

# TOUGHPIGS.COM

The Fansite for Discriminating Doll-Wigglers



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**Wanted: Deep Felt.** Y'know what? I need a mole at Henson. [Insert obvious go-fer/gopher type joke here.] If anyone reading this site works for anything Henson-related, feel free to leak news to me. I'll protect your confidentiality; I've got cyanide pills and everything. The same goes for all of my beloved Tough Pigs readers. I have no contacts, I know nothing, and I make most of this stuff up. So if you see any Henson-related news items, please send 'em in. Thanks!



May the frog have mercy on my soul.  
Power to the puppets and peace to all people.

**Updated Sept 25:** The Tough Pigs zine is ready to go! Order yours today from **Tough Pigs Press**. Meanwhile, the continuing saga of **My Week with Farscape** continues, and it's a saga. Another future is foretold in **Your Muppet Horoscope**, and skeptics should check out the unsolicited testimonial on the **Letters** page. This week's News updates in red.

**Current Events. Updated Sept 24.**

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**Gonzo Flies On:** You just can't keep a good... whatever... down. This week, despite Muppetfest's postponement, TV Guide Online continues its weekly series of Muppet interviews with **Gonzo**, who shares his unique perspective on plastic surgery, being a role model, and what it feels like to be shot from a cannon. Previous interviews spotlighted **Fozzie Bear** and **Miss Piggy**.

**Muppetfest Postponed:** Because of the tragedy at the World Trade Center and concerns about flight safety, the Muppetfest convention scheduled for September 22-23 has been postponed. An official date for the rescheduled Muppetfest has not been set, but a Sept 13th letter on the [Muppetfest site](#) from Charles Rivkin, President and CEO of Henson, says that "we are still fully committed to commemorating the 25th anniversary of *The Muppet Show* and gathering together to celebrate Jim Henson's vision." Prepaid tickets will be honored at the rescheduled event. I've heard that Henson is currently working on moving the convention to another site because the Pasadena Center is booked up; another possibility would be to hold the event at the Henson Studios. **Creation Entertainment sent out an e-mail on Saturday, Sept 22nd: "We hope to announce the new date of Muppetfest sometime next week. We appreciate your patience: the delay is in making sure everyone's schedules jive for their appearances at the event. We promise to make the rescheduled Muppetfest bigger and better: it will be worth the wait!"**

**Muppets on Parade:** Starting October 1st, [Disney World](#) is celebrating Walt Disney's 100th birthday by finally thawing him out of the freezer. Well, maybe. But they're also hosting a year-long "100 Years of Magic" celebration, with new attractions, parades, and, of course, collectible pins. The Orlando Disney-MGM Studios park will feature the "Disney Stars and Motor Cars" parade, a procession of Disney-park characters in limousines, including Muppet and Big Blue House characters. Henson built new Kermit and Piggy costumes for the parade, both in formalwear, and Sweetums will be walking alongside their limo. And don't think they've forgotten the merchandising! This is Disney, after all. They'll be selling new beanbag toys of Kermit and Piggy dressed in their new costumes. These exclusive toys are only available at the theme park, but I'll bet [2momluvme.com](#) will get their hands on a few.

**Kermit Across the Pond:** According to the UK tabloid *News of the World*, Kermit the Frog recently filmed an appearance on a TV special with Australian disco diva Kylie Minogue. Kylie, who is currently #1 on the UK singles charts, recorded a duet with Kermit for "An Audience with Kylie Minogue," scheduled to air on ITV. By the way, fellow Americans, don't worry - *I don't know who she is either.*

**Dave Barry Loves Bear:** It's nice to know that someone else loves *Bear in the Big Blue House* as much as I do. This week, [Dave Barry's column](#) is a really cute love letter to Bear, describing how Dave and his wife use their 17-month-old daughter to justify their excitement about going to a Bear concert.

