

Talking about *Dark Night of the Ugly Stick*

Rabbittown Theatre has become an experiment in the investigation of space as much as it has become a facility for the production and presentation of art. I think that's why I liked this project so much. First, there was the ability of the filmmakers to see a sound stage on our third floor. Amazing. But the dramatic and beautiful space created by the designers was pure magic. I said on more than one occasion that I wished I was sized proportionate to the puppets, it would have been a great set to work.

Aiden Flynn is the general director of the Rabbittown Theatre Company, an organization dedicated to the production of original & classical work. The Shed Collective filmed *Dark Night of the Ugly Stick* on location at the Rabbittown Theatre.

Darka Erdelji is the puppet creator / puppeteer for *Dark Night of the Ugly Stick* by The Shed Collective. Her sensuously sculpted old man puppet is, like all of her work, a character pulled from the imagination -- elemental, like the geography of place, and yet, recognizable, a character who sensitively embodies a shared history. Darka's keen puppetry skills convey the story's emotional depths, a visceral sense of loss, the passage of time and the desire to be anchored by memory, tradition.

With creations that are distinct, intelligent and spellbinding, Darka is recognized for her talents as a puppeteer, sceneographer, set designer, and illustrator. She is the 2010 recipient of the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council Rhonda Payne Theatre Award. With Andy Jones she created the internationally acclaimed picture book *The Queen of Paradise's Garden* and an accompanying puppet theatre production.

Monique Tobin is a writer and documentary producer and former volunteer, board member and programming committee member with Eastern Edge Gallery.