



## 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 unveils 2016-17 season**

*Atlanta's premier puppetry arts organization presents all-new production of "Pete the Cat," favorites "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "The Ghastly Dreadfuls" return, plus more fun!*

**ATLANTA (March 30, 2016)** – Building on the continued excitement and energy around the new *Worlds of Puppetry* Museum which opened in November, the **Center for Puppetry Arts®** announces its 2016-2017 season. The Center will feature new stage productions as well as family favorites and notable guest artists. New educational programming and expanded museum offerings and special events round out a season that promises something for everyone who loves the art of puppetry!

Highlights of the 2016-2017 **Family Series** include the brand-new puppet production of ***Pete the Cat***, adapted from the widely popular and imaginative book series by Atlanta artist James Dean. Inspired by Dean's real-life cat, Pete pounces from the page to the stage as his laid-back, easy-going spirit takes him and his fine friends on a host of groovy adventures including surfing, skateboarding and playing guitar. Pete goes with the flow, and his positive outlook carries him through whatever obstacles come his way. Also debuting is an original production for children ages 2 and older, ***Old MacDonald's Farm***. This **Theatre for the Very Young** production is a barnyard bonanza of fun and furry animals. Soaring back to the Center's Mainstage for its seventh consecutive holiday season is the Center's own beloved adaptation of ***Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer***.

Talented touring artists are also a big part of this season's **Family Series**. Hopping back to Atlanta in celebration of author Beatrix Potter's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday is Thistle Theatre's ***Tales of Peter Rabbit***. Other touring companies visiting this season include Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers with ***The Headless Horseman of Sleepy Silly Hollow*** and Teatro SEA with their bilingual adaptation of the popular Cuban and Puerto Rican fable ***La Cucarachita Martina (Martina the Little Roach)***.

The Center's **New Directions Series** for adults and teens continues to expand the perception and expectations of puppet theater for older audiences. **NDS** opens with **National Puppet Slam 2016**, an evening of curated, short-form puppetry pieces showcasing the excellence and variety of puppetry by artists from all around the country. Back by popular demand, Atlanta's favorite band of specters, ***The Ghastly Dreadfuls***, returns from the grave to celebrate Halloween with a ghostly jamboree fit for the living and the dead. Then, Simpich Marionettes of Colorado Springs returns to the Center with Charles Dickens' classic ***Oliver Twist***, performed with hand-crafted marionettes and David Simpich's signature vocal prowess. Rounding out the **New Directions Series** is the Center's annual ***Xperimental Puppetry Theater***, bringing together artists from all disciplines to create bold, innovative new works in puppetry for adult audiences.

The ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) initiative allows guests with ASD to experience the Center in a comfortable and safe setting, supported by staff members who have been trained in interactions with patrons with ASD. The Center's ASD initiative will feature seven sensory-friendly Family Series performances, with their accompanying Create-A-Puppet Workshops sensory-adjusted as well. Museum exhibits and a film will also be adapted for ASD audiences as a part of this initiative.

Robust and diverse educational programming will be a highlight of the 2016-2017 Center season. Create-A-Puppet Workshops offer visitors the opportunity to build and decorate a puppet that is inspired by the style of puppetry in or characters from the Family Series production being presented. The **Explore Puppetry Series** offers adults almost a dozen professional development workshops in everything from ***Puppetry 101: A Performance Primer*** to ***When Once Is Not Enough: Molding & Casting Duplicates***. There's also the brand-new Junior Explorers Series, offering workshops for kids ages 9-12, and anchored by the ever-popular Puppet Camp, and the Center's award-winning **Distance Learning** program provides live, interactive videoconference programs and other recorded content allowing school groups and puppet lovers across the globe to experience the fun of the Center from any location.

The **Worlds of Puppetry** Museum opened in November 2015 with the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of Jim Henson puppets and artifacts, as well as puppets from around the world. Since the completion of the museum expansion, a whole series of programming is being enhanced, expanded or developed specifically for the Museum. Ongoing programming includes *Tale Time Thursdays* and daily tours for families, while specialty themed evenings such as **Henson Trivia Night** and **Valentine's at the Center** are geared toward adults. The museum's **Film Series** continues its mission to showcase puppets on the big screen with such favorites as **Babe the Gallant Pig** and **Being John Malkovich** (among many). New figures will rotate into the **Worlds of Puppetry** Museum in early June. The Center's wide variety of programming allows patrons to connect with puppetry and experience puppetry in a way that is most enjoyable and suitable for them.

