



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## “AMERICAN TALL TALES” ROPES IN A TELLY AWARD!

**ATLANTA, March 2005** – The Center for Puppetry Arts announces that the *American Tall Tales* DVD has been recognized with a 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Telly Award. *American Tall Tales* was released December 1, 2004 as part of the Center’s debut DVD collection, PUPPETS AT PLAY.

American heroes spin tales taller than a ten-gallon hat in this historic hoedown! Viewers learn all about the folks behind the lore as Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox invent logging; Native-American Hekeke saves her tribe from a people-eating ogre; African-American John Henry becomes a steel-driving man; and western cowboy Pecos Bill tames a tornado. Director Jon Ludwig used hand-and-rod puppets, shadow puppets and twangy tunes to vividly capture the early lives of America’s settlers on this land made for you and me.

Creative Digital Group, an Atlanta-based marketing communications company, donated two years of video production services to produce, distribute and archive ten of the Center’s productions. Each digitally mastered DVD was shot using a three-camera setup, capturing multiple angles of the live performances. In addition, extensive color and video level correction was used in order to offset the dramatic changes in lighting used in the theater.

Founded in 1978, the Telly Awards is the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional and cable TV commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions. The Telly Awards annually showcases the best work of the most respected advertising agencies, production companies, television stations, cable operators and corporate video departments in the world. The Telly Awards is a widely known and highly respected national and international competition and receives over 10,000 entries annually from all 50 states and many foreign countries.

- MORE -

## TELLY RELEASE/Page 2

The Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta, GA, is a unique cultural treasure – a magical place where children and adults are educated, enlightened and entertained. Kermit the Frog, accompanied by his creator, Jim Henson cut the ribbon to officially open the Center in 1978. Since that time, 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 global museum.

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*The Center for Puppetry Arts is a non-profit, 501(C3) 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 participant in the New Generations Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre. The Center is a member of Theatre Communications Group and the Atlanta Coalition of Performing Arts. The Center also serves as headquarters of UNIMA-USA.*