JORDIE MARIE RIPPON

THEATER MANAGER/PUPPET DESIGN & BUILDER

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Artist Statement Let's Change the World one Puppet at a Time

I have always been interested in creating, whether it be on stage or off. I believe you never quite know what direction your life will take, and all your task is to navigate the best you can. My name is Jordie and I grew up in a small town right outside of Scranton, PA. Growing up, it was always encouraged not only to learn but to find the way that we as individuals learn, as no two people learn the same. This became true when I found out I had Dyslexia and ADHD. Being young and getting the news that everything you're learning must be individually adapted is a pretty hard pill to swallow. It was through my mother and I trying different learning methods that I began to learn about the world of management and theatre. A world where I would not only be able to but would be encouraged to use my differences as a tool for my own success.

I always wondered what direction my life might go in. When I was not in class I was studying everything I could get my hands on about management, puppetry and anything theater and love to share that knowledge with anyone that would listen. It was within these moments that I learned my direction, I began to see the world I had just joined during my spare time had its own language and this was my language of manager short hand and visual communication through puppetry, nothing that had to be adapted to fit me I could just fit. This world celebrated creativity as a tool to learn and create and really saw its value as a tool in communicating with others.

When I was younger, I couldn't figure out why I was not understanding things as quickly as my classmates which would then make me no longer want to try. It was when I found these worlds that I began to feel like I had found the place that I belonged. It was from these experience that my passion to create these world for kids who were like me grew from. Puppetry has the power to change perspectives and create a better world, I believe both kids and adults can learn from puppets. I see puppetry as a tool to create change through exploring current events through a medium that everyone can fully take in without any kind of defensiveness regarding the topic or their view on it, but instead can take it in and in turn encourage them to learn and hopefully change their perspective. Life is all about finding your path, a journey full of zigs and zags. One that in the end might just show you that your differences are to be celebrated not hidden away.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

Jordie Marie Rippon