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# *The Dragon King* will reign at Center for Puppetry Arts, March 14- April 2

*Families invited to join in the adventurous quest to find the keeper of rain*

**ATLANTA (February 13, 2017) —** A vibrant underwater tale based on Chinese folklore, ***The Dragon King*** comes to the **Center for Puppetry Arts, March 14 – April 2**. It hasn’t rained in ages, the village is in trouble and the only one with the power to bring back water to the land is ***The Dragon King***. In hopes of finding the Dragon King, a determined grandmother voyages to the bottom of the sea to make a plea for a rainy day. Will she be successful? Families are invited to find out during this lively puppet adventure!

Presented by Tanglewood Marionettes of Ware, Mass., *The Dragon King* features marionette and rod puppetry full of vibrant colors and intricate puppets.

As part of the Center’s Autism Spectrum Disorder initiative, a sensory-friendly performance of ***The Dragon King*** will be presented on **Sunday, March 19** at **1 p.m.** Sensory stimuli will also be reduced in Museum Exhibits from 12 p.m. -1 p.m. and in Create-A-Puppet Workshops™ from 1:45 p.m.-2:30 p.m. This special afternoon will allow guests with Autism Spectrum Disorder to experience programming 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. In the Museum Exhibits, lighting will be adjusted and specialized educational activities (such as touch tables and guided storytelling) will be integrated. Fidget toys and sound-reducing headphones will also be available.

**WHAT: The Dragon King** presented by Tanglewood Marionettes

 Recommended for ages 4 and up

**WHEN: Regular show times are as follows:**

 **March 14 – April 2**

Tuesday – 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.

**WHERE: Center for Puppetry Arts (Downstairs Theater)**

 1404 Spring Street NW
 Atlanta, GA 30309

**HOW:**  Tickets are **$10.25 (Members)** and **$20.50 (nonmembers)** and include admission to the show, the *Worlds of Puppetry* Museum (with the largest collection of Jim Henson puppets and artifacts in the world as well as a Global Gallery), and entrance to the Create-A-Puppet Workshop™, where guests can make and decorate their own **Chinese Dragon Marionette** and perform with it on our classroom stage. 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 Wish Foundation Fund of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta

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 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.*