

## Hobey Ford's Golden Rod Puppets

### **#1 Virtual/Online Performance Title: ANIMALIA**

**Conditions:** School/Venue must organize and administer event; Call to discuss further details

**Format:**

- Call to discuss platforms
- Pre-recorded concert with live text chat while concert airs
- Pre-recorded concert only
- Live online programs available
- **Live online or Pre-recorded Q&A event accompanies every virtual program**

**Description:**

**For K-6<sup>th</sup> Grades and Family Audiences**

Hobey Ford's ANIMALIA explores the magical world of animals and features Hobey's original "foamies" puppets carved from large blocks of foam with intricate mechanical design that gives each puppet realistic movements. Hobey breaks out of the traditional puppet theater booth turning the whole theater into his performance stage. ANIMALIA introduces the audience to metamorphosis; a butterfly and a tadpole, various ecological systems and endangered animals.

**Arts-in-Education Curriculum Tie-Ins:** Storytelling, Theater, Visual Arts, Science.

### **#2 Virtual/Online Performance Title: WORLD TALES**

**Conditions:** School/Venue must organize and administer event; Call to discuss further details

**Format:**

- Call to discuss platforms
- Pre-recorded concert with live text chat while concert airs
- Pre-recorded concert only
- Live online programs available
- **Live online or Pre-recorded Q&A event accompanies every virtual program**

**Description:**

**For K-6<sup>th</sup> Grades and Family Audiences**

Award winning puppeteer Hobey Ford spins a web of tales with three classic bug stories from around the world. Hobey brings the Caldecott award winning art of Gail Haley to life with a two dimensional rod puppet rendition of Gail's West African Anansi tale "A Story, A Story". Follow the trickster Anansi the Spider Man as he wins "the golden box of stories", the source of all storytelling. Next, travel to ancient Greece for a hilarious up-to-date retelling of Aesop's "The Ant and the Grasshopper" told through colorful three dimensional

rod puppets. Closer to home, enter the Cherokee world of folklore with a thoughtful, yet humorous cautionary tale of fire called “Little Grandmother Spiderwoman”, told with adapted Japanese Bunraku puppetry, where Hobey works in full view of the audience. Hobey Ford combines fine storytelling with his masterfully crafted puppets.

**Arts-in-Education Curriculum Tie-Ins:** Multicultural contributions to literature (folk tales) and the visual arts; Arts Integration areas of Literary Arts, Storytelling, Theater, Visual Arts, Science.

### **#3 Virtual/Online Performance Title:** THE RAINBOW BRIDGE AND OTHER TALES

**Conditions:** School/Venue must organize and administer event; Call to discuss further details

**Format:**

- Call to discuss platforms
- Pre-recorded concert with live text chat while concert airs
- Pre-recorded concert only
- Live online programs available
- **Live online or Pre-recorded Q&A event accompanies every virtual program**

**Description:**

**For K-6<sup>th</sup> Grades and Family Audiences**

This shadow puppetry production brings to life three folktales through Ford’s unique presentational style combining stunning puppetry, storytelling and topical educational themes. The stories include “The Rainbow Bridge”, “El Coqui” and “The Three Billy Goats Gruff”, with a finale of his Peepers Puppet, which turn the bare hand into a myriad of creatures and his famous beautifully carved foam animal creatures which he calls the Foamies.

**Arts-in-Education Curriculum Tie-Ins:** Storytelling, Visual Arts, Theater, Literary Arts, Folktales

### **#4 Virtual/Online Performance Title:** SEA SONG

**Conditions:** School/Venue must organize and administer event; Call to discuss further details

**Format:**

- Call to discuss platforms
- Pre-recorded concert with live text chat while concert airs
- Pre-recorded concert only
- Live online programs available
- **Live online or Pre-recorded Q&A event accompanies every virtual program**

**Description:**

### **For K-6<sup>th</sup> Grades and Family Audiences**

**SEA SONG** is the story of a boy discovering nature for the first time through a fascination with the life cycle of the sea turtle. When a city boy comes to spend his summer at the coast, he is suddenly cut off from his digital world and turns his attention to the natural world of a remote coastal beach. Hobey tells the story without words, performing his own hand crafted foam puppets in full view to the enchanting hang drum music of David Kuckhermann. Following in the style of his classic non-verbal production of “Animalia,” **SEA SONG** will inspire and delight the audience with the story of the animals that live in the environment where the land meets the sea, where sea turtles, herons, gulls and terns all come to life in the hands of master puppeteer Hobey Ford.

**Arts-in-Education Curriculum Tie-Ins:** Storytelling, Theater, Visual Arts, Science, Nature Study

### **#5 Virtual/Online Workshop Title: STUDENT PUPPETRY WORKSHOP**

**Conditions:** School/Venue must organize and administer event; Call to discuss further details

**Format:**

- Call to discuss platforms
- Pre-recorded workshop with live text chat while concert airs for the first time
- Pre-recorded concert only
- Live online workshops available
- **Live online or Pre-recorded Q&A event accompanies every virtual program**

**Description:**

### **For 3<sup>rd</sup>-6th Grades and Family/Community Audiences**

Mr. Ford combines storytelling with shadow puppetry and brings a variety of cultures to life in the classroom through favorite stories. During this workshop, Hobey will demonstrate shadow puppetry and discuss it’s historical origins and teach students to make a simple “rod” puppet, basically a character’s body on one or more sticks. He will also give students tips for creating a simple show to perform on their own. Participantys will also become familiar with tales from several different cultures. A materials list is provided pre-workshop.

### **#6 Additional Virtual/Online Workshops**

- TELLING FOLKTALES WITH SHADOW PUPPETRY  
**For teachers, college students, puppeteers**
- CONSTRUCTING MINIATURE CARVED FOAM PUPPETS  
**For audiences of all ages**

**Format:**

- Call to discuss platforms
- Live online
- Accompanied by materials list