**The 2016-2017 Family Series: (Recommended for Ages 4+ except where noted)**

<b>The Swan (Ages 3+)</b> By Théâtre de Deux Mains of Montréal, Québec, Canada	<b>May 24 – June 5, 2016</b>
<b>The Little Pirate Mermaid</b> Adapted by Jon Ludwig	<b>June 7 – July 17, 2016</b>
<b>Sleeping Beauty</b> By National Marionette Theatre of Erie, Pa.	<b>July 19- 31, 2016</b>
<b>Old MacDonald's Farm (Ages 2+)</b> Adapted by Amy Sweeney	<b>August 2 – September 11, 2016</b>
<b>Tales of Peter Rabbit</b> By Thistle Theatre of Seattle, Wash.	<b>September 14-25, 2016</b>
<b>La Cucarachita Martina (Martina the Little Roach)</b> By Teatro SEA of New York, N.Y.	<b>September 28 – October 9, 2016</b>
<b>The Jungle Book: The Story of Mowgli's Fire</b> By Frisch Marionettes of Cincinnati, Ohio	<b>October 12 – 23, 2016</b>
<b>The Headless Horseman of Sleepy-Silly Hollow</b> By Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers of Bar Harbor, Maine	<b>October 25, 2015 – November 6, 2016</b>
<b>Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer</b> Adapted by Jon Ludwig	<b>November 8 – December 31, 2016</b>
<b>The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by A. Wolf</b> By Mesner Puppet Theater of Kansas City, Mo.	<b>January 3-22, 2017</b>
<b>The Adventures of Mighty Bug</b> Adapted by Jon Ludwig	<b>January 24– March 12, 2017</b>
<b>The Dragon King</b> By Tanglewood Marionettes of Ware, Mass.	<b>March 14 – April 2, 2017</b>
<b>Pete the Cat</b> Based on the book series by James Dean Adapted by Jon Ludwig	<b>April 4 – May 21, 2017</b>

**The 2016-2017 New Directions Series for Adults & Teens:**

<b>National Puppet Slam (Ages 18+)</b>	<b>September 2-4, 2016</b>
<b>The Ghastly Dreadfuls (Ages 18+)</b> By Jon Ludwig and Jason Hines	<b>October 12-29, 2016</b>

**Oliver Twist (Ages 12+)**

By Simpich Marionettes of Colorado Springs, Colo.

**February 28-March 5, 2017**

**Xperimental Puppetry Theater (XPT) (Ages 18+)**

By Various Artists

**May 11 – 14, 2017**

**2016-2017 Explore Puppetry Workshops****Personality Type in the Puppetry World**

Presented by Sadie Young, M.Ed., MBTI - Myers-Brigs Type Indicator  
June 13-17, 2016

**Puppetry = Breath, Movement, Dance:****Building Confident Performers through Kinesthetic Concepts**

Presented by Lyric Cosby Jackson Dance Project  
Monday, Aug. 29 | Tuesday, Aug. 30 | Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2016

**Costuming: Puppets, Muppets & Mascots**

Presented by Bonnie Erickson, Jim Henson Legacy  
Harrison/Ericson, Inc. & Acme Puppets  
Monday, Sept. 26, 2016

**Snip Stitch Floor Focus:****Puppet Creation and Performance for Television**

Presented by Bob's Your Uncle Productions  
Sunday, Nov. 6 | Monday, Nov. 7 | Sunday, Nov. 13 | Monday, Nov. 14, 2016

**Fundraising 101**

Presented by C4 Atlanta  
Monday, Dec. 12, 2016

**Puppetry 101: A Performance Primer**

Presented by Aretta Baumgartner  
Monday, Jan. 9, 2017

**When Once is Not Enough: Molding & Casting Duplicates Presented by The Engineer Guy**

Monday, March 6, 2017

**Marionette Manipulation**

Presented by Tanglewood Marionettes  
Monday, March 27, 2017

**The Shadow Puppet Conspiracy:****How to Perform Shadow Puppet Improv**

Presented by Sea Beast Puppet Company  
Monday, April 24, 2017

**A Day in the Life of Puppet Film**

Presented by Ninja Puppet Productions  
Monday, May 22, 2017

**2016-2017 JUNIOR EXPLORERS SERIES****Puppet Camp**

Presented by Center for Puppetry Arts Education Department  
Monday-Friday, June 13-17, 2016

**A World of Puppets**

Presented by Jeff Domke and Damon Young, Center for Puppetry Arts Education Department  
Sunday, Oct. 23, 2016

### **Create a Cardboard Puppet Pal**

Presented by Lee Bryan, That Puppet Guy  
Sunday, Feb. 19, 2017

### **2016-2017 Museum Film Series**

#### **Babe the Gallant Pig**

Saturday, June 18, 2016 – 7 p.m.

#### **Jim Henson's The Storyteller and Farscape**

Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016 – 8 p.m.

#### **Jason and the Argonauts**

Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016 – 7 p.m.

#### **Muppet Treasure Island**

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016 – 7 p.m.

#### **Team America: World Police**

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 – 8 p.m.

#### **Sesame Street Presents: Follow that Bird**

Saturday, March 11, 2017 – 7 p.m.

#### **Being John Malkovich**

Saturday, May 20, 2017 – 8 p.m.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The best way to experience the Center is by becoming a Member! Members enjoy benefits like discounts on tickets to performances, free admission to the *Worlds of Puppetry* Museum, free films and priority seating. For more information, visit [WWW.PUPPETJOIN.COM](http://WWW.PUPPETJOIN.COM) or call the membership office at **404-881-5151**.

### **TICKETING**

Ticket prices vary for performances and other programs. See prices at [WWW.PUPPET.ORG](http://WWW.PUPPET.ORG) or call **404-873-3391**.

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*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and all elements from the 1964 television special Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer © 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 • National Endowment for the Arts • Zeist Foundation • Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta • PNC • 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.shtml](http://www.puppet.org/about/sponsors.shtml).

*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.*