

Art & Craft of Shadow Theater Residency Description:

'The Art and Craft of Shadow Theater' offers hands-on experiences in drawing, painting, group story writing, dialogue, acting, choreography and ensemble performance. Shadow artist, Maria Bodmann, will present this complete package of arts experiences which is designed to give participants in-depth experiences in the multidisciplinary form of shadow play.

The amount of residency sessions is flexible, although a minimum of twelve, including the Shadows of Bali presentation, background information and resources, a variety of diverse hands-on and interactive opportunities, a shadow-screen to practice puppet manipulation and characterizations, and a culmination performance is recommended. With more sessions, students are able to delve deeper and create an expanded presentation. During the first session, participants are invited to attend an 'informance' designed to take the uninitiated behind the scenes for an overall glimpse of the art form. Subsequent classes investigate the different artistic and theatrical elements of shadow play. During the first workshop, students make a simple character and complete exercises geared to successful group story writing. They quickly move to more complex designs and original characters based on the emerging group story. Soon they begin working on-screen in small groups, improvising dialogue and scenes. They learn shadow play techniques in a traditional manner, through observation and imitation. They choose which physical, emotional, and social elements make up their characters, including a range of personalities and varied speech characteristics. Remaining sessions are devoted to finishing characters, dialogue writing, casting, choreographing, and rehearsing the story for the culmination. The final two or three classes include a musician to coordinate the live musical accompaniment for the performance.



Residency activities conclude in an exhibit and performance, where participants function as a theater ensemble and perform their story for an audience.

Residency goals:

- introduce participants to the art of shadow theater and the elements that combine to create it
- teach participants to make shadow characters and perform a collaborative story with them
- offer diverse activities in art and theater in a healthy, positive environment
- promote and raise cultural understanding, respect, and tolerance by involvement in a cultural art form

Specific Qualifications for this Residency:

Since 1985, I have performed and taught numerous workshops in art, theater, and music throughout Los Angeles, California, and the United States, both as an individual artist and as a member of Bali & Beyond, a company of Los Angeles performing artists inspired by the cultures of Indonesia. I have extensive experience working in University as well as K-12 environments. Specific qualifications include: a residency at Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA and CSUN in Northridge, CA, workshops at UCLA, seven Artist In Residence Grants to produce and present "The Art and Craft of Shadow Theater," five Youth Arts Services Grants to produce and present residencies in "Making Shadow Characters," seven Regional Artist Grants to produce and present traditional and contemporary shadow performances, and six Outdoor Festival grants to produce and present the Celebrate Puppetry Festival, including outreach activities in a local middle school, family workshops, and festival performances, under the auspices of the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles. I served on the faculty of the Teenage Drama Workshop in the summer of 2007 for their 50th Anniversary, where I worked with students on the cast of "James and the Giant Peach." The students helped make new characters and learned complex choreography to achieve a stunning ten show run of their production. I have also served as a full-time faculty member for the California State Summer School for the Arts (grades 9-12) for eighteen years and am a two time residency artist for the HeART Project (grades 9-12 continuation).