



Jane Courant, Vice President  
Asian Branch  
Oakland Public Library  
Oakland, CA 94607  
[jcourant@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:jcourant@oaklandlibrary.org)  
work (510) 238-3400  
home (510) 763-5674

## PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jane Courant

DATE: January 18, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Association of Children's Librarians of Northern California (ACL) announces its annual Institute: **Set the Stage for Reading: Theater and Puppetry in the Library, to be held Thursday, April 14, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd., San Leandro, California.**

Scheduled to perform or lead interactive workshops are:

**Janet Keller**, award-winning Bay area actress, communications trainer and professional coach, is a member of Actors' Equity. She teaches communications classes derived from her theater training and experience for both UC Extension and the Small Business Administration, and has trained or coached numerous educators and professionals in a variety of fields and industries. Her opening session will introduce Institute participants to vocal and physical warm-up techniques intended to free the voice, body and spirit, inspire the imagination, increase energy and explore vocal variety. Her opening morning workshop is sure to be a delightful, refreshing experience.

**Willy Clafin**, the Bay area's nationally acclaimed puppeteer, storyteller, and songwriter will then lead warmed up participants in an easy-to-follow puppet workshop in which you will learn to create your own original puppet character, to lip-synch with your puppet's mouth (or beak) and to find its voice. ***Please bring your favorite hand puppet to use during the workshop***, or you can buy one of the Folkmanis® puppets that will be on sale from Linden Tree throughout the day. In addition, local puppeteer Pam Brown will teach participants to make an instant paper-puppet mouth just prior to Willy's session, and as a special treat, Folkmanis® will raffle off several of their popular hand puppets.

Willy's tapes and CDs, including *The Wolf Under the Bed* (1996), which was honored by ALA as a Notable Children's Recording, and *The Uglified Ducky*, which received the Parents' Choice Gold Award in 2002, will be for sale, along with his many other recordings from Linden Tree.

**Oakland Public Theater (OPT)**, a local company devoted to producing theater reflecting the diversity of our community will debut "The Open Road," the latest chapter in their ongoing "ReStorying" project of Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*. This series of verbatim, word-for-word style performances has been enjoyed by children throughout the Bay area in libraries, schools, recreation centers and at Mills College, where the company was in residence. After the performance, Artistic Director Norman Gee, (also

a veteran actor with San Francisco's Word-For-Word Company), will introduce participants to the process of staging prose text.

**Gracie Woodard**, the branch manager of Oakland Public Library's Golden Gate Branch, and former children's librarian has vast experience in both puppetry and readers theater. In a workshop modeled after one she once presented at CLA, Gracie will coach participants in a performance from a children's readers theater script.

Advanced registration cost is \$50 for members of ACL, \$60 for non-members, and \$25 for students; and \$70 for all categories at the door. The price includes a comprehensive bibliography related to the subject and a boxed lunch. Related books, puppets and recordings will be available for purchase. Note that non-members can save \$10 on an ACL membership by joining now (and receiving 11 issues of *BayViews* per year) with their Institute registration for a total of \$90.

To register in advance, please send checks, made out to "ACL" to Sherrill Kumler, ACL Treasurer, Hayward Public Library, 835 C Street, Hayward, CA 94541.

For more information about the Institute contact: Jane Courant at the Asian Branch, Oakland Public Library: [jcourant@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:jcourant@oaklandlibrary.org) or 510-238-3400.

The **Association of Children's Librarians of Northern California** was founded in the 1930s by a group of public and school librarians. Members meet monthly at the Oakland Public Library to review books for young people and discuss related issues. ACL reviews are published in *BayViews*, a journal of book reviews and opinions with a western perspective, and a list of *Distinguished Books Reviewed* is published annually. The 2004 list will be available for purchase for \$5.00 at the Institute.