overview.
Due to COVID-19, the 2020 O’Neill Summer Season will take place entirely online. Our 56th season — and the National Puppetry Conference’s 30th season — will contain no public performances or events on our Waterford, CT campus. For the safety of our staff, artists, students, and audiences we feel this is the best course of action for our community. We grieve for moments of connection and community that will be lost by not being together this summer but are inspired by the innovation taking place as we move online together.

Included in your tuition fee: classes within your chosen strand, a daily movement warm-up, access to five master classes, chats with Judy & Jim Rose, as well as the opportunity to view and participate in Puppets in the Pub presented by Blue Gene’s Pub.

daily schedule.
The National Puppetry Conference has always thrived with a rigorous and varied schedule, and we hope to emulate that structure in this reimagined Conference. Below is an example of a potential daily schedule, all strand sessions, mentor check-ins, master classes, and pub events will take place on Zoom between 11am - 10pm EST. Zoom links and further class information will be communicated to you in advance of the Conference.

Note: All times listed below are in Eastern Standard Time:
11am-12pm - Movement Warm-Up
12pm-1pm - Strand Class Session #1
1pm-2pm - Lunch (on own)
2pm-3pm - Master Class
3pm-4pm - Strand Class Session #2
4pm-5pm - Optional Tea Time Conversation with Jim & Judy Rose
5pm-6pm - Strand Class Session #3
6pm-7pm - Dinner (on own)
7pm-9pm - Strand Class Session #4
9pm-10pm - Puppets in the Pub presented by Blue Gene’s Pub
Cyber Shadow Puppets  
with Jim “Nappy” Napolitano
Participants will create a professional-grade table top shadow puppet screen, and one or more vignettes to perform on said screen. As well as the knowledge and understanding of the materials, tools, and techniques that will allow them to continue a journey and exploration of shadow theater and its performance. Shadow puppetry is the most economical (in terms of space, time and cost), most cinematic and the most culturally pervasive form of the puppet arts. It is as simple as you can let it be and as challenging as you would like it to be.

Note: A material fee of $150, which is inclusive of all materials and shipping within the United States, is required to cover the cost of construction and the shipping of a shadow screen to all participants. If participants reside outside of the United States, additional shipping fees may be incurred.

Making Political Puppet Art  
“From Isolation to the World: We are not alone or are we?”
with Edwin Salas
This workshop explores the use of direct manipulation puppets through political art. Participants will be able to explore the mechanics of puppet movement, as well as the relationship between its manipulator and the puppet — which allows them to better understand the relationship between the performer and the object. By the end of the week, participants will devise their own segments of theater or dance that will be scored with movement. Participants will receive a building tutorial, personal mentorship, and create a video of their performance to share.

Marionette Construction  
with Jim Rose and Kurt Hunter
The workshop offers a thorough examination of marionette design, layout, and construction methods for the creation of a new marionette. Participants will have the opportunity to build a complete marionette from a precut kit created by Jim Rose. Live online demonstrations, guidance and responses to individual questions will be handled by Kurt Hunter.

Note: A material fee of $100, which is inclusive of all materials and shipping within the United States, is required to cover the cost of construction and the shipping of a shadow screen to all participants. If participants reside outside of the United States, additional shipping fees may occur.
**Writing for Puppets and People**  
*with Tim McKeon*

This workshop will focus on writing group scenes featuring puppets or a mix of puppets and human performers. Participants will be given writing prompts that they will then develop into an original short play. At the end of the workshop, professional actors will join the class via video conference so writers can see their work “on its feet.” Throughout the workshop, we will examine select short plays and clips from puppet shows and discuss what makes a scene successful (or not). Tim will also discuss writing and producing for television, including basics like character, dialogue and story structure, plus how to survive and thrive in a writers’ room. Finally, participants will have the opportunity for one-on-one feedback on a project they’re developing outside of class.

**The Language of Material and Objects: Movement and Experimental Puppetry**  
*with Alice Gottschalk*

Participants will have the possibility to discover the movement and stories of different materials and objects. Participants will gain tools to animate persuasively in both direct and indirect ways, serving as a basis for all kinds of puppet animation, manipulation and storytelling. The workshop will include movement description videos, live chats and times to work independently on tasks and then share the results via video.

Participants will be asked to bring curiosity, joy of movement, different materials, objects—a more specific list will follow—and the possibility to record their discoveries and share them with others.

**Participant Projects: The Solo Show Challenge**

A new strand that builds upon the beloved Participant Project process, *The Solo Show Challenge* has been created to support artists as they devise original puppet works. With the support of experienced mentors, participants will work on the development and performance of a pre-existing or brand-new piece of puppet theatre. Projects developed through this intensive process have gone on to become nationally-recognized full-length shows, cabaret acts, pitches for television, classroom performances, and everything in-between. Participants are encouraged to Risk. Fail. Risk Again. In this supportive environment.
master classes.

In celebration of the 30th Conference, we will be offering our 5-part master class series with renowned world class puppetry artists. These exclusive workshops are offered to all Conference participants. Passes for these conversations are open to the general public for $125 and will go on-sale by June 1. Each conversation will take place on Zoom from 2:00 - 3:00pm EST.

- **Monday, June 8 - Ronnie Burkett (Canada)**
  A master class/coffeeklatch/kiki with Ronnie to discuss and dissect the mysteries and marvels of design for the puppet theatre, which is truly the most wonderful, but oft neglected, design playground in all the arts.

- **Tuesday, June 9 - Creativity and Compassion with Yael Rasooly (Israel)**
  In an open conversation, Yael will offer a glimpse into the new creation in her performance trilogy, that speaks out on violence against women and children. An ongoing journey that began 15 years ago, walking the tightrope between the personal and political, fear and conviction, and why the medium of puppetry/object/visual theater/... is the answer. And of course, how we can support ourselves best and with utmost compassion in these times.

- **Wednesday, June 10 - Mech Talk with Jim Kroupa (USA)**
  When to use them. How to build them. And Jim’s approach to figuring them out! This conversation will examine Jim’s approach to mechanical heaven! Featuring special puppet guests from The Howdy Do Show, Part Duh!

- **Thursday, June 11 - The ABC’s with Bernd Ogrodnik (Iceland)**
  *The ABC’s for the Successful Puppeteer* is a crash course in cultivating a strong foundation for a challenging but fulfilling life as a puppeteer. Bernd will review his track record of about 8000 life performances, and his puppet/mask creations that have been featured on stages, television, film and in museums around the world. Join him for an hour of intensive and intimate sharing of his personal philosophy in becoming the best you can be.

- **Friday, June 12 - Fabrizio Montecchi (Italy)**
  Fabrizio Montecchi of the Teatro Gioco Vita, tells us about his personal journey in search of the profound meaning of his shadow theatre, a journey that leads him to discover the link between his idea of contemporary shadow theatre and the great traditions of the past.
all-conference events.

Movement warm-ups

with Alice Gottschalk (Germany)

Join Alice each morning as she leads you through exercises designed to awaken and prepare your body and mind for an active day of art making.

Tea Time Conversation

with Jim & Judy Rose

A popular daily conference event goes digital! Your optional opportunity to take a break, enjoy a cup of tea and share conversations about anything and everything.

Puppets in the Pub presented by Blue Gene’s Pub

hosted by Tyler Bunch and Jonathan Little

_Puppets in the Pub presented by Blue Gene’s Pub_ will occur online each night from 9-10pm EST. Additional information about how to join these online evenings for free will be shared with conference participants and alumni by June 1.