

Bio

Talking Hands Theatre is a Massachusetts-based company committed to entertaining children with puppets by engaging their minds and their imaginations as well as their senses of humor. We perform in schools, libraries, day care centers, parks, theatres, hospitals, and homes throughout New England. Our 5' wide black curtain stage fits easily in any space. We bring all our own sound equipment. The puppets are all handmade rod, hand, and tabletop puppets. All shows include an interactive element.

Past venues include The Springfield Museums, The Springfield Jewish Community Center, The JCC of Greater Boston, The 92nd Street Y, The Jewish Museum, The Brooklyn Children's Museum, The Peter Jay Sharp Children's Glade of Central Park, Goldman Sachs, and over forty branches of the New York Public Library. Visit us on the web at www.talkinghandstheatre.com.

Director Anna Sobel has been a professional puppeteer since 1998. She was employed as a puppeteer for Kids on the Block for three years and Blue Sky Puppet Theatre for two years. In 2003 she was the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship to study puppetry in India as a tool for social change and education. She founded Talking Hands Theatre on her return to New York in 2004. In addition to performing, Sobel worked as a teaching artist in public schools all over New York through Shadowbox Theatre and Brooklyn Arts Council. In 2008 she was honored as the Laura Adasko Lenzner artist in residence at the Bank Street School for Children. After completing her BA at Wesleyan University, she went on to study literacy and early childhood education at Bank Street College and now also holds a master's degree in educational theatre from N.Y.U. After six busy years in the city, she moved her company to Western Massachusetts and is now based in Shutesbury, MA.