

# **It's All In The Wrist: Nuances of Puppet Head Movement**

**By Amy Harder**

Get ready to go way beyond lip synch and eye contact. Your puppet's head movement—from positioning to forming words—can make your character lifelike or kill the puppet's believability. Play along to learn performance secrets that the professionals use and practice tools to develop these new skills.

## **1.** \_\_\_\_\_

- This is KEY to "selling" a lifelike character!
- Use it to clinch a humorous moment.
- Use it to drive home the message.

## **2.** \_\_\_\_\_

- |              |                 |                |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| - Infatuated | - Contemplative | - Breathing    |
| - Bashful    | - Conceited     | - Sighing      |
| - Bored      | - Annoyed       | - Rolling eyes |
| - Interested | - Confused      |                |

## **3.** \_\_\_\_\_

- The Neck Thing
- The Ending "Aaaah!"
- The Head Tilt
- The Windshield Wiper

## **4.** \_\_\_\_\_

- EE-NUN-SEE-AY-SHUN
  - o How does your character form his words?
  - o Make the moves match the sounds.
  - o Mouth movements should be distinct to the character.
- Practice Character Enunciation:
  - o Count.
  - o Say the alphabet.
  - o Recite Bible verses.
  - o Recite nursery rhymes.
- Make it work for your character:
  - o Preview your lines.
  - o Change wording that would not fit your character.
  - o Practice saying the lines.
- Be aware of LITTLE THINGS:
  - o If you can hear a breath, the puppet should show it.
  - o If a word ends in a "hard" sound, the mouth should move appropriately.

<http://del.icio.us/DearMyrah/ah01>