

Sandglass Theater's

OMA



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OMA

A JOYFUL STORY OF CELEBRATION, GENERATIONS,
AND STORYTELLING IN YARN



Oma says that knitting is not just pom pom hats and sweaters. Oma's knitting contains whole stories! This new family show by Shoshana Bass and Jana Zeller is an intergenerational tale that revolves around Grandma or "Oma." It is her birthday and all are preparing for the celebration. While the grown-ups manage work phone calls, playdate logistics and other such tasks, the children get into mischief with party decorating, present wrapping, and cake baking. Finally they all gather around for one of Oma's stories told in yarn. One character emerges from the tangle of wool and nearly ruins the party. But not to worry, all ends well at Oma's house.

Available for theaters, schools, libraries, festivals and community events.



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Sandglass Theater is eligible for touring subsidy support through the New England Foundation for the Arts NEST grant!

About Sandglass Theater

Sandglass Theater is a renowned theater company specializing in combining puppets with music, actors, and visual imagery. Since 1982, the company's productions have toured internationally in over 30 countries, performing in theaters, festivals and cultural institutions and winning numerous international prizes.

Sandglass is dedicated to the arts of theater and puppetry as a means of exploring contemporary issues, inspiring dialogue, and sparking wonder. We create original ensemble performances and collaborations, present diverse theater artists, produce events that serve our communities, and teach our art.

Creative Team

Shoshana Bass (performer) is Artistic Director of Sandglass Theater based in Putney, Vermont on the unceded lands of the Abenaki people. Having been raised in a traveling family of internationally acclaimed puppeteers, she has spent her life witnessing and in dialogue with artistic voices of diverse cultures, heritages, and perspectives. Now she performs, directs, and choreographs internationally. She is a touring ensemble member with the company in *Babylon*, *Journeys of Refugees*; *Rock the Boat*; and *Punsch* and her solo performance *When I Put On Your Glove*.



Jana Zeller (performer) has been drawing and painting since she was a child. She trained for many years as an oil painter and portrait painter, worked as a set painter for the theater, the TV and movie industry, and the opera. As one of the daughters of Sandglass Theater, she began painting puppets, sets and props early on, and later became a working puppeteer creating original shows that have been presented in the US, Canada, Mexico, Germany, and India. She performs and teaches puppetry across New England, and art classes for children in her studio in Brattleboro, Vermont.



Ines Zeller Bass (director) Co-Founding Artistic Director of Sandglass, has been performing with puppets since 1968, when she became a member of the Munich marionette theater, Kleines Spiel. In 1978, she created her children's hand puppet theater, *Punsch*, which toured Europe, Australia and the US. In 1982, Ines co-founded Sandglass Theater with husband Eric. Ines started Sandglass Theater's program for family audiences. Together with Eric, she teaches their approach to puppetry performance and devised composition in workshops in Vermont and abroad. An UNIMA citation winner, Ines also received the Vermont Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 2010.



Molly Gawler (composer/musician) grew up on Buttermilk Hill on a small farm in Maine. She plays fiddle, banjo and sings in the "Gawler Family Band" as well as her trio of sisters, "The Gawler Sisters." She grew up playing music with the traditional roots passed on to her from her Mom and Dad – Ellen and John Gawler. Molly is also a professional dancer which has taken her around the world.



Technical Needs

- Oma is recommended for audiences Pre-K - 4th (ages 4 - 10)
- Show run time: 45 minutes, with the option of a talk back afterwards
- Set up time: 1 hour
- Strike time: 45 minutes
- We are completely self sufficient and can perform either indoors or outdoors without electrical hook up. We just need daylight or a generally lit stage.
- We need a space of at least 8ft deep and 10ft wide with a height clearance of 10ft.



Workshops

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Puppetry is an amazing means of encouraging expression in shy children, developing literacy, hand/eye coordination, and delving into the imagination.

We can customize a workshop to your audience base in which we construct a simple puppet that is appropriate for the age group we are working with and show basic manipulation techniques. Each participant gets to take their hand made puppet home.

We require an outlet, worktables and chairs, scissors, markers, pencils. We will need assistants for groups larger than 10 children.



Marketing



Our pre-K class was absolutely beside themselves! I loved watching the childrens' outbursts of laughter at the hilarity of certain scenes, and their rapt and earnest attention to the story as it unfolded. They clearly loved the show, as did the teachers. This performance was one of the best things I've seen at TGS in all my [many] years teaching. Such a joy!"

-Kan Brautigam, Preschool Teacher, The Grammar School

High Resolution Photos

Video Promo

Consider further engaging your audiences through:

- Encouraging an intergenerational experience by hosting a grandparent/grandchild event
- Promote this show for a birthday party
- Partner with a knitting/crocheting club
- Ask us about touch tours and social stories to help audiences with sensory challenges and sensitivity transition into the magical space of the theater