



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

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CENTER FOR PUPPETRY ARTS ANNOUNCES 2007-08 SEASON!

ATLANTA, April 2007 – The Center for Puppetry Arts is proud to announce its **2007-08 Season**. With everything from banana-wielding cowboys to Latino rock ‘n’ roll musicals to a modern adaptation of the Middle Eastern “Karagoz” shadow play, this year the Center has something for everyone!

The new season begins with the **2007 SUMMERFEST** – a series of two-week performances by visiting artists. This Summer, a cunning spider outsmarts even the slyest animals, Pinocchio dreams of becoming a real boy and a local hero defends his Western town with bananas!

Fall kicks off with the **2007-08 FAMILY SERIES**. The Center is proud to announce the arrival of New York’s premier bilingual puppetry troupe, Teatro SEA, who will visit the Center twice to perform tales with roots all over the Caribbean and South America. Also, Jon Ludwig will debut a brand-new show, presented as part of the National Black Arts Festival, called *Duke Ellington’s Cat*.

October marks the beginning of the **2007-08 NEW DIRECTIONS SERIES**. The Ghastly Dreadfuls return to the downstairs theater to share their haunting music and chilling tales, and Bobby Box’s critically acclaimed show, *Anne Frank: Within & Without*, returns to the Center after playing to sold-out audiences in 2006.

SUMMERFEST

Anansi the Spider

By Tears of Joy Theatre, Portland, OR

July 10 – 22, 2007

Anansi is just a little spider who believes nothing is beyond his grasp. In “From Tiger to Anansi,” the famous spider outsmarts an egotistical snake to win naming rights to a host of animal stories. Then, the cunning and mischievous Anansi tricks a gullible elephant in *Anansi and the Talking Melon*. Other animals may ridicule Anansi, but he will have the last laugh...and so will you! This show is presented during the National Black Arts Festival. Perfect for all ages.

Pinocchio

By National Marionette Theatre, Newfane, VT

July 24 – August 5, 2007

A talented woodcarver named Geppetto takes a piece of wood and creates a little marionette boy that can dance, fence and turn somersaults. But this adorable puppet is not as innocent as he may seem! Join Pinocchio as he runs into all the trials and tribulations of becoming a real boy, despite the earnest guidance of his cricket friend. Find out if Pinocchio will fall victim to the scams of the conniving Mr. Fox and Mr. Cat, or if he’s finally able to break free from the strings that tie him down...and hold him up!

The Legend of the Banana Kid

Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers, Bar Harbor, ME (creators of last season’s smash hit, *Everybody Loves Pirates!*)

August 7 – 19, 2007

It seems Little Chucky is always getting into some kind of a pickle. This time, Chucky meets a mysterious cowboy who takes him to a remote Western town being harassed by a group of seedy outlaws. Chucky pretends to be a

local hero and prepares to outsmart the thugs and bring justice back to the town. His weapon of choice? Bananas! Will Chucky ride off into the sunset on his trusty goat? Or will the sun set on Chucky instead?

FAMILY SERIES

The Big Bad, Little Red, Pig Show

By Lee Bryan, "That Puppet Guy," Atlanta, GA

August 24 - September 9, 2007

Little Red Riding Hood and *The Three Little Pigs* are cleverly woven together with just one very busy Big Bad Wolf to share in all the hilarious fun. Little Red is trying to decide what color riding hood to wear. Just because her name is Little Red Riding Hood doesn't mean she has to wear red...or does it? Granny isn't bed-ridden in this version of the tale. Instead, she's sweatin' to the oldies while she does her aerobic workout. The three little pigs include the actor, Hamlet, the prissy Miss Barbie-Q, and their cousin, Kevin...Bacon! Solo puppeteer Lee Bryan (a.k.a. "That Puppet Guy") gives this one-of-a-kind production an exciting new twist with hand puppets, rod puppets, clever music and an original script.

