****

**For more information, contact:**

Becca Meyer / Jennifer Walker

BRAVE Public Relations, 404.233.3993

bmeyer@bravepublicrelations.com /

jwalker@bravepublicrelations.com

# Center for Puppetry Arts celebrates the holiday season with special programming

 *A series of dazzling weekend events will take place throughout Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer’s*™ *run, November 7-December 31*

**ATLANTA (October 26, 2017)** – Families are invited to enjoy a little extra holiday cheer this season as the **Center for Puppetry Arts** celebrates the 2017 run of ***Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer***™with festive weekend events!

First up, guests can kick off the holiday season with a tasty treat on **Saturday,** **November 11**. Famed Atlanta chef (and former “Top Chef” contestant) **Kevin Gillespie** will be at the Center dressed as his doppelgänger Yukon Cornelius. Patrons are invited to join Chef Gillespie and the Yukon Cornelius puppet for a holiday photo opportunity. In addition, the Center’s special guest chef will be serving up samplings of his signature Warm Embrace Hot Cocoa and guests will have the opportunity purchase a can of the hot chocolate mix to take home as a holiday gift. The event will take place from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and is free with paid admission.

On the evening of **Saturday, November 11**, the Center will present another beloved holiday classic: a screening of “Emmet Otter’s Jug-Band Christmas”at 7 p.m. in the Mainstage Theater. In this 1977 Jim Henson film, Ma and Emmet Otter enter a talent competition to win money to fund their Christmas gift-giving. This screening was added to the line-up due to popular demand after the December showing sold out. Tickets include admission to the *Worlds of Puppetry* Museum, and beer and wine will be for sale. Tickets are $12.50 for nonmembers and free for Members.

On **Saturday, November 18**, the model builders from **LEGOLAND® Discovery Center Atlanta** will be at the Center for a special holiday LEGO® build activity, where guests can make and take home a special holiday-themed LEGO build. This special event is from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and free with paid admission, while supplies last.

Families attending *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer™* on **Saturday, November 25**, can enjoy a very special, free holiday photo opportunity with one of the puppets from the show! Don’t forget to bring a camera because the *Rudolph* lineup makes a great holiday photo.

Big news! LEGO Rudolph is returning to the Center for Puppetry Arts’ lobby beginning **Thursday, November 30**! The Rudolph statue is built out of LEGO bricks courtesy of our friends at LEGOLAND Discovery Center Atlanta.

Finally, the Center for Puppetry Arts will have a float filled with fan-favorite puppets during the **2017 Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Christmas Parade** on **Saturday, December 2**!

*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*is recommended for ages 4 and up. All-inclusive tickets to all shows include entrance to the Create-A-Puppet Workshop™, where guests can make, decorate and perform with their own **King Moonracer™ Rod & String Puppet**, as well as admission to the *Worlds of Puppetry* Museum (with the largest collection of Jim Henson puppets and artifacts in the world as well as a Global Gallery). Special events are included at no extra charge with paid admission.

*Rudolph* tickets prices vary by date and can be purchased online at [www.puppet.org](http://www.puppet.org) or by calling **404.873.3391**.

*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* and all elements © and ™ under license to Character Arts, LLC.

###

The Center for Puppetry Arts is supported in part by: Fulton County Arts Council • City of Atlanta Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs • Georgia Council for the Arts • The Zeist Foundation • The Jim Henson Company

For a complete list of the Center’s major supporters visit [www.puppet.org/about/sponsors](http://www.puppet.org/about/sponsors).

*Center for Puppetry Arts® is a unique cultural treasure – a magical place where children and adults are educated, enlightened, and entertained. Since 1978,*

*the Center has introduced millions of visitors to the wonder and art of puppetry and has touched the lives of many through enchanting performances, curriculum-based workshops, and the hands-on Museum as well as Distance Learning and Outreach programs. Center for Puppetry Arts is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization and is supported in part by contributions from corporations, foundations, government agencies, and individuals. Major funding is provided by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and the City of Atlanta Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs. These programs are also supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. GCA is a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Center is a member of Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA/USA/ASSITEJ).The Center also serves as headquarters of UNIMA-USA, the American branch of Union Internationale de la Marionnette, the international puppetry organization.*