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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Center for Puppetry Arts unveils 40th Anniversary season programming**
*Lineup includes debut of Harold and the Purple Crayon as well as a plethora of new offerings for adult audiences*

**ATLANTA (MARCH 30, 2018)** – The **Center for Puppetry Arts** is thrilled to announce the **2018-2019 season programming**, which coincides with the 40th anniversary of the nation’s largest nonprofit dedicated to the art form of puppetry. Since 1978, the Center for Puppetry Arts has been sharing the power of puppetry with the Atlanta community and beyond, and with this milestone year comes a host of new programming. In addition to bringing back a few familiar favorites, the Center will debut a new Family Series production, expand its adult audience offerings and introduce new puppets, artifacts and events in the *Worlds of Puppetry* Museum.

“Because our family programming will always be at the heart of what we do, we are introducing a brand-new production of *Harold and the Purple Crayon* in the spring, which is a story we’ve wanted to adapt for our stage for quite some time,” said Center for Puppetry Arts Founder and The Barbara and Bill Wylly Executive Director Vincent Anthony. “We’ve also recognized that our Jim Henson collection has captured the attention of a more diverse, adult audience in recent years, so we’ve increased the number of adult performances this year and added other special programming, including our new Puppet Party Series, giving young professionals and other more mature audiences new ways to experience the Center after hours.”

Anchoring the Family Series, is the world premiere of the Center’s adaptation of the beloved children’s book ***Harold and the Purple Crayon***. Originally written by Crockett Johnson, the brand new show has been adapted for the puppet stage by the Center’s Artistic Director Jon Ludwig. Fan favorites, including ***Peter Pan*** and ***Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer****,* will also return to take audiences of all ages on high-flying adventures. To continue its award-winning Theater for the Very Young programming, the Center will present ***The Tortoise, the Hare, & Other Aesop’s Fables*** and share the art of puppetry with audiences as young as two years old. Families can also look forward to performances by six visiting artists from across the United States throughout the season.

The Center will extend its **Sensory Friendly Programming** initiatives in the upcoming season, offering special programming for select Family Series productions. Modifications to the performances, Create-A-Puppet Workshop™ and the *Worlds of Puppetry* Museum will be made to allow audiences with unique needs, specifically audience members on the Autism Spectrum, to enjoy programming in a more comfortable atmosphere.

This season, the Center will more than double its **New Directions Series** offerings to five performances! These shows will offer visually striking and thought provoking works for adult and teen audiences. As part of this year’s line-up, international artists from Tel Aviv, France and Norway will present limited runs of their original works, ***Paper Cut*** and ***Ashes****.* Annual favorites ***National Puppet Slam*** and ***Xperimental Puppetry Theater (XPT)*** will return to the stage as well as cult classic ***The Ghastly Dreadfuls***. Back by popular demand, **The Ghastly Ghathering** will welcome the Ghastlies back from the dead and kick off the Halloween season with a festive fete.

Adult programming will also be extended beyond shows with the introduction of the **Puppet Party Series.** The new series will offer three special events for guests 21 and over who want to experience the *Worlds of Puppetry* Museum in a child-free environment after regular Museum hours. *Puppets and Pints*, *Galentine’s Day* and *Puppets and Pinot* will include live music, light bites, bar games, beer and wine cash bar and, of course, puppets! Guests can also look forward to a **Fizz and Foam** brunch-style event where attendees can create their own foam mouth puppet while enjoying light bites and mimosas.

For Henson fans, the highly anticipated special exhibit **Jim Henson’s The Dark Crystal: World of Myth and Magic** will open in the Dean DuBose Smith Special Exhibits Gallery on August 31. To celebrate, the Center will host **The Dark Crystal Ball** on Thursday, August 30. The Ball will include VIP guests, a costume contest, a Great Conjunction New Year’s Eve-style countdown and more! Additional events honoring the exhibit will be announced at a later date.

Finally, the *Worlds of Puppetry* Museum will offer events a variety of events for guests of all ages! Patrons can view a variety of films and documentaries, celebrate Jim Henson’s birthday, check out the puppets from popular show “Mystery Science Theater 3000” on display in the Global Collection and more! Little ones can look forward to the return of Toddler Tuesdays: Museum Takeover and Scout Days to earn all four STEM patches, while adult audiences can participate in one of nearly a dozen **Explore Puppetry Series** workshops or experience another side of the Museum during the special **Haunted Histories & Puppet Pasts** tours.

TICKETING

Tickets prices vary for performances and other programs. Prices and dates are available at [puppet.org](http://www.puppet.org/) or by calling 404-873-3391.

