie. AotS music director Dean Jones worked with young people to write the songs and play the music.

June 2010 Caroline Street School, Saratoga Springs, NY -- "How Saratoga Sprang Forth-A True Tall Tale" -- Working with torn paper and glue to make collage characters, this fifth grade project re-imagined events in the history of Saratoga Springs and culminated in a horse race around the theater.

May 2010 Jefferson School, New Rochelle, NY- "To See the Sea, To Hear the Sound"- Over 500 students from all grades helped create a collage mural celebrating Long Island Sound. The two parts of the mural, each measuring 25'L X 12'H now adorn the entranceway to the auditorium.

Feb. 2010 Chambers Elem. School, Kingston, NY -- "You & Me, The River & the Sea" -- This ten-day residency with 5th graders incorporated a percussion orchestra and student dance ensembles to portray the life and times of the Hudson River Estuary. Sponsored by the Bardavon Opera House.

Oct & Nov. 2009 -- SUNY Purchase - "Henry Hudson & the River That Discovered Him" A residency involving over 400 students from three schools (Davis School in New Rochelle, Greenville School in Scarsdale & Garrison Free School in Garrison) who made dozens of collage panels depicting scenes along and within the Hudson River. These students and their work came together to create a "happening" in the lobby of the Purchase College Performing Arts Center as a prelude to an Arm-of-the-Sea performance of the same name.

Aug 2009 Dutchess Arts Camp, Red Hook, NY -- "First Morning of the World" -- Inspired by the Dreamtime paintings from the Aboriginal peoples of Australia, workshop participants created giant group paintings that become the backdrops and images for a performance piece about birth/life/death and finding water in the desert.

Feb. 2009 Chambers Elem. School, Kingston, NY -- "The King & Queen of Mardi Gras"- A ten day project with fifth graders researching the roots of carnival and creating a giant puppet figures for the local Mardi Gras parade.

Jan. 2009 Woodstock Day School, Saugerties, NY- "Vitamin D & Democracy" -- Coinciding with the inauguration of the first African-American president, this performance project involved upper school students creating 2-D collage figures that become the characters in a play about race and politics in America.

March 2008 Greenwood Lakes Middle School, Greenwood Lakes, NY -- "In the Country of the Imagination" A nine-day project inspired by the work of Wasily Kandinsky and other early 20th century artists. Students created images and poems for a theater performance presented to the whole community. The show also featured a student orchestra.

Nov. 2007 Clinton School, Poughkeepsie, NY-- Students made candle lanterns and paper mache figures for the annual "Celebration of Lights", a winter evening procession through downtown Poughkeepsie.

July 2007 The Newburgh Peace Project, Newburgh, NY -- A five week residency at St. George Episcopal Church involving teenagers and adults from various cultures and faith traditions. The project incorporated drumming, visual arts and discussion groups to explore "Unity in Diversity." It culminated in a public performance to a standing-room-only audience at the Ritz Theater in downtown Newburgh. With musicians Joakim Lartey and Miles Lartey. Funded by the Council of Episcopal Churches.

March 2007 NY School for the Deaf, White Plains, NY - "Our Bodies, Our Cells" An exploration of cells and the human body with hearing impaired middle school students. They did printmaking, collage panels, and other constructions, plus dance movements inspired by physiology. Culminating event presented to the entire deaf community.

March 2007 The Waldorf School of Saratoga Springs, NY An intensive arts & ecology performance project with high school students on the theme of local water issues and presented to the community at the Saratoga Music Hall, followed by a panel discussion.

Dec 2006 Muddy Brook Elem. School, Great Barrington, MA - "American Indian Stories of the Northeast" -Third graders turned stories from Algonquin cultures into puppet plays.: "Nanbush and the Ducks", "How the People got Fire", "Turtle Island", and "Skunny Wundy & The Stone Giant".

Dec 2006 Clinton Elem. School, Poughkeepsie, NY -- "Festival of Lights" A residency combining the cycle of the seasons with the physics of light and the students producing electricity with a hand-cranked generator. They also paper-mached large processional puppets for a night time parade that was unfortunately canceled due to weather.

Sept. 2006 St Patrick's School, Catskill, NY - "Rip Van Winkle Revisited" A re-telling of the famous Catskill mountain story of the man who fell asleep for twenty years.

May & June 2006 Wells, Piseco & Lake Pleasant, NY - "Seasons of the Wild" Middle school students in three communities within the Adirondack Park participated in the creation of a performance spectacle celebrating the "Forever Wild" charter of the Park. This project was funded by the Adirondack Arts in Education Partnership.

