

ABOUT FOUNDER

Ron is a former Local 8 (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) I.A.T.S.E. (International Association of Theatrical Stage Employees) stagehand with experience working in the entertainment industry during the 1990's. As a stagehand, Ron worked Broadway, concerts, World Wrestling Federation, Nickelodeon, and other shows. Some of Ron's experiences also came from small venues like corporate conferences, trade shows, scenery shops, and mall shows. These experiences have served as impetus for serving elementary school children with a similar scaled-down format. Ron also has experience as a certified Substitute Teacher. Ron began entertaining children with Children's Church. This Children Church experience began with ventriloquism, expanding to Christian illusions and scripture-learning skits. Ron was a member of the North American Association of Ventriloquists before it retired. Ron has Associate in Applied Science and Science in Business Administration degrees.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RAGODEN THEATER

OUR VISION

We endeavor to serve elementary-age school children between Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Baltimore, Maryland with the best in safety education (others north and south of these areas may also be served). We believe that using a theatrical approach presents an effective means for children to positively retain information about safety.

OUR PROPS

Ron designs and builds props and scenery using standard theatrical practices. Planning and design starts on a drafting table before transferring to production in the shop. Props are made with wood, metal, and expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam components using various floor, bench, and hand tools. We make every attempt to repurpose EPS and wood in our construction. Props and scenery are fashioned for each production theme.

OUR SOUND & SOUND PRODUCTION

We bring our public address sound equipment, powerful enough to serve any small to medium size auditorium. We have our own 4x6 foot Whisper Room sound enclosure booth to record voiceovers, narrations, and sound effects. Voice changing capabilities are also present. Inventory includes thousands of sound effects on CD's, vinyl records, and reel to reel, capable of recording anything from minute details (such as a particular car make engine idling) to large battle military explosions. These recordings are integrated with multi-track digital recording. Our technician controls audio and lighting effects.

OUR LIGHTING & SPECIAL EFFECTS

Eight PAR 56's provide base lighting, controlled with a lighting board. Our backdrop consists of a 10x20 foot backdrop mounted on triangular truss supported by crank stands. Our special effects inventory includes a strobe light, fog machines, simulated flame devices, and confetti cannon. We can use either fan-dispersed fog or allow it to lay low with a chilled CO2 effect. While we may use simulated pyrotechnics, we use no actual pyro or fire. While we encourage photography, please limit to photographs only; no video or audio please. **NOTICE:** This program may employ limited use of strobe lights, liquid-based fog and bubble machines, and some brief blackouts. If you have any health concerns, such as epilepsy, seizures, or asthma, please be advised of their use. MSDS information available upon request.

OUR THEMES

We specialize in safety theming for elementary school audiences. Our artin-action shows use stage size props, action, sound effects, and special effects to help carry any message—especially for young children! We convey serious messages using comedy and demonstrations. When illustrating a serious event, such as an accident, we simulate them with sound effects followed by a reemergence to illustrate that no one was actually hurt. Finally, we pull no stops with tools to drive our messages: bikes, operating miniature car, fog, and strobes!

OUR TRAVELLING PRODUCTION

Our production compacts in a standard box truck. Equipment conveys on castered road cases, ensuring efficient set-up and take-down. We center our backdrop on stage, along with black carpet. Everything is measured and marked for consistent layout. Programs are standardized with scripted choreography. We tailor our programs to relevant safety themes. In the past, we produced drug and fire prevention programs.

SCHEDULING YOUR ASSEMBLY PROGRAM

We will perform as many assembly programs on show day for your elementary school children as you need. We will also make classroom visits that same day if you request (unfortunately, in order to preserve our actors we won't be able to bring Jesse or Matt). Backstage tours are also offered, with demonstrations about design, development, operations, and general questions and answers. No extra cost for anything we offer. One final note: please be ready for questions about your audience size, estimated number of assemblies, classroom/backstage tours options, size and accessibility of stage, show survey, and other important planning information.

ABOUT OUR ACTORS

The average troupe on display? Not exactly. Meet our principal actors: Jesse, a 24 inch tall ventriloquist figure; and Matt, a 31 inch (sitting) robotic puppet. Jesse can move his eyes, mouth, and head. Matt, on the other hand, consists of robotic features: head movement, talk, and peddling his Schwinn tricycle at variable speed—all at the control of a remote and microphone headset with adjustable voice pitch. Ron backs up these principals with his own unique delivery.

ABOUT MEDIA COVERAGE

We will ask your permission before giving any press releases or hiring any photographers/videographers for shows scheduled that day.

ABOUT OUR OTHER OFFERINGS

Ron can also fabricate small to medium size props and scenery for your theater project. If you see it in our production, we can make it for you. Have a conference needing a podium and rostrum with seating and public address system? We can make this possible for you.

ABOUT OUR PRICING

While our prices between Philadelphia and Baltimore are standard, please contact Ron concerning current pricing. Our standard charge covers unlimited assemblies on the same day. This includes backstage tours and/or classroom visits. Remember, if we don't give your children what we advertise—you don't pay!

School Districts we served: Camden City School District (Camden, NJ), Baltimore City Public Schools (Baltimore, MD), Chester Upland School District (Chester, PA), and Christina School District (Wilmington, DE)

For more information, visit us @ RAGOLDENTHEATER.COM

911 PREPARATION



Ron and Jesse simulate a call to 911 to teach children about calling 911 for emergencies

SEAT-BELT SAFETY



Ron demonstrating seat-belt safety in operating shop-built clown car

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION



A fan meets Jesse seated on his moving seatbelted platform