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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Indian Culture comes alive at the Center for Puppetry Arts, November 14**

*Center for Puppetry Arts will unveil new special exhibit in the Dean Dubose Smith Special Exhibits Gallery*

**ATLANTA (October 18, 2017)** — History and art come together in the **Center for Puppetry Arts**’ newest exhibit, ***Indian Puppets: The Great Stories and Dancing Dolls***, opening **November 14**. The special exhibit will celebrate India’s cultural range by exploring the diversity of puppetry techniques and genres across the subcontinent along with the ways puppetry has been used as a storytelling tool in India for more than a thousand years.

“One of the main reasons we chose to highlight Indian puppetry is because, in addition to more historical puppetry traditions, India also has a thriving contemporary arts community with puppeteers creating engaging new work,” says Center for Puppetry Arts’ Museum Director Kelsey Fritz. “Puppetry in India is incredibly diverse and each region of the country has performance traditions and stories specific to their area. We hope that by learning about these different puppetry traditions, visitors will walk away with a better understanding of Indian culture and geography as a whole.”

The exhibit is comprised of more than 40 puppets on display including both traditional and contemporary pieces, covering eight different puppetry styles. The puppets will be displayed as if they were being used in a performance so visitors can get a sense for the mobility and personality of each piece.

This exhibit is sponsored in part by the Consulate General of India Atlanta and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and will be on display through **July 15, 2018**.

The Center will be celebrating the run of the exhibit with a number of special events. To kick off opening weekend, **November 18-19**, Museum hours will be extended until 7 p.m. and the weekend will include a special performance of *Kalyana Sougandhikam* by Natana Kairali of Kerala, India at **5:30 p.m.** on both Saturday and Sunday. The story is from the *Mahabharata* and is performed with traditional Indian glove puppetry.

On **Saturday, January 20, 2018**, the Center presents **Celebration of India Family Day**! The event will include special activities to celebrate Indian puppetry and culture, including a reading of “The Wheels on the Tuk Tuk” and book signing with author Sue Sehgal as well as puppet building, special gallery programs and more!

The Center presents a special movie night on **Saturday, February 3, 2018**. In addition to the screening of *Tomorrow We Disappear*, a documentary about Kathputli, India’s colony of artists and puppeteers facing eviction, there will be a talkback with one of the film’s directors following the film at **8 pm**.

Finally, on **March 26, 2018**, Dr. Kathy Foley and Karen Smith, the curators of *Indian Puppets: The Great Stories and Dancing Dolls*, will visit the Center for an in-depth lecture about the puppetry of India, part of the Explore Puppetry Workshop Series **from 7-9 p.m.**

Entrance to this special exhibit will be included with regular Museum admission, which is **free** **for** **Members** and **$12.50 for** **nonmembers – plus sales tax** and includes access to the entire *Worlds of Puppetry* Museum (with the largest collection of Jim Henson puppets and artifacts in the world as well as a Global Gallery.) Admission to the special exhibit will also be included with all-inclusive tickets to Family Series and New Directions Series performances.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.puppet.org](http://www.puppet.org) or by calling **404.873.3391**.

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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.*