<b>Television News. Updated Aug 29.</b>
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**The Next Next Generation:** Don't get too excited for now, but the Henson summer press release says that the Muppet team is working on a new TV series called *The Muppets Present*, featuring both returning cast members and new Muppets. According to the release, the new show "is currently being written and is expected to launch in the US, UK, and Germany in 2002." The mention of Germany there is your clue that this new series was conceived during the early days of EM.TV's purchase of Henson, which is now in various stages of falling apart, so don't count on the series getting made until the fate of the company is settled.

**Sock It Tomie:** Remember *Strega Nona*, the charming children's book by Tomie dePaola? Of course you do. Well, *Strega Nona* is back, and this time, she's a Muppet. *Jim Henson* is Henson's new TV series, which began airing in early August on the Hallmark Channel, weekdays at 7:30am. The new series features puppets based on dePaola characters, including *Strega Nona*, her friends *Bambolona* and *Big Anthony*, and *Tomie's* pal *Gabe*. The Hallmark Channel says that "the show is designed to help children with the process of storytelling, inspiring creativity and imagination," so we're obviously breaking new ground for children's television here. It also happens to be the first Henson show in history whose title is a complete sentence.

**The Channel So Nice They Named It Twice:** Hey, guess what. Remember when the Henson Company partnered with Hallmark Entertainment and bought a chunk of the Odyssey Channel? Well, Hallmark/Crown Media has bought out Henson, and the channel is now being "rebranded and relaunched" in mid-August as the Hallmark Channel. The president and CEO of Crown Media, Margaret Loesch, explained in a press release that "this amicable purchase was necessary to focus its programming on adults 18 to 54." (*Grammatical Note:* The pronoun trouble here is Ms. Loesch's, not mine.) As far as we doll-wigglers are concerned, that "focusing on adults" thing translates to: No more Henson programming. The only Henson show on the current Hallmark schedule is the new *Tomie dePaola* show, although Henson.com promises that U.K. Henson shows *The Hoobs* and *Construction Site* will debut on the Hallmark Channel next year. (As if there will even be a Hallmark Channel next year.)

To mourn the loss of the Henson programming, I'm going to make fun of Hallmark for another paragraph. Check out the first sentence of this press release: "Calling all soccer moms and empty nesters: Hallmark Channel wants you." Isn't that great? You can almost smell the focus groups. Here's another one: "The network wants to differentiate itself by targeting adults, rather than children as other family networks have done." I don't even understand that one; I thought "family" network meant "adults and kids." What's the difference between a "family" network that targets adults and a non-"family" network that targets adults? From a glance at their website, it looks like "family" must mean "boring" - their schedule is packed with dusty old reruns like "Happy Days" and "My Three Sons," along with original series like "The Infinite Worlds of H.G. Wells," which promises to "bring Wells' epic visions to life, with an inventive speculation on the origins of his brilliant flights of fancy." I apologize to all of my readers who fell asleep reading that last sentence. Stay tuned as we follow the Hallmark Channel through its slow, inevitable slide into bankruptcy.

**The Beanstalk Rises:** Henson is currently in production on a new four-hour miniseries, *Jim Henson's Jack and the Beanstalk - The Real Story*, airing this fall on CBS. I'm told that names attached to the show include Matthew Modine, John Voight, Darryl Hannah, and Richard Attenborough, although I have no idea what that means.

**Welcome to Dinotopia:** Jim Henson's Creature Shop is also working on another new miniseries to air this fall on ABC - *Dinotopia*, based on James Gurney's books about a hidden world where dinosaurs and humans live together in peace. The original books are quite beautiful - I gotta say, it sounds like at long last Henson is finally working on miniseries that I'm actually interested in watching.

