

Muppeteer Bios

Kevin Clash, whose characters include Elmo, Hoots the Owl and Baby Natasha, is *Sesame Street's* Senior Puppet Coordinator and Muppet Captain. He began building puppets at the age of ten and performed on Baltimore's Harbor Front and local television as a teenager. Clash's first television work was for the CBS affiliate in Baltimore. He came to *Sesame Street* after attracting the attention of Muppet designer Kermit Love. Clash's film credits include Jim Henson's 1986 fantasy film, *Labyrinth*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles I and II*, *Muppet Treasure Island*, *Muppets from Space*, and *Elmo in Grouchland*. His television work includes *The Great Space Coaster*, *Captain Kangaroo*, *Dinosaurs* and *Muppets Tonight*. He also was Co-Executive Producer for *Elmopalooza*, *CinderElmo*, and *Elmo's World*; Co-Producer for *The Adventures of Elmo in Grouchland*; and also directs *Sesame Street* episodes and other projects. Most recently Clash directed and co-produced the home video series *Sesame Beginnings* for Sesame Workshop. Clash won Emmy Awards for Outstanding Performer in a Children's Series for his work as Elmo and Hoots the Owl in Season 21 and Season 35, and in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 for his work as Co-Executive Producer for Outstanding Pre-School Children's Series.

Bill Barretta is a writer, director and principal Muppet Performer for The Jim Henson Company. His characters include Pepe the King Prawn and Bobo the Bear from *Muppets From Space*. He has also performed Clueless Morgan in *Muppet Treasure Island*; Earl Sinclair in the television series *Dinosaurs*; 26 different animals on two seasons of *Jim Henson's Animal Show with Stinky and Jake*; various characters on *Muppet Classic Theater* and several characters for the *Muppets on Wheels* video series.

Most recently, Barretta performed in Sesame Workshop's home video series *Sesame Beginnings* as Elmo's dad. He performed in *It's A Very Merry Muppet Christmas Movie*, the first ever made-for-television Muppet movie for NBC Studios. He also co-wrote the teleplay and starred as Thunderdell the Giant in the Emmy Award-winning *Jim Henson's Jack and the Beanstalk: The Real Story*, a miniseries for the CBS Television Network. He is currently working with Brian Henson on a script for the next Muppet feature film. In addition, he performed Pepe the King Prawn and directed several national commercial spots for Long John Silver's restaurant chain.

Originally from Yardley, Pennsylvania, Barretta was trained at The Neighborhood Playhouse in New York as an actor and has appeared in the feature films *Murder in the First* and *Born to be Wild*. He currently resides in Los Angeles, California with his wife Cristina.

Fran Brill was the first female Muppet performer hired by Jim Henson for *Sesame Street*. Since joining the show, she has won numerous Emmy awards and created the characters of Zoe, Prairie Dawn, and many others. Her other work with the Muppets includes *The Muppet Show*, *Saturday Night Live*, *The Jim Henson Hour*, *Dog City*, *The Adventures of Elmo in Grouchland*, *CinderElmo*, *Zoe's Dance Moves* and *Play with Me Sesame*. She also performs Kami, an HIV-positive South African puppet, for her appearances in the U.S. As an actress, Fran has appeared off-Broadway at the Roundabout Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club, Playwrights Horizons, Ensemble Studio Theatre and was twice nominated for the Drama Desk Award. She has also played leading roles at many regional theatres including the Long Wharf, Yale Rep., Arena Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville, and the Mark Taper Forum. Her film credits include *Midnight Run*, *City Hall*, *What About Bob?* and *Being There*. She has guest-starred on many night time dramas including *Law and Order*, *Law and Order Criminal Intent*, *Third Watch* and *Against the Law*.

She has also been heard on hundreds of commercials and the cartoon series *Doug* and *Sheep in the Big City*.

Leslie Carrara-Rudolph is a professional entertainer, puppeteer, teacher, and artist who has written, created, and performed several shows and interactive workshops for all age groups throughout the United States. She is currently writing and illustrating children's books and working as a freelance creative consultant and comedy writer. Leslie is currently performing in her latest cabaret "Young at Heart" and working in voice over.

