Family Time

The secret life of puppets

Z Puppets Rosenschnoz incorporates mindfulness into shows for children and adults

By DEBRA FISHER GOLDSTEIN

I’ve got a secret to share. I didn’t know that the Twin Cities is renowned for its puppetry prowess, and is a thriving scene for artists and companies working in puppet theater. This is in large part due to Lake Street’s In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre as well as the scores of actors, directors, artists and writers who have trained and performed there — and then spawned creative puppet theaters of their own.

Shari Aronson is one of those talents, who, through the work of Z Puppets Rosenschnoz, has combined her puppetry talents with her more than 10 years of experience as a yoga instructor. The repertoire of Z Puppets Rosenschnoz is vast and its kudos are even bigger — ranging from major artist grants (Minnesota State Arts Board, Ivey Award, Jim Henson Foundation) to exuberant testimonials from teachers, librarians, parents and children.

In addition, Aronson wrote the stage adaptation of Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins that has been a popular holiday staple at the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company.

The Rimon Artist Salon titled “The Secret Life of Puppets: Rekindling the Kid in All of Us” will take place 1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 19 at Open Eye Figure Theatre, 506 E. 24th St., Minneapolis. Salon attendees can get a two-for-one ticket deal at any performance of Monkey Mind Pirates, which will be staged Feb. 18-26, 2012, at In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, 1500 E. Lake St., Minneapolis.

For tickets and information, contact Rimon at 952-381-3449; rimon@sabesjcc.org.