



# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

1404 Spring Street at 18th • Atlanta, GA 30309 • [www.puppet.org](http://www.puppet.org) • Administration: 404.873.3089

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Chelsea Bohannon / Jennifer Walker  
BRAVE Public Relations, 404.233.3993  
[cbohannon@bravepublicrelations.com](mailto:cbohannon@bravepublicrelations.com) /  
[jwalker@bravepublicrelations.com](mailto:jwalker@bravepublicrelations.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Center for Puppetry Arts presents crowd-favorite *Beauty and the Beast*, April 7-May 22**

*Tale as old as time gets modern makeover for puppet stage*

**ATLANTA (February 25, 2016)** – A fairytale re-imagined for contemporary times, **Center for Puppetry Arts** invites audiences to experience the delightful adaptation of the classic tale ***Beauty and the Beast***, playing **April 7-May 22!** In an urban world where trash is turned to treasure and true love prevails by way of a magical rose, this fun and funky fable returns to the puppet stage with toe-tapping music, laughter and a poignant message for all!

Featuring the mean-spirited land lady Doña Arruga and her plot to condemn the beauty shop owned by Beauty and her mother unless Beauty agrees to marry her son, the story follows the journey of Beauty's mother and her attempt to save their business and her daughter! With a turn of unlucky events, Beauty's mother ends up at the Beast's lair, where he demands her daughter be brought to him. Determined to save her mother, Beauty obeys the Beast's demands and goes to the castle, only to find that beneath his burly exterior, he's just a lonely creature seeking love and acceptance. Focusing on kindness, loyalty and the belief that goodness of character can result in true love, artistic director Jon Ludwig presents Atlanta audiences with an entertaining and inspiring production!

Through the use of found-object puppetry such as mops, rakes, pipes, wrenches and other "discovered" objects, the cast of characters embody their most identifiable characteristics from the items of which they are made. Utilizing the Czech Black technique, five skilled puppeteers dress in all black from head to toe in order to keep the focus on the puppets and encourage audience imagination! Built specifically for this production, all puppets, props and scenery are created onsite by Center's resident puppet builder Jason Hines and talented team of artists.

As part of the Center's ASD initiative, a sensory-friendly performance of ***Beauty and the Beast*** will be held on **Sunday, April 24 at 1 p.m.** This special afternoon will allow guests with autism sensory disorder to experience the show and Create-A-Puppet Workshop in a comfortable and safe setting with staff members who have been trained in interactions with patrons with ASD. Along with a quiet zone in the lobby, several performance alterations will be employed including theater lights dimmed down (but not out), consistent sound levels and lower volume of show soundtrack, freedom for children to talk during the show and leave their seats, if necessary, and permission to bring quiet, contained snacks and beverages. Create-A-Puppet Workshop classrooms will be brighter, quieter and feature less-messy puppet building materials and slightly simplified puppet designs.

Recommended for ages 4 and up, ***Beauty and the Beast*** will be performed in the **Mainstage Theater, April 7-May 22!** Visitors can enjoy discounted preview days on **April 5 and 6** at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Regular show times are as follows:

- Tuesday-Friday: 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
- Saturday: 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.
- Sunday: 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Sensory-friendly show times are as follows:

- Sunday, April 24: 1 p.m.  
\* *Create-A-Puppet Workshop will be held prior to the show from 12-12:30 p.m.*

Tickets are available for **\$10.25 (Members)** and **\$20.50 (Nonmembers)** and include admission to the show, the Worlds of Puppetry Museum and entrance to the Create-A-Puppet Workshop, where guests can make their own **Alley Cat Hand**

**Puppet to take home!** Tickets can be purchased online at [www.puppet.org](http://www.puppet.org) or by calling the ticket sales office at **404.873.3391**.

###

**The Center for Puppetry Arts is supported in part by:** Fulton County Arts Council • The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta • City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs • Georgia Council for the Arts • National Endowment for the Arts • WSB-TV Family 2 Family Project • AT&T The Real Yellow Pages • Regency Suites Hotel • For a complete list of the Center's major supporters, please [www.puppet.org](http://www.puppet.org).

*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 under the guidance of the Fulton County Arts Council. These programs are supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly. GCA also receives support from its partner agency, the National Endowment for the Arts. Major support is provided by the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs. The Center is a participant in the New Generations Program, funded by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the American theatre. The Center is a Member of TCG. The Center also serves as headquarters of UNIMA-USA, the American branch of Union Internationale de la Marionnette, the international puppetry organization.*