**Tinkerdee Unearthed!** Fans who read the book *Jim Henson: The Works* will recall the tantalizing glimpse we got of *Tales of the Tinkerdee* - a half-hour series pilot which was made in 1962 by Henson and co, but never aired. *Tinkerdee* was recently shown at the New York Museum of Television and Radio as part of their summer series, *Muppets Forever: The Legacy of Jim Henson* - and as far as I know, it's the first time the show has been publicly screened ever. The MT&R series is over - but in the past, the museum has kept copies of the shows it aired in its Muppet exhibitions. When you visit MT&R (at either the New York City or Los Angeles location), you can watch shows from their collection at private screening booths in their library. The MT&R library is a rich resource for Muppet fans, including almost every Muppet special ever made, and a good selection of series episodes from *The Muppet Show* to *The Jim Henson Hour*. I haven't seen *Tinkerdee* at MT&R yet, but I'm assuming that it'll be available now that the Muppet series is over. For more information about visiting the Museum of Television and Radio, visit their website at [MTR.org](http://MTR.org).

**The Journey Continues:** The third season of the impossibly popular *Farscape* is airing Fridays on the Sci-Fi Channel. If you've missed the show so far - and it doesn't seem like anyone has - then you can catch up with the first two seasons Monday through Thursday, 8pm, starting August 27th. In other *Farscape* news, I think the blue lady died.

**Hoobalicious:** New UK hit *The Hoobs* is planning to hit US TV on the Hallmark Channel next year - but US fans eager to meet the Hoobs can visit [Hoobnet.com](http://Hoobnet.com), where you'll find photos, a description of the show, and a 10-second video. You can also sample the UK Henson show *Mopatop's Shop* at the [Mopatop website](http://Mopatop website), which features streaming video of complete 9-minute episodes.

### **Henson Shows on TV:**

*All listings here are for American TV, Eastern Time. I can't be bothered to keep track of everywhere else. I can hardly keep track of my own time zone.*

**Bear in the Big Blue House :** Weekdays 8am and 11am, [Disney Channel](http://Disney Channel).

**Farscape :** Fridays 9pm, [Sci-Fi Channel](http://Sci-Fi Channel).

**Jim Henson's Animal Show** : Daily 7:30am, [Animal Planet](#).

**Sesame Street** : Weekdays 5am, 7am and 9am, [Noggin](#).

**Sesame Unpaved** (classic Sesame episodes) : Weekdays 2am and 4am, [Noggin](#).

**Telling Stories with Tomie dePaola** : Mon - Fri 7:30am, [Hallmark Channel](#).

The following shows are *not* currently airing on American TV:

**The Muppet Show, Fraggle Rock, Muppet Babies,  
Dinosaurs, Wubbulous World of Dr. Seuss, Muppets Tonight.**

## **Movie News. Updated Sept 10.**

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**More Muppet Movies?** The Henson summer press release lists two movies as being "currently in development" - *Muppet Scary Movie* (aka *Muppet Haunted House*) and *Muppet Time Travel*. I know from past experience that "in development" means "probably won't ever get made," and that's especially true while the Henson-EM.TV buyout is still in limbo. The idea of a Muppet haunted house movie has been kicking around since before *Muppets From Space*, but a time travel movie is new to me. Both movies have been mentioned as being in development in the [TV Guide Online interviews](#). If they're name-dropping the movies, then maybe that means they're getting further along in the development process. Stay tuned...

## **Muppetfest News. Updated Sept 22.**

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**Muppetfest!** **Muppetfest has been postponed; the new date for the event may be announced next week. See [above](#) for more information.** Muppetfest, the first Muppet fan-convention, was scheduled for Sept 22nd and 23rd. It is currently being rescheduled. The con will feature live appearances from Muppet characters, including Kermit, Gonzo, Rizzo, Pepe, Statler and Waldorf and Bear, performed by Muppeteers Bill Barretta, Kevin Clash, Dave Goelz, Noel MacNeal, Jerry Nelson and Steve Whitmire. There will be behind-the-scenes demonstrations from the Muppeteers and Creature Shop folks, archival footage of Muppet productions, a panel discussion on Muppet history with Jane Henson and other Muppet creative folks, meet and greets and autographs. There are three price packages for the fest - General Admission seating, Preferred Seating, and a Gold Package which includes a special "Evening with the Muppets" event at the Henson Studios Lot. You can get more information and order your tickets at [Muppetfest.com](#).