July 2005 Rural & Migrant Ministry, Newburgh, NY - "The Joy of Eating / The Justice of Food" Youth from farm worker families created two shows and presented them to their friends and families, in Spanish & English

June 2005 NY School for the Deaf, White Plains, NY - "America as Cultural Mosaic" A study of culture and pattern with middle school students. culminating in the creation of a mosaic installation.

May 2005 Kingston High School, Kingston, NY -- "Our Block" Guided art students in the creation of giant paintings and shadow screens for a performance inspired by events in the neighborhood.

April 2005 Springhurst Elem, School Dobbs Ferry, NY " The Spanish Conquest of Mexico" A project with 5th grade students creating a "toy theatre" production, The figures for the show were based on Aztec drawings from both before and after the Spanish conquest.

Dec 2004 & Jan 2005 Clinton & Smith Schools, Poughkeepsie, NY "A Tale of Two Tribes" An extended residency focused on conflict and resolution. Created a full stage production, which was presented by over one hundred students at the Bardavon Opera House in Poughkeepsie, NY.

March 2004 Greenville High School, Greenville, NY - "Quetzalcoat's Children" Created a giant puppet figure of Quetzalcoatl, the mythic feathered serpent of ancient Mexico with HS sculpture class. Then put together a performance with students based on legends and history of Mexico.

Dec 2003 Clinton School, Poughkeepsie, NY -"Night, Light, Sight" Explored the physics of light and the physiology of sight. Fourth graders at this inner city school created large "strolling street paintings" for Poughkeepsie's Festival of Lights procession. This residency facilitated by the Bardavon Opera House.

Sept 2003 Woodstock Elem. Woodstock, NY - "Spin Cycle Circus" Theme of change. Students created eighteen giant round paintings that were wheeled on stage to tell the universe story and evolution of life on earth.

July 2003 Free Spirit Nature Camp, Westown, NY - "Tonkamoose Watershed Homecoming " Participants helped create coyote, deer & beaver masks together with giant totemic puppet figure for culminating pageant, which was performed in a hay barn.

Aug 2003 Rural & Migrant Ministry Day Camp, Newburgh, NY - "Yo Soy / I Am" Residency for young people & teens from farmworker families. Participants painted large-scale self portraits. The culminating performance was presented in Spanish & English in a church hall. It was drawn from both contemporary immigrant experience and from the ancient Mayan story, the Popol Vuh, in which the Lords of Death are outwitted by a pair of quick-thinking hero-twins.

June 2003 Zena School, Woodstock, NY - "Thinking Like a Watershed" A 10-day project with fifth graders exploring the natural & social history of the Sawkill Creek, which flows past the school. Funded by the Catskill Watershed Corporation.

May 2003 Rondout Middle School, Accord, NY - "Everyman" Middle school students rehearsed a puppet version of the medieval morality play "Everyman" and presented it as part of a Middle Ages fair.

Jan 2003 NY School for the Deaf, White Plains, NY -" Coming to America" - After studying the art of Romare Bearden, Ralph Fassanella and Jacob Lawrence, hearing-impaired middle school students created collages and puppet images to tell a story of past & present immigrants.

May 2002 Marbletown School, Stone Ridge, NY - "Song of India" - An introduction to Indian culture and history. Students made paper collages of elephants & other puppet figures. The performance told the story of the non-violent resistance movement that eventually freed India from British rule.

March 2002 Lenape School, New Paltz, NY -"All My Relations" Native American themes and a celebration of the seasons. Third grade students helped create a ten-foot turtle puppet, animal masks and individual shadow puppet figures. Performance opened with enactment of Turtle Island creation story of the Lenape Indians.

Jan. 2002 NY School for the Deaf, White Plains, NY -" A Dream of Earth" Earth science-based residency with hearing impaired middle school students. They created four-dozen paintings and masks. Performance focused on geologic history, fossil fuel and climate change.

Nov. 2001 WW Smith School, Poughkeepsie, NY - "Festival of Lights" Focus on ancient cave paintings. Students created two-dozen lanterns and a 12' high Tree of Life puppet figure for Poughkeepsie's annual community procession and tree lighting ceremony.

Aug. 2001 Berkshire Farm Center For Youth, Canaan, NY - "Color's Journey" Adjudicated teenage boys created dozens of giant, complexly-painted cardboard puppet figures and enacted a journey tale about the search for wholeness and self respect to an audience of their peers. The next evening they presented their show at a public arts venue.

Jan. 2000 King Magnet School, Schenectady, NY - "Sun~Seed~Civilization" This was a ten day exploration of the roots of agriculture and the beginnings of cities in which 5th grade students employed "x-ray" vision to paint the inner workings of plants. They also ground wheat into flour and baked bread for the audience. This was the 3rd AotS residency at King School funded by the NYS Foundation for the Arts.