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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Center for Puppetry Arts presents *The Tortoise, the Hare & Other Aesop's Fables*,
August 14-September 23**

*The interactive show featuring favorite tales is designed to engage children as young as 2 years old*

**ATLANTA (August 1, 2018) –** The **Center for Puppetry Arts** is pleased to present Aesop’s classic stories and morals for young audiences when ***The Tortoise, the Hare & Other Aesop's Fables*** takes the stage **August 14-September 23**. Featuring famous fables, such as “The Lion and the Mouse;” “Country Mouse and City Mouse;” “The Fox and the Crane;” “The Ant and the Grasshopper;” and “The Tortoise and the Hare;” the family-favorite musical show is sure to engage even the youngest family members.

The Center for Puppetry Arts’ production of *The Tortoise, the Hare & Other Aesop's Fables* is part of the Theater for the Very Young initiative, designed specifically with the developmental stages of young children in mind. The performance includes life lessons presented as short stories in order to introduce these concepts to toddlers in a fun, comfortable and positive environment. The vibrant colors of the stage and the puppets command attention, and the lively songs engage children while inviting them to sing and dance along. Featuring body, glove, rod and shadow puppets designed by the Center’s resident puppet builder Jason Hines, *The Tortoise, the Hare & Other Aesop's Fables* introduces young audiences to a wide variety of puppetry styles.

This show is directed by the Center’s head puppeteer Amy Sweeney and performed by puppeteers Matt Baum and Jimmica Collins. The fables were adapted for the puppet stage by Michael Haverty and original music for the show was composed by Dolph Amick.

Families are invited to arrive early to participate in the pre-show enrichment activities. During this time, children can listen to fables and color special City Mouse and Country Mouse puppets to use during the show.

*The Tortoise, the Hare & Other Aesop's Fables* will be presented in the Downstairs Theater, August 14 – September 23. Reduced-price previews take place Tuesday, August 14 and Wednesday, August 15. The regular show schedule is as follows:

Thursday – Friday: 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Saturday: 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

All-inclusive tickets are **$9.75 (Members)** and **$19.50 (nonmembers)** and include entrance to the Create-A-Puppet Workshop™, where guests can make, decorate and perform with their own **Happy Hare Tabletop Puppet**, as well as admission to the *Worlds of Puppetry* Museum, featuring the largest collection of Jim Henson puppets in the world as well as a global gallery. Tickets can be purchased online at [puppet.org](http://puppet.org) or by calling **404.873.3391**.

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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*