## **Merchandise News. Updated Sept 22.**

## **Back to News.**

**I Want My DVD:** Muppet obsessives rejoice! Just in time for *The Muppet Show's* 25th anniversary this fall, uncut and complete *TMS* episodes are available on VHS and DVD from the lovely people at Time-Life. Each volume contains three complete *Muppet Show* episodes, including the extra "UK sketches" not seen in the US. The first ten volumes are available in both VHS and DVD. Volumes 11-15 are also available, on VHS only. I want them to make more; please buy some for all your friends. Also this summer, the first three Muppet movies were released on DVD by Columbia-Tristar. They're nice DVDs, including widescreen versions and bonus Muppetisms.

**Muppet Figures Coming:** The new issue of ToyFare magazine announces that Palisades Marketing will release a series of *Muppet Show* toys beginning in February (although [Henson.com](#) reportedly said they'd be out in April). The first "wave" of toys will be: Kermit (with banjo), Miss Piggy, Dr. Teeth and Bunsen Honeydew, as well as two playsets - a band stage and a Muppet Labs set (with Beaker figure). Palisades plans to release four waves of four to six figures each over the course of 2002, making a total of 16-24 total toys. This is very exciting - it's the first time that there's been anything like a comprehensive set of *Muppet Show* toys since the early 80's, the first US-produced Bunsen toy, and the first Dr. Teeth toy ever produced. Palisades currently produces toys based on rather unlikely shelfmates for the Muppets, including *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Mortal Kombat* and *Reservoir Dogs*. You can check out the [Palisades Marketing](#) website to check out their other toys, although the site doesn't have any information on the Muppet toys yet.

**Elmo Surprise!** Believe it or not, this Christmas marks the fifth anniversary of the Tickle Me Elmo craze -- and Tyco is celebrating the occasion by releasing [Tickle Me Elmo Surprise](#), a new plush doll that brings some new twists to the classic toy. For starters, Elmo now has *five* ticklish spots - on his belly, under his arms, and on his feet. Sometimes when you touch a "tickle spot," Elmo will say, "Elmo's not that ticklish there." But if you find his *most* ticklish spot, he'll shake and giggle, "That tickled Elmo the most!" When you find the most ticklish spot, the messages rearrange randomly, so it's different every time. (Is this not cute? I defy you to find this uncute.) And there's more. The box says that on or after January 9, 2002, "when you find Elmo's most ticklish spot, he will surprise you with a fun new way to play!" This partly involves a contest - if Elmo says "Congratulations!" to you on January 9th, then you can win a grand prize of \$200,000 or the runner-up prize of a bright red VW Beetle. They're *really* stacking the deck on this toy. Buy it now before you have to fight your way through crazed shoppers to get one.

**New Calendar for 2002:** The Muppet Parodies calendar series returns in 2002 after a two-year hiatus, with a cover featuring Kermit and Piggy in "The Swine who Snagged Me." The Muppet parodies made a splash back in 1996, when "Kermit Clein," "Kermie Hilflipper" and "Pigtoria's Secret" were featured on calendars, T-shirts and posters. The parody calendars continued through 1999, mocking everything from lowbrow ("Piggy Woman") to

high ("Scents and Sensitivity"). There haven't been any Muppet calendars for two years, so I'm looking forward to seeing what they have planned for my wall next year. You can pre-order the calendar at [DirectCalendars.com](http://DirectCalendars.com).

