

The Great Arizona Puppet Theater presents . . .



# Little Red Riding Hood



## Who We Are

The Great Arizona Puppet Theater makes its home in Phoenix, Arizona. During the 2007-2008 season the theater will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of bringing professional Puppet Theater to schools and families all around Arizona. All our shows are written and directed by our Artistic Director, Nancy Smith, while all the puppets are designed by Ken Bonar. Together Nancy and Ken founded the theater in 1983 and have been working very hard over the years to create a repertoire of over fifty shows. Nancy and Ken still perform a lot of the shows in addition to company puppeteers Lisa Haslbauer and Gwen Bonar.

## The Characters

Little Red	Mother
Grandma	Woodsman
Wolf	

## The Show

"Little Red Riding Hood" lives with her mother in the forest. They receive word that Grandma is not feeling well, so Little Red's mother sends her off to Grandmother's house with a goodie basket to cheer her up. As Little Red leaves, her mother warns her to "Stay on the path," and "don't talk to strangers." Next we meet the Wolf, who is hungry and ready to find a meal. When Little Red begins her journey she is warned again by the Woodsman that the forest can be a dangerous place and she should not talk to anyone she doesn't know. On her way into the forest Little Red is distracted by some flowers, and strays from the path. She meets up with the Wolf who charms her into telling him where she is going and how to get there. The Wolf leaves Little Red and cuts ahead to get to Grandmother's house first. Once there, he hides Grandma under the bed, while he dresses up in her clothes and prepares for Little Red's arrival. When Little Red sees her "Grandmother" she is amazed at how much Grandma has changed. "Grandmother, what big eyes you have," says Little Red. "All the better to see you with," replies the Wolf. Finally Little Red realizes that the person in bed is NOT Grandma and finally uses her clever wit to capture the Wolf in the closet. She saves Grandma in time for the Woodsman to take the bad Wolf back to the forest where he belongs.

## The Puppets

The puppets in "Little Red Riding Hood" are rod puppets. They are made from wood that has been carved to be the body parts or "skeleton" of the puppet. The bodies were then covered with liquid plastic and Celastic to seal, shape, and protect the carvings. Once the pieces were dry and sanded, the puppets were assembled and painted or covered with fake fur. Their clothes were custom made for their bodies and are similar in construction to doll clothes. Finally, their mouths are operated by a spring and string mechanism that is moved by a trigger on the rod the puppeteer holds.

## **Arizona Arts Standards**

The following activities for before and after the show correspond with the related Arts Standards. Use each activity to help your students explore our show while exploring all the standards.

A1) Creating Art

A2) Art in Context

A3) Arts as Inquiry

### **Activities for Before the Show**

Discuss with students if they have heard the story of "Little Red Riding Hood?" What are some of the different endings? How might they end the story? (A3)

Have students discuss other puppet shows they have gone to or seen on television and in the movies. What did the puppets look like? How did they move? (A3)

Ask students to talk about theater audience behavior. Discuss the difference between behavior in a live theater vs. behavior at home watching television or out at a movie theater. Why must our behavior be different when the show is "live?" (A2)

### **Activities for After the Show**

Have students draw pictures of the puppet show. Have them share their pictures with the class describing the scene they have drawn and the characters in it. (A3)

Students can discuss what they thought about the performance. Which parts of the show did they like? Which parts did they not like? (A3)

Students can discuss what they think it would be like to be a puppeteer. Is this a job they would enjoy? What do they think are important things that a puppeteer can do?

Students can retell the story of "Little Red Riding Hood" by making simple hand puppets from small paper bags. Have students come up with ideas of how to make the different costumes for their characters from materials found at home or in the classroom. They can divide up into small groups and retell this classic fairytale. Allow the students to come up with a different ending for the show. (A1)

Students can send their pictures and letters to the Great Arizona Puppet Theater. We love to hear from our fans!

**Great Arizona Puppet Theater**  
**302 West Latham St.**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85003**

