

**Jon Ludwig** is an accomplished performer, director, and theater designer who has worked in Atlanta, New York, and abroad. He is the Center's Artistic Director and has worked at the organization since its inception. He joined The Directors Guild of America for direction of *The Book of Pooh* and is also a member of ASCAP. In children's television, Ludwig wrote, designed, and puppeteered the shadow puppet segments for the Disney Channel/Henson Production show *Bear in the Big Blue House*. He has a B.A. in Theater from Chicago's Columbia College.

At the Center, Ludwig has written and directed 20 distinctive shows for the Family Series (including *Duke Ellington's Cat*, *Dinosaurs*, and *Weather Rocks*) that educate and appeal to children and adults. Most recently he wrote and directed *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, based on the classic television special. The show was a resounding success for the Center. He has also collaborated with local organizations in the creation of some of his shows. He wrote and directed *Adventures of Little Noodle*, a show that encouraged healthy eating and living and partnered the Center with the Aetna Foundation. Another of his projects, the touring show *Captain Healthy and Safety Dog*, partnered the Center with the DeKalb County Public Library and the DeKalb County Board of Health.

Ludwig is recognized as an innovator in the field of adult puppet theater. Eight of his productions have received Citations of Excellence from UNIMA-USA, the U.S. branch of the international puppetry organization Union Internationale de la Marionnette, and in 2007 he was one of the first recipients of a new grant from Atlanta's Charles Loidans Foundation to honor individual artists. His adaptation of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, commissioned and produced for the 1996 Olympic Arts Festival, received national and international acclaim and was heralded as one of the highlights of the Festival by art critics, including *Newsweek* magazine.

Ludwig has also collaborated with national and international artists. He worked with Petr Matasek from the Czech Republic Theater DRAC on the adult production, *FIRE!*, which premiered at the Center in June 1995 and played again in July 1999. *Kwaidan*, created with Chinese-American director Ping Chong and Mitsuru Ishii of Japan, proved to be a critical and popular success during its two runs at the Center, its 1998 U.S. tour (including the New Victory Theater and La MaMa in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington, the Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, and the Walker Arts Center in Minneapolis), its 1999 six-week tour of Japan, and its 2000 sold-out run in London. His adult piece *Safe as Milk* has been performed throughout the U.S. and was staged in 1994 at P.S. 122 in New York as part of The Jim Henson Foundation's International Festival of Puppet Theater. *Avanti, Da Vinci! The Secret Adventures of Leonardo da Vinci*, which Ludwig wrote and directed with Jason von Hinezmeyer, sold out its 2004 Atlanta premiere and then traveled to the Slovak Republic, where it became the first U.S. production to be performed at the Bábkarska Bystrica Puppetry Festival.