La Cucarachita Martina (Martina, the Little Roach)

By Teatro SEA (Sociedad Educativa de las Artes), New York, NY

September 14–23, 2007

This well-known tale from the Caribbean, told in Spanish and English, is transformed into a Latino rock 'n' roll musical that will have you laughing, singing and loving Martina! Meet la cucarachita Martina. When Martina discovers a penny and buys a tin of face powder, suddenly everyone wants to marry her! But what this lady roach really wants is friendship, kindness, thoughtfulness and sharing. Will Martina ever find her knight in shining armor? Join New York's premier Latino puppetry theatre for a bilingual tale that's as cute and silly as Martina herself.

Winnie-the-Pooh

By A.A. Milne, adapted by Kristen Sergel, directed by Bobby Box of the Center

September 27 - December 9, 2007

These gentle, timeless tales of simple friendship are lovingly told in this heartwarming Center favorite. There are no villains here, just friends helping friends as Eeyore loses his tail, Piglet looks for a Heffalump and Pooh takes a balloon ride through the sky in this straightforward re-telling of the children's classic. Hunny, anyone? Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois.

The Shoemaker & The Elves

Adapted by Bobby Box & Lorna Howley

November 15, 2007 - January 6, 2008

The holidays are approaching, but business is not so good at Footmeyer's Shoes. Mel and Tootsie have kept their store open for 42 years, and this year may be the last. What's a shoemaker to do? Enter Frankie and Gino, two bumbling, lovable elves who have nothing but time on their hands and a burning desire to build, build, build! Come join the fun as Santa's shoe artists help the Footmeyers spread good cheer all around 1940s New York City. Expect exciting celebrity appearances and swinging big band music to keep the holiday spirit hopping.

Duke Ellington's Cat

By Jon Ludwig (Creator of *Avanti, Da Vinci!* and *Rainforest Adventures*)

January 10 – March 16, 2008

This lyrical look at the life and times of one of America's jazz icons is set right in the middle of a career that spanned from the Roaring Twenties through the Civil Rights Movement. Going on the road with the great Duke Ellington is one cool cat. From the early days in the pool halls to the concert halls performing before crowned heads, this feisty feline has been there at Duke's side, sometimes even sitting in with the band. But not everything is in rhythm on the day that Duke is to play a suite in honor of the Queen of England and the score has been stolen! Will his cat find the music and get it to the Duke in time?

There's a Dinosaur in the Closet

By Coad Canada Puppets, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada

February 19 – March 2, 2008

Despite his frequent appeals, Darryl is forbidden to keep a pet. One day he smuggles a large "pet" rock into his room. Imagine his surprise when out of this strange rock pops a baby dinosaur! Darryl tries to hide the new pet from his aunt, but he can't keep it a secret for long. Soon Aunt Amelia will discover that this pet rock has turned into a gigantic pet dinosaur!

The Lion, The Mouse & Other Aesop's Fables

By Red Herring Puppets, Fairview, NC

March 4 – 30, 2008

This original rhymed version of classic tales by Aesop, an ancient Greek slave, will delight audiences of all ages with the stories "The Lion and the Mouse," "The Tortoise and the Hare," "The Owl and the Grasshopper," "The Fox and the Crow," "The Crow and the Pitcher," and "The Stork and the Fox." This collection of stories is over 2,000 years old, but it's never too late to learn a few valuable lessons about competition, bullying, friendship, patience and more.

The Encounter of Juan Bobo & Pedro Animal

By Teatro SEA (Sociedad Educativa de las Artes), New York, NY

April 1-6, 2008

Children in the audience play a big part in this circus-style play performed in Spanish and English. In turn they see how two characters from Dominican and Puerto Rican folklore find friendship, self-esteem and confidence. New York's Latino puppetry theater is back for another hilarious bilingual hit. Two clowns from the Caribbean find that they've both been assigned to tell the audience a story from their homeland. One tells the story of Pedro Animal and his attempts to win the hand of his beloved Altagracia. The other tells the story of Juan Bobo, the fly-catching misfit who can't seem to do anything right for his poor, overworked mother. When they're done, the two clowns find they have much more in common than they originally realized.

