

The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey
CLASSICS FOR KIDS!



THE DRAGON KING

A Tanglewood Marionettes Production

About *The Dragon King*

A terrible drought has overtaken the land, and all the world has turned brown and lifeless. The Dragon King is ruler of the waters, and the people are beginning to wonder why he has not brought the precious rains in such a very long time. An underwater fantasy based on Chinese folklore, Tanglewood Marionettes' latest production tells the tale of a wise Grandmother who journeys to the bottom of the sea to seek the Dragon King, and the answers to why he has forsaken the land above. With colorful sea creatures, an exciting adventure, and all the visual splendor that audiences have come to expect from a Tanglewood Marionettes production, *The Dragon King* is a heart-warming tale that will thrill young and old alike.

About the Tanglewood Marionettes



Founded in 1993 by Anne Ware and Peter Schaefer, Tanglewood Marionettes is a nationally touring marionette theater based in New England. Our repertoire consists primarily of classic tales performed by skilled puppeteers who have spent many years perfecting their art. We specialize in school assembly programs and have toured throughout the United States.

In 1997, 2001 and again in 2009, Tanglewood Marionettes was a featured performer at the Puppeteers of America National Festivals held in Toledo, Tampa, and Atlanta, respectively. In 2008, our newest production, *The Dragon King*, was featured at the Puppeteers of America Southeast Regional Festival. We are also the recipients of two Citations for Excellence in the Art of Puppetry, awarded each year by UNIMA-USA (The American Center of the Union International de la Marionette).

Puppeteers

Peter Schaefer - Peter Schaefer was born into a family of puppeteers, and has been performing with hand puppets, rod puppets, and marionettes since he was knee-high. After refining his skills with a local puppet company, Peter purchased a marionette show from a retiring Boston puppeteer and launched his own company. After touring nationally for two years with National School Assemblies, Peter decided to join forces with a fellow puppeteer and Tanglewood Marionettes was born. Over his professional career, Peter has brought his unique marionette artistry to hundreds of thousands of children and families throughout the United States.

Jennifer Hofmeister - Jennifer Hofmeister discovered her love of puppetry while pursuing a degree in Theater and Classical Studies at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. She began with a focus on Acting but quickly discovered an interest in technical theater, including lighting, costume, and especially scenic design. It was Jenn's Scenic Design Professor, Miguel Romero, who cast her in her first puppet show, and who put her in contact with Anne and Peter Schaefer of the Tanglewood Marionettes. In addition to the marionette, Jenn has experience in hand, rod, and shadow puppetry as well as bunraku, a traditional Japanese puppetry. She has been touring with Tanglewood Marionettes since her graduation in 2004 and plans to spend a lifetime in puppetry.

Anne Schaefer - If you had asked Anne Schaefer when she was young what she wanted to be when she grew up, "puppeteer" would never have entered her mind! Now, however, she will tell you she can't imagine being anything else. After studying art and philosophy in college, Anne took a summer job with The Bennington Puppets of Bennington, VT. The summer job turned into five years of intensive puppetry during which Anne immersed herself in the many facets of puppet theater. In 1993, Anne joined with Peter Schaefer in forming Tanglewood Marionettes.

Stephen Hancock - Stephen Hancock had been a professional puppeteer since 1984. His first foray into puppetry was at Lycoming College through the theater program. Enchanted, Stephen created his own Punch & Judy show which premiered at the Maryland theme park Lord Baltimore's World. From 1985 through 1991, Stephen toured with The Bennington Puppets, a marionette troupe based in Bennington, VT. At Bennington, Stephen was responsible for performing, scenic design, road managing, show maintenance and new show development. Stephen joined Tanglewood Marionettes in 1993, and created many beautiful sets and puppets for the company which are still delighting audiences today. Stephen passed away in 2013.

Up next from
CLASSICS FOR KIDS!
THE SNOW QUEEN

By Hans Christian Andersen
December 16 at 11:00 AM



This classic is one of Andersen's most acclaimed fairy tales. It is the story of two best friends, Gerda and Kai, who grow apart when their world is overcome by dark forces. When Kai falls under the influence of the evil Snow Queen and leaves their small village, Gerda sets out to reunite with her friend. Along the way, she meets curious new friends who help her brave the cold, find Kai, and cure his frozen heart.



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