

# THE MOTHER OF ALL ENEMIES

**WHAT?** A mutation of the traditional Middle Eastern Karagoz shadow puppet play (famous in Turkey, Greece, Egypt, and Syria) about the consequences of being on the fringes of society...EVERY society. Periodically the show is interrupted by cantastoria, or picture performance, an age-old story telling technique; employing his weird and amusing drawings, Zaloom recounts the U.S. Marines repeated efforts to recruit him (he's sorta old for the Marines: 54. He's also gay...etc.) It's all comedy, needless to say.

**HUNH?** The shadow show tells the twisted story of an Arab, secular humanist/Quaker/Buddhist/agnostic/political refugee/immigrant/queer/artist/weirdo's adventures while being comically pursued by various enemies: Syrian Secret Service, Israeli border guards, Al Qaeda, Homeland Security, the Statue of Liberty, Christian "Ex Gay" activists, and U.S. immigration vigilantes the Minutemen. The idiot savant Karagoz foils their evil plans, dispatching them one by one with subterfuge, obfuscation, and cheap puppet gimmicks. They all fail; he triumphs.

Zaloom juggles his puppets, recounts absurd emails with Marine recruiters, creates the entire soundscape with his voice, and uses drawings to illuminate the perverse workings of our "civilization" with a frontal comic assault.

**WHO?** LA artist Paul Zaloom started with Bread and Puppet in '71, and went on to create 12 solo puppet shows, including Fruit of Zaloom and Zaloominations. Guggenheim Fellowship, OBIE, BESSIE, LA Weekly Theater Award, NEA grants, etc. Played Beakman on TV science show, Beakman's World for 91 episodes and much acclaim. Zaloom is currently working on the toy theater, high def, feature length puppet film of Dante's Inferno starring James Cromwell and Dermot Mulroney. [www.dantefilm.com/](http://www.dantefilm.com/)

**QUOTE?** "One of the most original and talented political satirists working in the theater." Stephen Holden, New York Times.