



# The Puppets & Players Little Theatre



Laurie Branham is the owner and director of the Puppets & Players Little Theater. She has been a professional puppeteer with her traveling marionette theater for over 30 years, performing at various events such as fair, festivals, theme parks, zoos and more, delighting audiences worldwide.

Laurie is passionate about a child's creative state of mind. She believes if children are encouraged to use their imagination at a young age, it will help them succeed with any endeavor they wish to take on throughout their intier life. Through the art of puppetry, she has seen firsthand the moment a child enters that state of curiosity and wonderment.

Laurie's father was a professional artist. As she grew up surrounded by his creativity, the natural flow of artistic development where nurtured at a very young age. This has made a powerful influence in all of her artistic endeavors thought her life.

Laurie was a student at the Instituto Allende of Fine Arts in Mexico and a graduate at the Drama Studio of London where she was awarded "Best Performance of the Year." In 1994 The Puppets & Players Little Theatre was selected to be on the roster of Arts Teach Educational Programing at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Orange County. The Arts Teach program has helped bring The Puppets & Players Little Theatre and their shows, demonstrations of "Puppets From Around The World" and the "Puppetry Making Workshop" to hundreds of schools, reaching thousands of children throughout California.

*"There are those precious memories we all have as a child, those wonderful images that last forever. My favorite childhood memory was when a traveling marionette company came to my elementary school. It was a cold Chicago winter. All the children where bustled into the gymnasium, sitting with excited anticipation for the show to begin.*

*As soon as the curtains opened, I was gone!*

*Behind those curtains was an endless world of fantasy... and those are the memories I wish to recreate for the children of today,"*

*Laurie Branham*

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