



Sandglass teaches a method of puppet performance that has been developed over 30 years of workshops around the world. Morning training will be led by Eric Bass (Co-Founder) and Shoshana Bass (Artistic Director). Afternoon tracks are as follows:

Puppetry Construction with Ines Zeller Bass

The puppet building track will be dedicated to the construction of a full figure that can be animated by one to three puppeteers. The session will address how different materials impact a puppet's function and metaphorical capacity. Our focus will be on creating a puppet that allows emotional expression and dramatic presence through its breath. Ines has built many puppets for Sandglass shows that integrate our understanding of why we use a puppet in the first place and how it can best express its life within a show.

Ines Zeller Bass, Co-Founder of Sandglass, has been performing with puppets since 1968. In 1978, she created her children's hand puppet theater, PUNSCHI, which has toured Europe, Australia and the US. In 1982, Ines co-founded Sandglass Theater with husband Eric in Germany and moved to Vermont in the mid-1980s. Together with Eric, she teaches their approach to puppetry in workshops in Vermont and abroad. She designed the puppets and set for Natan El Sabio, a project with Teatro Luis Poma in El Salvador. Ines' puppets and design for Babylon, Sandglass Theater's production, include two of her many crankies. Ines has last been touring with Sandglass' production of D-Generation, An Exaltation of Larks, a piece about people with dementia. She is an UNIMA citation winner. In 2010, she received the Vermont Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. Ines has retired from touring but is still very connected to Sandglass through her designs and puppet building.

Puppetry Performance with Shoshana Bass

This track focuses on puppetry performance technique and explores how a puppeteer serves the life of the puppet. Classes will include: building a capacity for dramatic tension, ensemble practice with actors and puppets, split focus training, how a puppet embodies text through gesture and language, and tools for devising original puppet pieces. Throughout, there will be a focus on performance presence, the puppet's awareness to every moment.



Shoshana Bass is the second generation Artistic Director of Sandglass Theater. She grew up touring internationally with the theater founded by her parents and now performs their legacy work as well as her own devised work. Her training consists of a range of physical performance disciplines spanning across theater, dance, puppetry and circus. She works as a performer, teacher, producer, director and choreographer around the world. Her solo puppet theater piece, When I Put On Your Glove has and continues to tour in North America, Asia, and Europe. She has been a primary force in Sandglass' work on Babylon: journeys of refugees, a production about that has garnered support from the National Theater Project and the Doris Duke Islamic Art Foundation's Building Bridges Program. Her newest project titled Feral, received support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Henson Foundation and numerous commissioners from around the country.

Directing for Puppet Theater with Eric Bass

What does it mean to direct a puppet production? Or a production with actors and puppets? What are the key questions to ask in order to dive deeply into the process and the material of the show? Puppets give us so many options and approaches, how do we decide what is right and how do we help the performers give their best performances? The directing track will unpack questions like these, and then engage in exercises where some of the answers we are seeking might be found.

Eric Bass, Co-Founder of Sandglass, has worked for over forty years as a director, playwright, performer, presenter, producer, and puppet maker. In 1982, Eric co-founded Sandglass Theater in Munich, Germany, with his wife, Ines Zeller Bass, and they moved to Vermont in 1986. As a director, he has worked on five continents, nearly always including puppets in his staging. His international collaborations include The Story of the Dog, in Cambodia, BlackBirds in Poland, The Glass Menagerie in Germany, and a new adaptation of Nathan the Wise in El Salvador. Eric directed Sandglass Theater's production of Babylon, Journeys of Refugees as a live show, and as a film. In 1991, Eric was awarded the Figuretheater Prize of the City of Erlangen, Germany for his contributions to the field of Puppet Theater. In 2010, Eric and Ines received the Vermont Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Applicants must select a first choice and second choice. We will do our best to accommodate your first choice.



The deposit is fully refundable before May 15th, and 50% refundable through May 31st, after which refunds are no longer available. Should the Intensive be canceled for any reason, registered participants will receive a full refund for any portion of their registration fee, housing and food that has been paid to Sandglass.

Sandglass follows state and federal guidelines for health and safety protocols.

When reviewing applications we consider your passion for learning, your courage, and the diversity of age and experience in the whole group. Your cover letter will be important for us to understand who you are and why you want to train with Sandglass.