**New Disney Dolls:** MuppetVision 3D has opened at Disney's new California Adventure theme park, and Disney is marking the occasion by releasing a new set of Muppet plush dolls and beanbags. Kermit, Piggy, Fozzie and Gonzo each come in large and small sizes, and there's also small versions of Animal, Scooter, Rizzo, Statler and Waldorf, and Beaker. For completist-collectors keeping score, these are the first toys of Statler, Waldorf and Beaker ever released in the US. Disney theme-park toys are only available in the parks, but the ever-dependable Kristin Krause at [2momluvme.com](http://2momluvme.com) got her hands on a stash of them, and she's selling them for very reasonable prices. She's got pictures of the dolls for sale; I personally recommend the Beaker. Word on the street says a Bean Bunny doll is also on its way.

**I Dream of Igel:** Muppet fans in the US are finally getting a crack at all the European Muppet toys made by the German toy giant Igel Toys (aka Junior Toys). Thanks to [Muppet Central and PB Toys](#), US fans can have these lovely toys shipped right to your door. The newest Igel dolls are a Bunsen-Beaker plush set and a Kermit-Piggy wedding set, and they also offer fantastic plush dolls of Statler, Waldorf, the Swedish Chef, Rizzo, Animal, Kermit, Piggy, Fozzie and Gonzo. Want more? They got more. How does this grab you: beanbags, plush magnets, keychains, mugs, backpacks, Swedish Chef cookware, and enormous five-foot dolls. Ya gotta check this stuff out. I can recommend the PB Toys site - I ordered the Bunsen and Beaker myself, and I got them incredibly quickly. The MC link also includes a currency-conversion tool that helps you figure out how much money you're blowing on this stuff. You can see more pictures of the toys at the [Junior Toys](#) website, although the PB Toys inventory is more current.

**We Need a Little (Longer) Christmas:** Here's the good news: Columbia Tristar will release a DVD of [Muppet Family Christmas](#) on November 6th. *MFX* is the beloved 1988 Christmas special featuring the characters from *The Muppet Show*, *Sesame Street* and *Fraggle Rock* all celebrating the holidays together - a perennial fan-favorite. But here's the bad news: the DVD release will be the butchered 42-minute version that Columbia released on video in 1998. This version cuts out about 10 minutes of the original show, including Piggy's "Home for the Holidays" entrance, Fozzie's comedy routine with the snowman, and the Muppet Babies home-movie. This version is even shorter than the 47-minute version released by Buena Vista in 1995. Columbia Tristar will also release the 1980 [Emmet Otter's Jugband Christmas](#) special on DVD on November 6th - but it's the edited 48-minute cut released by Buena Vista in '96 and by Columbia Tristar in '98. Unfortunately, it looks like Columbia doesn't have the respect for the original material that Time-Life has for the *Muppet Show* episodes. Columbia has owned the rights to produce video and DVD releases of Muppet specials and movies since 1998, and they've been editing every special they've released. I hope it's a short term deal, and they lose this license soon.

**The Swamp Years:** Henson's summer press release mentions a new direct-to-video feature, *Kermit's Swamp Years*, now in pre-production with a projected 2002 release date. They also promise a new album "featuring current artists inspired by the Muppets, as well as compilations of classic Muppet music." I try not to get too excited about these pre-production "maybe-someday, Lord willing and if the crick don't rise" type announcements, but these sound cool; I'm keeping my flippers crossed.

**More Bear on CD:** Compulsive *Bear in the Big Blue House* fans, here are your orders: Buy a copy of the new [Playhouse Disney CD](#). This CD collects songs from Disney Channel shows, including *Bear*, *The Book of Pooh*, *Out of the Box* and *Rolie Polie Olie* - and, remarkably, the five *Bear* songs includes four new songs that weren't on the original [Bear CD](#). The new *Bear* songs are: We're All Different (from the excellent [Bat episode](#)), Dancing the Day Away, You Will Find Your Way, and Let the Rhythm Take You, with the one repeat being It's Great To Be At Home. And by the way, does anyone else find anything remotely amusing about the name *The Book of Pooh*?

