



As daughter of beloved puppeteer Shari Lewis, **Mallory Lewis** assumed the daunting duty of keeping her mother's prime time specials alive. The assignment was formidable but familiar. By age 12, Mallory was already manipulating Lamb Chop's mouth and face but couldn't quite mirror the mischievous voice of a self-assured little girl with a stuffed-up nose.

After graduating from Barnard College, Mallory began producing her mother's public television shows starring Lamb Chop and friends Hush Puppy and Charlie Horse.

When Mallory's mother died in 1998, Lamb Chop retired—for a while. Blessed with a remarkable ability to duplicate her mother's voice and encouraged by family friend Dom DeLuise, Mallory decided to slip Lamb Chop onto her right hand and breathe new life into the playful character for a new generation.

"I brought Lamb Chop out. She has her own strength and personality," Mallory said of her first appearance. "She's very comfortable for me. I hate to say I'm channeling my mother. This voice just came through me."

Today, the puppeteer uses her "handy" skills in a new DVD series called *Phonics 4 Babies*, featuring a cast of playful puppets to engage babies and toddlers and jump-start them on the path to early speech. ✱



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