Cinderella Della Circus

Adapted by Jon Ludwig of the Center (Creator of *Avanti, Da Vinci!* and *Beauty & the Beast*)

April 10 - June 22, 2008

Cinderella is head over heels but not in love...yet. She is a high-flying circus artiste working for a cruel Ringmaster and her jealous daughters who won't let Cinderella perform her incredible acrobatic maneuvers. Instead she must cook and clean for them. But this doesn't stop her from practicing in the moonlight where her gentle spirit shines. The circus is commanded to perform at the Handsome Prince's Ball. Cinderella is forbidden to attend, but with the aid of her "Fairy Godmother" – P.T. Barnum – she transforms her act into pure beauty for all to enjoy. The Handsome Prince is smitten with her, but the "magic" ends at midnight and the rest is as you know except...Cinderella discovers it isn't the Handsome Prince she loves but someone close to her who has a secret of his own.

NEW DIRECTIONS SERIES

The Ghastly Dreadfuls' Compendium of Graveyard Tales and Other Curiosities

By Jon Ludwig & Jason von Hinezmeyer (co-creators of *Avanti, Da Vinci!*)

Back by popular demand!

October 11-28, 2007

The Ghastly Dreadfuls return from the great beyond to perform a diverting evening of haunting horrors and macabre music for your entertainment and edification. "A homage to the morbid splendor of 19th century-style horror..." says the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. They only gather when the clock strikes midnight on a full moon, so don't miss your chance to hear these undead misfits relate their chilling tales.

Anne Frank: Within & Without

By Bobby Box (Director of *Tales of Edgar Allan Poe*)

January 22 – February 17, 2008

Hailed by *The New York Times* as a show that "brings new depth and perspective to the wartime memoir," *Anne Frank: Within & Without* returns to the Center after playing to sold-out audiences during its first run. The remarkable story of Anne Frank and the hopes, dreams and inner strength that carried her from day to day are given new life in this original production. Spanning the entire life of this remarkable teenager and taking you beyond the point where most biographies end, this celebratory piece is not just about death, war or "that poor little girl," but rather acts as a meditation on hope and all that is good in humankind.

Anne Frank: Within & Without is presented in cooperation with the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust and the *Anne Frank in the World: 1929-1945* exhibit, under the auspices of the Anne Frank Center USA. Photos and text courtesy of the Anne Frank Center, USA-New York; the Anne Frank House - Amsterdam; and the Anne Frank - Fonds, Basel.

The Mother of All Enemies

By Paul Zaloom (Creator of *Mighty Nice*)

April 11–13, 2008

For Mature Audiences Only

Called “one of the most original and talented political satirists working in theater” by *The New York Times*, Paul Zaloom’s most recent spoof is sure to make you laugh...and cringe a little too. Zaloom gives new meaning to the term “shadow government” with this politicized update of the traditional Middle Eastern “Karagoz” shadow play. In Zaloom’s frenetically comic epic, Karagoz is a queer-secular humanist-Quaker-Buddhist-agnostic Arab immigrant artist, who somehow outfoxes a horde of pursuing adversaries made up of Homeland Security, Al Qaeda, the Statue of Liberty, the Christian Ex-Gay Movement, Minutemen vigilantes, and Israeli and Syrian agents.

Xpermental Puppetry Theater (XPT)

By Various Artists

May 15-18, 2008

For Mature Audiences Only

Puppet veterans, neophytes and the occasional mad scientist unite! *Xpermental Puppetry Theater* has returned just in time to provide a freewheeling forum for those who feel a need to color outside the lines. Half experimental, half mental, and completely fun, XPT has become the launching pad for those who want to explore the limits of puppetry. See why audiences have made *XPT* an annual favorite for over 20 years!

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