



## PRESS RELEASE

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### String Fling Gala 2009 – Reach for the Stars!

**ATLANTA, August 2009** – “Reach for the Stars” with the Center for Puppetry Arts as it celebrates its 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary at **String Fling Gala 2009!** This year the Center plans to recognize the occasion with a theme that looks toward its bright future. So get ready to shine on **Saturday, September 12, 2009**, at 6:30pm at the JW Marriott Hotel in Buckhead and “Reach for the Stars” with us.

At **String Fling Gala 2009**, we want to celebrate our past accomplishments as well as what’s in the stars for the Center’s future. So make String Fling the place to be for a heavenly evening featuring cocktails, a seated dinner, exciting live and silent auctions, a unique puppetry performance, and more. String Fling Chair Christine M. Morgan has been working hard with Auction Committee Chair Kristi Patterson and Corporate Committee Chair Mike Dunlap to secure auction items and sponsorships for the Gala. Highlights of the **String Fling Auction** include: a lavish seven-night stay for four in a Tuscan Villa; a custom-made child’s puppet theater built by the Center’s own Production Department; a cocktail reception for 25 along with a block of rooms provided by the beautiful Artmore Hotel; an exclusive visit to the set of *Sesame Street* for a live taping of the show (airfare for two included); and much more!

**String Fling Corporate Sponsors** are as follows at the named levels: **Executive Producer:** The Coca-Cola Company; **Benefactor:** Fifth Third Bank; Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.; Kilpatrick Stockton LLP; **Table Host:** Gay and Erskine Love Foundation; Empire Distributors, Inc.; First Horizon Insurance; Good Electric Corporation; Jones Day; RockBridge Commercial Bank; Sutherland; **Sustainer:** Alexander Haas; Andersen Tate & Carr; Equifax Inc.; French Wolf & Farr; Haddow & Company; PMC Building Materials; **Hand Puppet:** Mac’s Beer and Wine; RHD Miller Company; **In-Kind:** Standard Press; Barefoot Wine & Bubbly.

The annual String Fling Gala helps to raise funds for education and other programming at the Center. This support enables the Center to provide an average of 40,000 free and 140,000 greatly discounted tickets to underserved audiences each year. In addition to the on-site programs, the Center’s award-winning Distance Learning program, an innovative teaching tool offered via a two-way interactive video conferencing network, reaches more than 20,000 students annually from 46 states and 3 foreign countries, amounting to over 120,000 students in its ten year history. The Center is a cultural treasure unique to Atlanta and the largest non-profit organization in the U.S. devoted to the art of puppetry. Only with the help of corporate sponsors and generous individuals can the Center continue to bring quality programming and entertainment to thousands of children and adults each year.

**Reserve today** and join us at 6:30pm on September 12, 2009, at the beautiful JW Marriott Hotel in Buckhead. Tickets are \$200 per person, or host a table of ten for \$2,500. Sponsorships and other giving opportunities are also available. Call Kathryn Banks at 404.881.5118 or email [kathrynbanks@puppet.org](mailto:kathrynbanks@puppet.org) for reservations or more information.

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*The 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.*