As a puppeteer, Leslie began her career on *Muppets Tonight* and later performed main characters for the Jim Henson Company on *The Wubulous World of Dr. Seuss*, *Animal Jam*, and the soon to be released series *Frances*. She puppeteered the dog, Blue, for Nickelodeon's TV show *Blue's Room* and performs Prairie Dawn's mom for *Sesame Beginnings* produced by Sesame Workshop.

Leslie designed and created an original live interactive musical stage show for the Walt Disney Co. called "The Wahoo Wagon." The show featured herself and an amazing cast of puppeteered supporting characters. The project graced the stage at Hollywood's El Captain Theater Saturday mornings.

A participant in numerous outreach projects, Leslie joyfully volunteers throughout her community. Her degree in Child Development Through the Arts from San Francisco State assists her enormously in designing programs that are educational as well as entertaining.

Matt Vogel has been performing various pigs, chickens and monsters on *Sesame Street* since 1996. He is one of the performers on "Elmo's World" and currently

performs Big Bird in "Journey to Ernie." Matt has performed puppets for Cartoon Network's *Big Bag*, Disney's *Bear in the Big Blue House*, *MATHmatazz*, *Sesame English*, HBO's *OZ*, *The Puzzle Place*, *Between the Lions* and the Columbia Pictures' film *The Adventures of Elmo in Grouchland*. He has a BFA in Theatre and has appeared regionally in productions including *Six Degrees of Separation*, *The Foreigner* and *The Sum of Us*. Matt is also front man for the band, The Mighty Weaklings, and was one of the performers of Audrey II in the Broadway production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. He lives in New York City with his wife, Kelly, and three children, Jack, Hunter and Lyla.

Pam Arciero was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. She is a principal puppeteer with *Sesame Street* and *Between the Lions*, performing numerous characters, most notably Grundgetta Grouch and Leona Lion. She has worked on many adult and children's programs including *Blue's Clues*, *Blue's Room*, *Chappell's Show*, *Allegra's Window*, *The Wubbulous World of Dr. Seuss*, *TVFunhouse*, *Eureka's Castle* and *The Great Space Coaster*. She has performed in many commercials and films, including *Sundance Myths 2004*, [Sundance Film Festival](#), *Extreme Measures*, *Little Monsters* and *Follow That Bird*. As a stage director, she directed *Elmo's World Live*, *Oscar's Big Game Show*, *Gotta Dance*, and *Bird's Beach Party* for Sesame Place, *Play with Me Sesame Live Tour*, and *Disney's Wahoo Wagon* at the El Capitan Theater in Los Angeles. She has also directed *Between the Lions* and *Oobi* for television. She has taught for the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts, California State University, Fresno, Sesame Street International and the University of Connecticut. She is currently developing two new shows for television, *Shady Glen* and *Tutu's Gifts*. She holds an Undergraduate Degree in Drama from the University of Hawaii and a Master's Degree in Puppetry from the University of Connecticut. She is the mother of two boys and resides in Wilton, Connecticut.

Tyler Bunch has been ensconced in the puppet world for about 14 years, helping to bring to life characters in programs like *Bear in the Big Blue House* (Treelo, Pop, and Doc Hogg), *Sesame Street* (Mr. Gameshow), *Between the Lions* (Dr. Nitwhite), *Oobi* (Grampu), and *The Muppet's Wizard of Oz*. As an actor, Tyler has performed in a few Off-Broadway productions and has made appearances on primetime television shows such as *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*.

Rickey Boyd's interest in animation and puppetry began at an early age. At eleven, he and one of his friends produced their own crude TV puppet shows at a local cable access station and experimented with 8mm animated short films.

Most recently he has performed Grandma Cookie Monster for Sesame Workshop's *Sesame Beginnings*, Scooter and Crazy Harry in *Muppet's Wizard of Oz*, and Waffle in *Animal Jam*. Other projects include *Muppets From Space*, *Dinosaurs* the series, *Muppetvision 3D*, *Muppets at Disney World*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, The Jim Henson Hour's *Dog City* and *Song of the Cloud Forest*, as well as various videos and commercial projects. In addition to Henson Productions, Rickey has performed lead characters for The Nashville Network's Peppercorn Productions.

Rickey continues to perform for Henson and works as an animator and director for Magnetic Dreams Animation Studios in Nashville, Tenn. There, he designs and directs animations for clients such as *Sesame Street*, among others. He lives outside Nashville with his wife Judy and their children Emily and Andrew.