MEMBERSHIP

The best way to experience the Center is by [becoming a Member](http://puppet.org/contribute/member.shtml). Members receive up to 50 percent off performance tickets and enjoy benefits such as free Museum entry, free films and priority seating. For more information, visit [puppetjoin.org](http://www.puppet.org/contribute/member) or call the Membership office at 404-881-5151.

**2018-2019 FAMILY SERIES:**

 **Sing Along the Road Again May 29-June 10, 2018**

By Mesner Puppet Theater of Kansas City, Missouri

 **Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type June 12-July 29, 2018**

Based on the book by Doreen Cronin with illustrations by Betsy Lewin

Adapted by Jon Ludwig and Jason Hines

 **The Tortoise, the Hare & Other Aesop’s Fables Aug. 14-Sept. 23, 2018**

Adapted by Michael Haverty

Theater for the Very Young

 **Peter Pan Sept. 25-Oct. 28, 2018**

Based on the book by J.M. Barrie

Adapted by Michael Haverty

#  Brother Coyote and Sister Fox Oct. 30-Nov. 11, 2018

By Thistle Theatre of Seattle, Washington

 **Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer™ Nov. 13-Dec. 30, 2018**

Based on the classic television special

Adapted by Jon Ludwig

 **Squirrel Stole My Underpants Jan. 2-6, 2019**

 By The Gottabees of Boston, Massachusetts

 **Paul Bunyan and the Tall Tale Medicine Show Jan. 22-March 10, 2019**

 Adapted by Jon Ludwig

 **The Joshua Show, Episode 2 March 12-17, 2019**

By Joshua Holden of Brooklyn, New York

**Galapagos George, the Little Tortoise That Could March 19-31, 2019**

By Barefoot Puppet Theatre of Richmond, Virginia

**Harold and the Purple Crayon April 2-May 26, 2019**

 Based on the books by Crockett Johnson

 Adapted by Jon Ludwig

**Randel McGee and Groark April 13, 2019**

By Randel McGee of Hanford, California

**2018-19 NEW DIRECTIONS SERIES FOR ADULTS AND TEENS**

**Paper Cut (ages 15+) June 21-24, 2018**

 By Yael Rasooly of Tel Aviv, Israel

**2018 National Puppet Slam (ages 18+) Aug. 31-Sept. 2, 2018**

 By Various Artists

**The Ghastly Dreadfuls (ages 18+) Oct. 10-27, 2018**

 By Jon Ludwig and Jason Hines

 **Ashes (ages 14+) March 1-3, 2019**

By Plexus Polaire of France and Norway

 **Xperimental Puppetry Theater (XPT) (ages 18+) May 16-19, 2019**

By Various Artists

**2018-19 FILM SERIES**

 **The Adventures of Elmo in Grouchland May 26, 2018**

 **The Muppets June 16, 2018**

 **Kubo and the Two Strings July 21, 2018**

 **The Dark Crystal Aug. 4, 2018**

 **The Dark Crystal: Members-Only screening Aug. 25, 2018**

 **The Frog: A Kermit Kompilation Sept. 29, 2018**

**from Sam and Friends to Stardom**

 **The Muppet Christmas Carol Dec. 8, 2018**

 **Honey, I Shrunk the Kids Jan. 12, 2019**

 **Puppetry and Stop Motion Feb. 9, 2019**

**Mystery Science Theater 3000: The Movie March 9, 2019**

**A Better World: Living in Harmony April 13, 2019**

A screening of *Fraggle Rock* and *The Song of the Cloud Forest*

**2018-19 SPECIAL FAMILY MUSEUM EVENTS**

 **Jim Henson Birthday Extravaganza Sept. 29, 2018**

 **World Puppetry Day March 23, 2019**

**2018-19 SPECIAL ADULT EVENTS**

**Fizz and Foam May 27, 2018**

**Puppets and Pints Aug. 11, 2018**

**The Dark Crystal Ball Aug. 30, 2018**

 **Haunted Histories & Puppet Pasts Oct. 26 & 27, 2018**

**A Ghastly Ghathering Oct. 6, 2018**

**Galentine’s Night Feb. 16, 2019**

**Puppets and Pinot Apr. 27, 2019**

**Mystery Science Theater 3000 TBD**

**2018-19 MUSEUM SPECIAL EXHIBITS**

**Indian Puppets: The Great Stories and Dancing Dolls Now-July 15, 2018**

**Jim Henson’s The Dark Crystal: World of Myth Opening Aug. 31, 2018
and Magic Dark Crystal**

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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.*