**The Muppets Play Pinball:** The Muppets will partner with NewKidCo to release their first Game Boy Advance game this fall: *Muppet Pinball Mayhem*. Craig Allen, the President of the Jim Henson Interactive division, says: "We are delighted to offer younger gamers the explosive combination of Muppet mayhem and pinball game play." The game actually sounds really cool - you each with unique twists on in-game ball physics." The player battles computer-controlled characters, knocking down targets, blowing things up! They actually promise "endless gameplay." Whew. I'm tired just writing about it. I gotta get me a Game Boy. You can [pre-order the game from Amazon](#); they now list November 8th as the release date.

Also, next year, *Bear in the Big Blue House* will release games for Playstation and Game Boy Advance. I expect that the *Bear* games will be slightly less explosive and endless, but you never know.

Meanwhile, the PlayStation game *Muppet RaceMania* is currently [on sale at Amazon](#) for only ten dollars, marked down from thirty (as of Aug 16<sup>th</sup>). The game has been discontinued by Midway; the ones being sold are now remaindered copies. Get yours while they're still available. The game was released by Midway earlier this year, and features Muppet characters racing go-karts through courses based on the sets of Muppet movies. You can play as any one of 25 Muppet characters, and there are a number of movie clips and digital "easter eggs" sprinkled throughout. Here's a link to the site.

And while I'm on the subject, I would be remiss if I didn't mention *Muppet Monster Adventure* (also by Midway for PlayStation), featuring Robin rescuing the Muppets from an evil curse that has turned them all into scary monsters. Here's a link to the [Muppet Monster Adventure](#) site. This game is also [available from Amazon](#).

**Help Yourself to Gelflings:** Good news for those obsessive *Dark Crystal* fans I know and love: It must be a cold day in a warm place, because someone is actually producing



new *Dark Crystal* merchandise. Sideshow Toy has announced plans to produce two 12" figures of [Jen and Kira](#), the Gelflings from *The Dark Crystal*. Kira comes with Fizgig, and Jen comes with his flute and crystal shard. The pair will set you back eighty bucks at the [Sideshow Toy site](#).

**So Far, So Scape:** Farscape episodes are [now available](#) on DVD and VHS from ADV Films. According to Henson.com, "Both formats include extra footage not seen on North American television and the DVDs have LOTS of bonus goodies." So if bonus Farscape goodies is what you're looking for, look no further. *Bonus. Farscape. Goodies.* By the way, there's also a *Farscape* [soundtrack](#) on CD. Not to change the subject, but does this shirt make me look fat?

## **Henson Company News. Updated Sept 10.**

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**EM-Ex:** The ownership of the Henson Company is still up in the air. EM-TV, the German media company that purchased Henson a year ago, is going through huge financial and legal troubles; it now seems possible that the Walt Disney Company will end up owning the Muppets. However, a group of Henson employees - headed by Henson CEO Charles Rivkin - is looking for investors to fund a staff buyout and keep the company independent. For more on the current state of the company, check out [Merger-Go-Round](#) on the Journal page.

**It's a Small Whirl:** MuppetVision 3D has been drawing in the mouse-eared tourists at the East Coast Disney World for ten years - and as of last February, the West Coast has a Muppet Theater all its own. Disney's California Adventure is the home for the new MuppetVision, which packages the popular 3D movie in a brand-new exterior. The California Muppet Theater includes a bunch of new visual gags, including a crashed Swinetrek, Gonzo's ill-fated motorcycle jump, and Beaker testing a new Muppet Labs invention. [TheLaughingPlace.com](#), a wonderfully detailed Disney fansite, has video, photos and transcripts from the hilarious [MV-3D opening ceremony](#), which included live appearances from Kermit, Bunsen, Beaker and Sweetums. The Laughing Place also has some [great photos](#) of the new MV-3D exterior. And while I'm talking about The Laughing Place, don't miss the amazing, multi-part article by Jim Hill on the tangled relationship between Disney and Henson. ([Part nine](#) is now online.) Its chock-full of new insights into Muppet history, including a detailed description of the 1990 proposal for a [Muppet Movie Ride](#), which would have accompanied MV-3D. Jim has great insider information on Disney and Henson; no matter how much you know about the Muppets, these articles will surprise you.

