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**Center for Puppetry Arts to host a star-studded event for Women’s History Month**

*Hear stories from some of The Jim Henson Company’s prominent female figures*

**ATLANTA (February 21, 2018)** – Puppet enthusiasts are invited to celebrate Women’s History Month at the **Center for Puppetry Arts**! On **Saturday, March 3**, the Center will host **The Women of the Muppets**, a special lecture and discussion with four of the women who made groundbreaking contributions to the work of The Jim Henson Company.

The panel discussion will feature **Fran Brill**, the first female puppeteer hired for “Sesame Street” who created the characters Zoe and Prairie Dawn and won Emmy Awards for her work; **Bonnie Erickson**, the original designer and builder of Miss Piggy, and creator of Statler and Waldorf, who worked as design director for The Jim Henson Company; and **Sonia Manzano**, who played Maria on“Sesame Street” for 43 years and won 15 Emmys for her writing on the show. Sonia Manzano will also be doing a book signing before the event of her memoir “**Becoming Maria: Love and Chaos in the South Bronx**.” Copies of the book will be for sale in the Museum Store the day of the event.

This event will be moderated by **Karen Falk**, the head archivist for The Jim Henson Company.

Tickets include admission to the *Worlds of Puppetry* Museum, so guests can also see many of the puppets discussed first-hand. This event is recommended for ages 13 and up. A beer and wine bar will be available for patrons beginning at 6 p.m.

**WHAT:**  **The Women of the Muppets**

**WHEN:** **Saturday, March 3**

 6-6:45 p.m.: Sonia Manzano book signing

6-7 p.m.: *Worlds of Puppetry* Museum open

7 p.m.: Event begins

**WHERE: Center for Puppetry Arts**

Mainstage Theater

**HOW:** Tickets are **$20 for Members** and **$25 for nonmembers** and 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.*