



Kidology REPORT

PUPPET MINISTRY: THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE?

IF THE PUPPET FITS, YOU MUST ACQUIT

Puppet Trivia Quiz:

Which of the following famous puppets was performed by Master Muppeteer Frank Oz:

- ◆ Miss Piggy (Muppets)
- ◆ Fozzie Bear (Muppets)
- ◆ Sam the Eagle (Muppets)
- ◆ Grover (Sesame Street)
- ◆ Cookie Monster (Sesame Street)
- ◆ Bert (Sesame Street)
- ◆ Yoda (Star Wars Saga)

Yup, all of them!

Stickin' to the Script!

There are several ways to perform a puppet show script:

- ◆ Memorize your lines!
- ◆ Read from scripts posted behind the stage
- ◆ Play a pre-recorded presentation and lip sync
- ◆ Make it up as you go with a general idea of the plot!

Find **FREE** puppet scripts at www.puppetresources.com

More on Kidology.org

- ◆ Listen to Karl Bastian's interview with Todd Liebenow, President of One Way Street Productions
- ◆ Search for Puppet Scripts in the Puppet Zone
- ◆ Shop for Puppets in our online store

In an era of exploding technology one might be tempted to think that something that doesn't plug into an outlet is out of date or obsolete. In many cases, that may be true - but if one assumes that puppets are one of the tools of the past that should be left behind, they would be greatly mistaken. The reality is that kids and adults still respond better to puppets than to almost any other creative teaching method. It may also surprise you that many advances in technology can often be employed creatively to make puppet ministry even more engaging and entertaining. From a strolling stage with a built in sound system, to a human sized puppet costume with a wireless mic and built in cooling fan, to black light puppetry, technology and puppets go hand in hand. It is also important to point out that in an age where more and more is done with video, kids are less and less impressed. But creatively present something real and tangible that they can see in real life, and they are suddenly engaged better than any video can do.



IF ANYTHING IS "OUT" IT IS DOING PUPPETS POORLY



These teens know where the excitement is!

Perhaps we've all suffered through a puppet show done badly, but don't shoot the messenger! A puppet in the right hands can hold the attention of even a large audience. There is a reason secular entertainers like Jeff Dunham appear on late night television and to packed out theaters. Late Night host Conan O'Brien often uses a puppet to do interviews resulting in side-splitting humor. While the secular use of puppets can leave us cringing on the language and content, the reality is that puppets communicate and open people up in ways a human never can. Don't forget, the Muppet Show was an adult program often with adult themes from entertainment and politics. But it is not just entertainers and advertisers that recognize the effectiveness of puppets, Christians have been using this tool for years in Christian education and evangelism with dramatic results. In fact, it is Christian puppet companies that are generating the most creative advances in puppet manufacturing and promotion of this effective means of communication. Not only are puppets a powerful tool for creative and entertaining communication, but they provide many social benefits as well. Many churches find that starting a puppet ministry provides a wonderful outlet for young people and adults to work on a team with a fun but significant purpose. As they work and rehearse together they learn more than just how to perform fantastic puppet shows, they learn valuable life lessons in teamwork and in the value of serving.

PUPPET MINISTRY IS ALIVE AND WELL!



You'll go nuts over all the creative resources available!

Aside from the totes loaded with puppets in churches across America and in the suitcases of missionaries, one of the greatest evidences of the current strength and popularity of puppets in ministry can be found each summer at the I-FEST Conference hosted by One Way Street. This past summer I had the opportunity to attend the 12th annual International Festival of Christian Puppetry and Ventriloquism and was blown away by what I

saw! Over 800 people came to this conference from all over the country, and over 50 traveled from places as far away as South Africa and Sri Lanka (among others) to come and be equipped in the fine art of puppet ministry. This six day conference was packed with workshops and performances for everyone from beginners to seasoned professionals. It was encouraging to see groups of young people excited about ministry and eager to learn new skills. The wide variety of workshops covered many topics broader than just puppets and ventriloquism. There was literally something for everyone. My favorite is always the exhibit hall where I love to see all the new innovative resources such as the door jam stage from Dyno-Might Ministries.

INTRODUCE PUPPETS INTO YOUR MINISTRY!

Some historians claim that puppets pre-date actors in theater and ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs depict puppets being used to teach. Puppets have a strong future! The bottom line: when done well, puppets are an incredibly effective tool for teaching. The best way to introduce puppets into your ministry, is to simply start using one yourself. As others enjoy it, they will want to get involved. Soon, you may have a puppet team as dedicated as most sports teams - with one advantage - they win every time they go out! Be sure to check out the many Puppet Training Events hosted by One Way Street around the country each year. You and your team will have a great time being trained, challenged,



Many churches brought a team of youth complete with a team name and matching shirts.

and inspired as you experience the powerful potential that puppets have to teach children and train them to serve Christ in ministry. When I meet grown kids from my past ministries one of the first things they always ask me is how "Gus" and "Molly", my two main puppets, are doing. They still haven't outgrown them! The proof is in - puppets work! And they make great volunteers - because they are always there and willing to serve!



At I-FEST you'll see great performers like Dennis Lee from Nana Puddin' Productions. (nanapuddin.com)

- Karl Bastian, the Kidologist

PUPPET COMPANIES

Kidology Recommends the following puppet companies:

One Way Street

www.onewaystreet.com
800-569-4537

Puppet Productions

www.puppetproductions.com
800-854-2151

Amaze Healing Wings

www.amazehealingwings.com
760-245-4331

Axtell Expressions

www.axtell.com
805-642-7282

Son Shine Puppet Co.

www.sonshinepuppetco.com

Arms-Length Productions

www.armslength.com

Christian Creative Arts Store

www.creativeartstore.com

The Dummy Works

www.dummyworks.com

Dyno-Might Ministries, Inc.

www.dyno-might.org

Out of the Box Puppets

409-789-4989



Kidology is a non-profit organization dedicated to equipping and encouraging those who minister to children. Through our website, conferences, and resources we are here to serve you. Join our online community and find the help and encouragement you need!



FUN EFFECTIVE PUPPET TRAINING



ONEWAYSTREET.COM

