



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

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CENTER FOR PUPPETRY ARTS SPECIAL EXHIBIT "GODS & DEMONS, MONKEYS & MEN" OPENS JULY 7, 2006

ATLANTA, June 2006 – Travel to Southeast Asia and discover a link to puppetry's past. The Center for Puppetry Arts presents a spirited display of more than 80 masks, puppets, costumes and photographs from Burma, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam in the special exhibit, ***Gods & Demons, Monkeys & Men***, on view July 7, 2006 – June 17, 2007.

Dr. Kathy Foley, professor of theater at the University of California, Santa Cruz, curates this traveling exhibit in which Southeast Asia's oldest performance medium, mask theatre, comes brilliantly to life. From the outstretched Garuda (eagle) of West Java to the wide-eyed Ma (horse) from Thailand, viewers will find vibrantly painted, carved wood and papier-mâché objects meticulously adorned with sequins, rhinestones, gold and luxurious fabrics. Elaborate costumes, photographs and video footage of performances further illustrate the art of mask theatre which employs a strict code of movement and vocalization, allowing a solo performer to become a god, warrior, demon, teacher, clown and more. Beautifully ornate and often garish, these pieces vividly reflect the spiritual and celebratory nature of an ancient art form that passed epic stories down through the generations and continues to inspire and entertain today.

MEET THE CURATOR! GALLERY TOUR

Explore the history of mask theatre with Dr. Foley during the *Meet the Curator! Gallery Tour* offered Saturday, July 8, 2-3pm as part of the 2006-07 Adult Education Series. Dr. Foley is editor of *Asian Theatre Journal*, Center for Puppetry Arts museum advisor, female Balinese dalang (puppet master) and the first non-Indonesian invited to perform in the prestigious Indonesia National Wayang Festival. Tour is \$9.26 + tax, (\$7.41 + tax for Center 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 \$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

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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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Gods & Demons, Monkeys & Men is supported in part by the Woodruff Arts Center Celebrate Diversity Through the Arts Program and by the Georgia Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities and through appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly.

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.