



Chris Griffith

ARTIST RESUME

SELECTED EMPLOYMENT

Z Puppets Rosenschnoz, MN – 1998 - present:

Co-Founder and Creative Director of nationally touring performing arts company. Since 1998, Griffith has teamed with Shari Aronson as Z Puppets, earning national and regional acclaim. With Z Puppets, Griffith has designed and created puppets, sets and stages for over 25 original productions, including: *Say it! Sing it! Play it! In Cherokee* (2019), *Through the Narrows* (2019), *The Life of Pavel Haas* (2019), *Cellula* (2015), *Monkey Mind Pirates* (2010), *The Puggles: A Platypus Adventure* (2008), *Minnesota AHA!* (2007), *What Makes Minnesota MN?* (2007), *The Puggles: Platypus Twins* (2004), *A La Carte: In a Fool's Kitchen* (2002), *Beyond Boreas!* (2001), *Wise Fools of Chelm* (2000), *The Adventures of Fiddlehead and Fennel* (1999), *The Amazing Gnip Gnop Circus* (1998).

Speaking Out! MN – 2019:

Created puppets for *School is No Place to Be*, a touring show.

Children's Theatre Company, MN – 2005-2019:

Neighborhood Bridges Scenic & Teaching Artist - conduct year-long residency programs in elementary classrooms throughout the Twin Cities, guiding students in designing, building and creating puppets, props, sets and costumes for final performances.

Fidgety Fairy Tales, MN – 2010:

Created puppets and set for touring musical.

Minnesota Jewish Theater Company, MN – 2009, 2017:

Designed and created Goblin puppets for two productions of *Hershel and the Hannukah Goblins*, winning a MN IVEY award for design in 2009.

Learning Through Music, MN – 2008-2012:

Directed annual 4th grade opera at Ramsey Fine Arts Center with over 100 students, overseeing the creation of original music, lyrics, staging and scenic design, and supervising university interns.

SELECTED
AWARDS
AND
HONORS

International Thespian Festival, Lincoln, NE – 1997-2010:

Theater & Puppetry Instructor - taught puppetry design and animation workshops for High School students and teacher at annual week-long festival.

Galumph Interactive Theater, MN – 1992-2005:

Co-Founder and Artistic Director of innovative interactive theater company. With Galumph, Griffith designed and created puppets, masks, sets and stages for over 25 original productions, including: *Tales from Tuntumerau* (2005, 1999, 1998), *Making History with the President* (2005), *The Great Count Pork Comes to Bologna* (2005), *Parsnip County Shindig* (2002), *Seance* (2002, 2001), *The Trouble with Leo* (2002, 2001), *Mr. Punch Comes to America/Mr. Punch Runs for President* (2002, 2001, 1999), *Madame Freux-Freux's Cafe of Love* (1997, 1996).

In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theatre - 1994 - 2000:

Residency Roster Artist (1997 - 2000) Custom designed and taught puppetry arts curriculum for public schools throughout the country. Outreach Director (1994 - 1997) Designed and coordinated educational program teaching Puppetry Arts in schools and communities throughout the country.



IVEY award for puppet design (2009), 3-time recipient of MN State Arts Board Artist Initiative in Theater Grant (2018, 2011, 2007), Jerome Foundation Travel & Study Grant (1999)

With Z Puppets: Ordway Center for Performing Arts' Sally Award for Education (2017), Network for Ensemble Theaters (2016), Bloomberg Philanthropy National Public Art Challenge Finalist for Kid City (2015), Creative Child Magazine Preferred Choice & Seal of Excellence awards (2011), Grants from Jim Henson Foundation, Puppeteers of America, Minnesota State Arts Board (5 Arts Tour, 7 PIAP, over 25 Arts Learning grants) and 9 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council grants.

Special Commissions to design and build shows from the Jerome Foundation/ In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater in 2004 and 2006; 11 commissions from The Minnesota History Center, 2001-2007; 3 commissions from the Minnesota Science Museum, Commissions from the MN Cancer Coalition (2004).



PUBLISHED
WORK

"A Puppet Cookbook: Recipes for Making Puppets," published by In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theater. Editor. 1995.