

# THE FROG PRINCE

ADAPTED BY KAMALA KRUSZKA

## WHO WE ARE

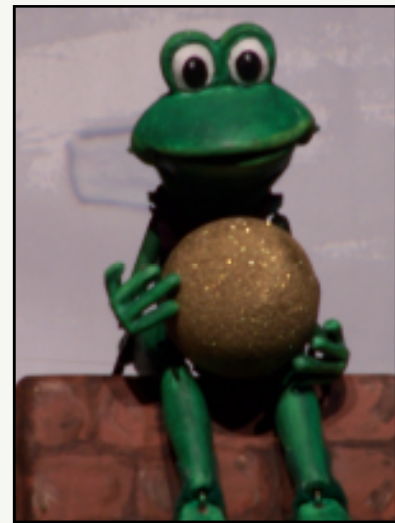
The Great Arizona Puppet Theater makes its home in Phoenix, Arizona. During the 2005-2006 season the theater will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of bringing professional puppet theater to schools and families all around Arizona. All our shows are directed by our Artistic Director, Nancy Smith, while all the puppets are designed by Ken Bonar. Together Nancy and Ken founded the theater in 1983 and have been working very hard over the years to create a repertoire of over fifty shows. This show is performed by resident puppeteers Lisa Haslbauer and Don Kruszka.

## THE CHARACTERS

The Frog Prince, The Princess, The King, Townspeople

## THE STORY

Some fairytales feature the bravery of knights who accomplish great deeds using their muscles over their minds. Our story is about a hero who uses his heart to change the hearts of others. Once there was a prince who was so selfish that he always got his way. He never said please or thank you and would never return kindness to others when it was paid to him. One day while riding through the forest his horse was startled and he fell off and into a pond. When he called for help, an old woman came along who pulled him out. In return for her favor she asked that the prince provide her with a hot meal and a night in a warm bed. The prince agreed to this, but when the woman came to the castle, the prince told her to go away. At that, the woman cursed the prince and he was transformed into a frog. She made it clear that he would stay a frog until he was able to change the heart of one as selfish as he. Time passed and a new king moved into the castle. He was better liked by his people, but he had spoiled his daughter, the princess. One day, while playing in the garden,



the princess bounced her golden ball into the well. When she couldn't get it out herself, the frog arrived and agreed to fetch the ball if the princess would promise that he may be her guest in the palace. She agreed, but when the frog got the ball for her, she ran away. Later when the frog arrived at the palace to visit, the princess wouldn't let him in. Her father insisted that she keep her word and made the frog their guest for the night. But things didn't go well. She wouldn't talk to the frog at dinner, or play any games, or dance or tell stories. Finally, instead of putting the frog up in a nice room, she made him sleep on the floor in the dining room with only a napkin as his blanket. When she left him, the frog began to cry. When the princess heard him she asked why he was crying. He told her that he had seen her playing alone every day and had hoped that they could become friends. The princess is moved by his words, explaining that she has never had a friend, and was sorry she hurt his feelings. To comfort him she gives him a kiss on the head. At that the spell is broken and he is transformed into the prince. They then became good friends and still are to this very day.

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ACTIVITY PAGE

## THE PUPPETS

The puppets in “The Frog Prince” are called rod puppets. The puppets heads, legs and feet are carved out of Styrofoam. The bodies are then covered with paper mache. About three layers are put on each piece and are sanded between coats. After a final sanding, pieces are covered with gesso and then given a final paint job. Once the parts are dry, they are jointed together with wooden dowels, and mounted on the main support rod. The main rod will go up through the middle of the puppet and support the body and the head. Levers can be installed using strings to operate the opening of the puppets mouth or tilting its head. Their clothing and hair are custom made for the puppets.

## THEMES OF THE SHOW

KEEPING YOUR WORD

KINDNESS

SELFISHNESS

FRIENDSHIP

## DISCUSSION STARTERS

What kinds of “kind acts” have people done for you? How did you thank them?

What does it mean to keep your promises?

When should you not make a promise?

What does it mean to be selfish?

How can we learn to be more considerate and kind to one another?

How can we make people feel welcome?

## PUPPETRY /THEATER QUESTIONS

How many puppeteers were there for your show? How many characters were in the show? How do you think the puppeteers played more than one character?

In our show there were Shadow Puppets and Rod Puppets. What kind of skills do you need to move or manipulate each kind of puppet?

What other stories does the tale of “The Frog Prince” remind you of. Are there other stories where people changed on the outside when they also changed on the inside?

If you were to write your own version of “The Frog Prince” how might you end the story? Would you have different characters in your play?

## PUPPET MAKING AND PLAYING

You can make mini-rod puppets with:  
Construction Paper  
Tape, Crayons, Scissors  
Popsicle Sticks

Using the construction paper make the frog, princess and the king. You can make just the heads, or the whole body. Attach each cut out to a popsicle stick.

At the edge of your desk you can act out the story of the frog prince again. If you have an overhead projector, you can place the puppets on the screen and move them about, the same way the shadow puppets moved in the show.