

THE CREATORS OF KINDERTAINMENT

Brought to you by Mark Valenti

Industry Insider Interview: David Matthew Feldman

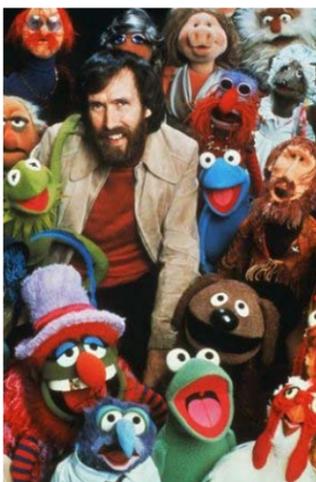
OCTOBER 23, 2013 BY MARK VALENTI



Inspired by the legendary [Jim Henson](#) as a child, David Matthew Feldman has devoted his entire career to the art of puppetry. From his formative years at The Puppet Company in New York, to his earliest television work on PBS's [Between the Lions](#), David has given life to dozens of characters to the delight of audiences both young and old. His stint as the excitable Mayor Milford Meanswell in the hit series *LazyTown* has propelled him to international stardom. And most recently, David has co-created a new PBS series, *Oh Noah!*

What drew you into a career in puppetry? Were you a fan of puppet shows as a kid?

I was a kid in the 70s, early 80s, which was the perfect time to be a [Muppet](#) fan. But I don't like to use the word "fan" there, because I think it cheapens it. It was a very personal thing for me. Still is. You know when people ask you who influenced your life the most? For me it's always been an easy answer. Without Jim Henson, I would not have become puppeteer. I just finished that biography by Brian Jay Jones, and he spends a couple of pages talking about Jim's ancestors, and I'm thinking, wow, if that great-great-grandfather didn't marry that great-great-grandmother, I wouldn't be sitting here in Iceland doing puppets for a [TV show](#).



But as Muppet-centric as my life was, I didn't really think I would grow up to become a puppeteer. I enjoyed making and performing puppets at home, for my little sister, but I