



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Center for Puppetry Arts sets sail with *The Little Pirate Mermaid*, June 7- July 17

Argh, matey! Classic fish tale returns with pirates, puppets and more!

ATLANTA (June 6, 2016) – Flap your flippers, and prepare to make a splash! ***The Little Pirate Mermaid*** returns to the puppet stage with a swashbuckling twist, **June 7- July 17**. What's in store for the mermaid princess turned helpful pirate and her buccaneer beau? Take the plunge to see! This fantastical fish tale features a bountiful ocean of puppets, characters, original music, stunning stage effects and bubbly action! Based on Hans Christian Andersen's whale of a tale, ***The Little Pirate Mermaid*** is a part of the Center's **2016-2017 Family Series**.

Led by skilled puppeteers Reay Kaplan, Lyndsay Ricketson, Amy Sweeney and Tim Sweeney, this pirate quest includes more than 40 handcrafted marionette, shadow and hand-and-rod puppets, created onsite by the Center's talented staff and master puppet builder Jason Hines. Marionettes and lighting effects are combined to create the illusion of underwater weightlessness for the mermaid princess and friends, while boisterous sounds and other puppetry styles are used to bring other scenes, like the naval battle and attack of the monstrous squid, to life. By combining a well-known fable with high seas adventure, the shipshape tale of ***The Little Pirate Mermaid*** is the perfect adventure for pirates of all ages.

As part of the Center's ASD initiative, a sensory-friendly performance of ***The Little Pirate Mermaid*** will be held on **Sunday, July 10 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, ***The Little Pirate Mermaid*** is presented in the Mainstage Theater, **June 7- July 17** with discounted preview days, June 7-8 at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Regular show times are as follows:

- Tuesday – Friday*: 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.
- Saturday: 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
- Sunday: 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

**There are no performances on Monday, July 4, as the Center is closed on Mondays.*

Sensory-friendly show times are as follows:

- Sunday, July 10: 1 p.m.

** Create-A-Puppet Workshop will be held after the show from 1:45- 2:30 p.m.*

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR \$10.25 (MEMBERS) AND \$20.50 (NONMEMBERS) AND CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE AT WWW.PUPPET.ORG OR BY CALLING THE TICKET SALES OFFICE AT 404-873-3391.

All-inclusive show tickets include the **Worlds of Puppetry** Museum admission, as well as entrance to the Create-A-Puppet Workshop, where kids can make their own **Stingray Marionette Puppet**.

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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 • Zeist Foundation • The Wish Foundation Fund of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta • PNC • The Coca-Cola Foundation • Regency Suites Hotel • WSB-TV Family 2 Family Project • YP • For a complete list of the Center's major supporters, visit 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 Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre; Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA/USA/ASSITEJ); and International Performing Arts for Youth (IPAY). The Center also serves as headquarters of UNIMA-USA, the American branch of Union Internationale de la Marionnette, the international puppetry organization.