

Felicia Cooper

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References

REFERENCES

Dr. John Bell

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Emily Wicks

emily.wicks@uconn.edu

Phil Winters

pwinters@pointpark.edu

Education and Apprenticeships

University of Connecticut, MFA, 2023
AchesonWalsh Studios, apprentice, 2019
Bread and Puppet Theater, apprentice, 2015
Point Park University, BA, 2014

Residencies

Open Eye Theater, Puppet Lab
December 2023-April 2024
Work in Progress

Minneapolis Center for Performing Arts, Resident Artists, Cooper, Melvin & Young
July 2023-September 2023
Kallie Melvin, Alex Young, and I collaborated on a guided performance installation involving several scaled iterations of a dollhouse entitled *Lucid Dream House*.

Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, Resident Artist
March 2023-June 2023

This was a site-specific performance and community parade in the context of recent ecological restoration, in partnership with local ecologists.

Bell Museum, Resident Artist Research Project
October 2022-January 2023

Conducted rigorous ecological research with local malacologists to create performances surrounding native mussels

Winterthur Museum and Gardens, Maker Creator Fellowship
May 2021

Using Winterthur's extensive archives, I researched, designed, fabricated and performed a toy theater show based on the work of female illustrators at the turn of the century. In turn, I gave a talk on the ephemeral relationship of the amateur women artist of the early 20th century.

Redwing Blackbird Puppet Festival, Resident Artist Cohort
July 2020

During an online residency in cohort with other artists, I explored movement and body as landscape in a shadow puppet and movement piece based on 15th century timepieces and the work of William Benjamin.

New Hazlett Theater, Community Supported Artist
August 2018-November 2018

Supported by the Heinz Small Arts Endowment, I created a full-length children's puppet show called *Porto Domi* in collaboration with Action Housing's residents about the concept of home.

folkLAB, Inaugural Resident Artist
May 2018-July 2018

Using repurposed materials, this was *The Ironweed Tales*, an evening-length performance using tabletop puppetry to illustrate the history of the Appalachian women who fought mountaintop removal in West Virginia.

Awards

Connecticut Sea Grant, 2021
Frank Ballard Memorial Scholarship, 2020
Marks Family Endowment Grant, 2020
Connecticut Arts Council Artists Respond Grant, 2020
Heinz Small Arts Endowments, 2018
Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant (MAKEshop outreach projects with the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh) 2016-2018
Project Stream Grant, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, 2016, 2018

Performances and Installations

The Temporary Museum of Significant Objects / National Humanities Center

April 2024 - In the Heart of the Beast Theater, Minneapolis, MN

Using items collected from members of the community, this pop-up museum will examine our relationship to things by first displaying the assembled items for contemplation, then incorporating them into an original puppet show and object performance set to live music.

Belly of the Beast / Lamama Theater Experimental Puppet Festival

November 2024 - Lamama Experimental Theater, New York City

This was a devised immersive performance using traditional hand puppetry and audience participation.

The Official Bureau of Lost Things / Northern Spark Festival/ Cooper Melvin & Young

June 2022- Springboard Arts, St Paul, MN

Collaborated with Kallie Melvin and Alex Young to create a large-scale interactive installation involving a ten-foot-tall Rube Goldberg Machine and 30-foot tall shadow puppet projection for an all-night festival with over 4,000 visitors.

Talks, Visits, and Workshops

Point Park University- Guest Artist

March 2023, March 2024

I organized, taught, and facilitated classes in puppetry for twenty undergraduate students, culminating in a brief site-specific performance. I will repeat a similar workshop in the spring of 2024.

International Puppet Theater Festival-Panelist

January 2023

I spoke on an emerging artist panel, discussing my work in the historical context of mobile puppet shows.

UConn Women's Center-Panelist

January 2021

I spoke on a panel about arts and activism, using puppetry and parade as a tool for disruption.

Puppeteers of America Festival-Panelist

July 2019

I presented a paper on the parallels between AI, technology, and analogue puppetry.