**Back on the Ice:** In a joint promotion next year, the Muppets are going to join forces again with the National Hockey League. Remember the Muppets Take the Ice promotion a few years back? Nobody does; don't blame yourself. But they're giving it another shot in

2002, and the Henson summer press release promises "premium giveaways" at NHL games and NHL/Muppet merchandise at retail stands. They also say that the Muppets will participate in "the nationally televised 2002 NHL All-Star game and Stanley Cup campaigns." I hope some sports-minded Muppet fan keeps me informed about all this; for some reason, I tend to be busy when hockey season rolls around.

**Kermit Makes a Difference:** This year, Kermit is the spokesfrog for the USA Weekend Make a Difference Day, an annual event recognizing people who do community volunteering projects. Kermit will make a personal appearance at a volunteer project on Make a Difference Day (October 27th), and the Jim Henson Company will donate \$10,000 to that project. You can apply for this grant until Sept 10th; visit the [Make a Difference Day website](#) for more information.

## **Muppet Web News. Updated Sept 5.**

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**Red on the Web:** Puppeteer and animator Karen Prell, best known for performing Red Fraggle on *Fraggle Rock*, has a new website at [KarenPrell.com](#). The site is still pretty simple, but there are some nice photos, and a helpful listing of her Henson appearances.

**Digital Back-Scratching:** Rose Sage's [Sagecraft.com](#) is the home of the amazing [Puppetry Home Page](#), a resource on all things felt and foamy. Rose has a hugely detailed [Puppet News](#) page, a list of puppet organizations to join, and information on puppet history and puppet festivals. And she gets all funny and snarly when something pisses her off; it's cute. Her partner is Nick Barone of the world-famous Nick Barone Puppets; Nick's [Puppetbuilder.com](#) site advertises his gorgeous [handmade puppets](#) and one-man puppet shows, and it also includes detailed information on puppet-building. I swear, between the two of them, they have like forty different websites. I think they actually own the World Wide Web.

Also, my pals Chris and Marianne Vaughn have a site called [PunchAndJewelry.com](#), which shows off Chris' puppets and Marianne's jewelry. The jewelry is beautiful, and it's for sale by the way, and the website name is so clever that I think you owe it to them to go check out their site.

**The Magic Store:** I'd also like to plug my favorite store on the Web, Kristin Krause's [2momluvme.com](#). It's a real labor of love, offering Muppet, Sesame and Pooh collectibles that you literally won't find anywhere else on the Internet. Her latest finds are the new Disneyland Muppet dolls, and she's also got the Giftware Int'l Muppet backpacks and magnets, the Sticky Pix Muppet stickers, and brand-new Sesame Christmas ornaments. I wouldn't have known where to get these things if not for 2momluvme. Plus Kristin is friendly, speedy and dependable. I couldn't recommend her more highly.

**Annie Sue Gets Her Due:** There's a new website from Emma Shane, a long-time friend to the Muppet-fan community. Folks who know Emma won't be surprised to hear that her website is devoted (as she is) to Louise Gold, the puppeteer-actress-singer who is best known to doll-wigglers as Annie Sue Pig, and who still performs with Henson on *Mopatop's Shop*. Emma has collected all of her information into one info-packed site, a great reference for anyone interested in Louise's career both in and outside the Muppet troupe. Completists shouldn't miss Emma's comprehensive listing of Louise's Muppet performances.

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**Thank you for your kind attention.**