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# The Art of Polyfoam Puppetry

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# “The Art of Polyfoam Puppetry”

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Russ Borski and Terry Pieritz

Student Researcher  
Rafeeq Roberts

**INTRODUCTION:** The construction of Polyfoam puppets for theatrical productions is a highly specialized art form and requires a process that is often learned via mentorships and apprenticeships. Limited learning materials and resources presently exist or are publicly available on the techniques for producing these complex and genre specific puppets..

**BACKGROUND:** With more than thirty years of theater experience, Russ Borski and Terry Pieritz have often produced stage shows involving puppetry. Specifically, working as the creative leads of Cain Park’s production of Avenue Q, resulted in a wealth of experience and expertise in the construction of polyfoam puppets...an expertise the two wished to share with others.



**PROCESS:** This project investigated and visually documented the creative process and craftsmanship in the creation of polyfoam puppets. Working collaboratively with an undergraduate student of film and digital media, theatre Faculty Designers created an instructional video presentation of the step by step stages of polyfoam puppetry construction.

**CONCLUSION:** Collaboration between faculty designers and student researcher afforded an efficiency of process which streamlined the final product. The resulting video documents in sequential chapters, the creative process to use as a resource for theatre professionals, artisans, educators, and as a virtual learning tool for students

