



P R E S S R E L E A S E

1404 Spring Street at 18th • Atlanta, GA 30309 • www.puppet.org • Administration: 404.873.3089

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CONTACT: Shannon Frye, 404.881.5143, shannonfrye@puppet.org

CENTER FOR PUPPETRY ARTS & JOE CLOKEY CELEBRATE GUMBY'S 50TH BIRTHDAY WITH SPECIAL EXHIBIT AND SCREENING

ATLANTA, July 2006 – It's not easy being green – or is it? Come find out when the Center for Puppetry Arts presents Art Clokey's famed clay character, Gumby, complete with entourage in the special exhibit, ***Art Clokey's Gumby: The First 50 Years***, on view August 4, 2006 – March 4, 2007.

David Scheve of Clokey Productions/The Deep Archives curates this playful retrospective celebrating the pop-culture icon that ushered in stop-motion animation. Looking young as ever, Gumby dresses up in shining armor to join the Knights of the Roundtable, gets suited up to set foot on the moon, meets Ben Franklin and visits his long-time friend, Pokey. In fact, all of his pals can be seen here: companions Prickle and Goo (incidentally inspired by Alan Watts, the Zen philosopher of Sausalito), those fiendish Blockheads "G" and "J," and Nopey, Gumby's verbally challenged puppy dog.

Originally hand-made, using rolling pins and cookie cutters, Clokey's creations spawned more than 200 television episodes, a feature film and a video game, making the wide-eyed green guy one of the country's most beloved characters. In addition to entertaining millions of children and adults around the world, Clokey's magical art continues to inspire a myriad of animators, among them Will Vinton and Tim Burton.

FILM SCREENING

Joe Clokey, son of Art Clokey, will introduce a special screening of rare Gumby films on Friday, August 4, 8-9:30pm. This collection of seldom-seen shorts includes *Gumbasia*, Clokey's first exercise in stop-motion animation; *Lawn Party*, a black and white silent comedy featuring Gumby and Pokey; and much more. Viewers will also see selected Gumby episodes from the 1950s and 60s along with a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the popular video game *Gumby vs. the Astrobots*. Joe Clokey will hold a Q & A session immediately following the screening. Tickets are \$4.63 + tax; free for Members.

TICKETING

Each full-priced performance ticket includes admission to the Center's permanent museum, *PUPPETS: The Power of Wonder*, and the special exhibits. When purchased individually, admission is \$7.41 + tax for adults and

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\$5.56 + tax for children, (\$3.70 + tax for Center Members). Advance purchase is recommended for all Center activities. Group rates are available. Tickets may be ordered “FEE-FREE” online at www.puppet.org or by calling the Ticket Sales Office at 404.873.3391. The Ticket Sales Office is open Monday through Saturday from 9am – 5pm and Sunday 11am – 5pm, with extended hours during evening performances.

The Center’s programming is generally offered Wednesday through Saturday from 9am – 5pm and Sunday from 11am – 5pm. Located in Midtown across from Atlantic Station, the Center is accessible from MARTA and has limited free parking.

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The Center for Puppetry Arts is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization and is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts; the Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly (the Council is a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts); and contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations. Major funding for the Center is provided by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners under the guidance of the Fulton County Arts Council. Major support is provided by the City of Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs. The Center is a Constituent of TCG and member of the Atlanta Coalition of Performing Arts. The Center also serves as headquarters of UNIMA-USA.