

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tales of Edgar Allan Poe

Center for Puppetry Arts is pleased to present *Tales of Edgar Allan Poe* as part of the **2009-10 New Directions Series!** In this performance, Poe's tortured psyche is resurrected among the ruins of a fallen house where mysterious spirits bedevil the dead and it's always a midnight dreary. Gothic designs, haunting music, and shadowy figures breathe life into Poe's tapestry of terror, weaving his classics *The Raven*, *The Tell-Tale Heart*, *The Bells*, *The Black Cat*, and *The Cask of Amontillado* with his lesser known works, *Berenice*, *The Oval Portrait*, *M.S. Found in a Bottle*, and *Lenore*. These tales are removed from the shelf and chillingly realized on stage, giving life to the dead and leaving your heart still. This show is recommended for ages **12 and up**.

Tales of Edgar Allan Poe is adapted and directed by **Bobby Box** in collaboration with **Jon Ludwig**. Puppeteers **Michael Haverty**, **Luis Hernandez** and **Janet Metzger** bring Poe's infamous characters to life using a unique "table-top" puppetry style, which incorporates live actors sharing the stage with the puppets they manipulate on the multi-planed set. Music is performed live at each show by Atlanta-based composer and percussionist, **Klimchak**, who uses unconventional and original instruments such as wine bottles, saws, and didgeridoos, to create a ghostly and tension-filled atmosphere.

Valentine's Day looking dreary? Bittersweet break-up? Is your love life "nevermore?" Come celebrate an unconventional Valentine's Day at the Center for Puppetry Arts during our "**Oh, Poe is Me!**" **Valentine's Weekend**, February 11th – 14th, 2010 (during evening performances only). This is a "**Center After Dark**" event - before the show, explore the Museum, where you can reunite with some of your first loves, such as Kermit and Big Bird; you can also stop by our cash bar, or as we are calling it during *Poe*, **Fortunato's Tavern**. Guests will also be encouraged to post "broken-heart valentines" on the walls for all to see, professing their undying love, or hate, for the various significant others of their past or present. Whether you are in or out of love, this unique Valentine's activity is sure to leave your heart yearning for more!

Tales of Edgar Allan Poe runs **February 2 – 21, 2010** at the following times:

Matinees: Tues – Fri @ 11:00am; **Evening Showtimes:** Thurs - Sat @ 8pm; Sun @ 5pm;
"Oh, Poe is Me!" Valentine's Weekend runs Feb. 11 – 14, 2010 (evening shows only).

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2009-10 Season sponsored in part by: City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs, Fulton County Arts Council, Georgia Council for the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts • *Tales of Edgar Allan Poe* sponsored in part by: Arnall Golden Gregory LLP • **Puppets: The Power of Wonder** sponsored by: The Coca-Cola Foundation • **2009-10 Official Partners:** Regency Suites Hotel, Leapfrog Extraordinary IT Services, Atlanta Taste Catering

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 under the guidance of the Fulton County Arts Council. Major support is provided by the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs. These programs are supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) through the appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly. GCA is a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Center is a Member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American Theatre, and the Atlanta Coalition of Performing Arts. The Center also serves as headquarters of UNIMA-USA, the American branch of Union Internationale de la Marionnette, the international puppetry organization.