



2017

JANUARY 19 - 29

*Performances that will*

ASTONISH & DELIGHT



@ChiPuppetFest



ChicagoPuppetFest.org

## ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The **Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival** is a biennial event founded in 2015 to establish Chicago as a prominent center for the art of puppetry practices by artists in the world today. The festival builds on the city's hunger for high quality international theater work, and harnesses the spirit of collaboration with established local partners.

We would like to express our gratitude to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for their multi-year, flagship investment toward the vision of the Festival.

## FESTIVAL PARTNERS:



Links Hall



## DEAR GUESTS,

It is with joy and delight that I present to you the 2nd edition of our Puppet Festival here in Chicago! The modern/ancient art of puppetry will offer you unexpected insights into our otherwise media-saturated cultural landscape. Story is a powerful tradition here in our Midwestern metropolis and you will discover the unique storytelling power of puppetry from around the globe. The puppet and its object-world mirror back our humanity using a unique universal language. It can be both surprisingly comic and startlingly profound. For me as a puppeteer the pure abandoned fun keeps me coming back. I hope you too can discover an equal joy at the Festival. Join around this toasty fire of culture for astonishing and completely memorable experiences with family, friends and our global neighbors.

—Blair Thomas

*Festival Founder & Artistic Director*



Photo: Saverio Truglia

**1 THE NEO-FUTURIUM**  
5153 N. Ashland Ave.

**2 LINKS HALL**  
3111 N. Western Ave.

**3 VICTORY GARDENS THEATRE**  
2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

**4 CARDS AGAINST HUMANITY THEATER**  
1917 N. Elston Ave.

**5 CHOPIN THEATRE**  
1543 W. Division St.

**6 ADVENTURE STAGE CHICAGO**  
1012 N. Noble St.

**7 LOOKINGGLASS THEATRE**  
821 N. Michigan Ave.

**8 MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART CHICAGO**  
220 E. Chicago Ave.

**9 INSTITUTO CERVANTES**  
31 W. Ohio St.

**10 CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER**  
78 E. Washington St.

**11 CHICAGO CHILDREN'S THEATRE**  
The Station, 100 S. Racine Ave.

**12 THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE**  
425 W. Wabash St., 4th Floor

**13 STUDEBAKER THEATRE**  
Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave.

**14 THE DANCE CENTER OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO**  
1306 S. Michigan Ave.

**15 REVA AND DAVID LOGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**  
915 E. 60th St.

**16 BEVERLY ARTS CENTER**  
2407 W. 11th St.

FESTIVAL  
**NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR**  
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**10 CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER**  
78 E. Washington St.

**17 NAVY PIER**  
600 E. Grand Ave.

**18 GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY**  
300 N. Central Park Ave.

**19 CALUMET PARK**  
9801 S. Ave. G

**20 MARQUETTE PARK**  
6743 S. Kedzie Ave.

**21 HAMILTON PARK**  
513 W. 72nd St.





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THURSDAY JANUARY 19	FRIDAY JANUARY 20	SATURDAY JANUARY 21	SUNDAY JANUARY 22	MONDAY JANUARY 23	TUESDAY JANUARY 24	WEDNESDAY JANUARY 25	THURSDAY JANUARY 26	FRIDAY JANUARY 27	SATURDAY JANUARY 28	SUNDAY JANUARY 29
							7:30 pm	7:30 pm	3 pm 7:30 pm	3 pm
		2 pm 3 pm 4 pm	11 am 1 pm 3 pm			4:30 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	11:30 am 12:30 pm 1:30 pm	5 pm 6 pm 7 pm	1 pm 2 pm 3 pm	
		7:30 pm	7:30 pm							
							7 pm	7 pm	7 pm	
8 pm	8 pm						8 pm	8 pm	8 pm	7 pm
		4:30 pm 7:30 pm								
			7:30 pm	7:30 pm	7:30 pm	7:30 pm				
2 pm 7:30 pm	7:30 pm	2 pm 7:30 pm	2 pm 7:30 pm			7:30 pm	2 pm 7:30 pm	7:30 pm	2 pm 7:30 pm	2 pm 7:30 pm
								7 pm 9 pm	2 pm 6 pm	11 am 2 pm
9 pm	9 pm	9 pm	2 pm							
	11 pm	11 pm						11 pm	11 pm	
	7 pm 9 pm	7 pm 9 pm								

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								7 pm	1 pm 7 pm	
<b>PLEXUS POLAIRE</b> Cendres [p. 35]	7 pm	7 pm	7 pm							
<b>PORTMANTEAU</b> T(w)O MARIAS [p. 50]		12 - 4 pm	12 - 4 pm							
<b>PUPPET QUARTET UCHICAGO</b> PERFORMANCE LAB RESIDENCIES [p. 51]									4 pm	
<b>VINCENT de ROOIJ &amp; THE NEO-FUTURIST</b> ENSEMBLE - Future Crash [p. 37]							7:30 pm	7:30 pm	7:30 pm	
<b>ROUGH HOUSE</b> Ubu the King [p. 39]							7:30 pm	7:30 pm	7:30 pm	
<b>SILENCIO BLANCO</b> Chiflón el Silencio del Carbón [p. 41]	7:30 pm	7:30 pm	7:30 pm	3 pm						
<b>TEATRO DEI PIEDI</b> Sonata for 4 Feet [p. 43]	7 pm	11 am 7 pm	11 am 7 pm	11 am						
<b>THÉÂTRE PUZZLE</b> Plastique [p. 45]		3 pm	3 pm	7 pm						
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**TEATRO DEI PIEDI**  
Sonata for 4 Feet [p. 43]



**THÉÂTRE PUZZLE**  
Plastique [p. 45]





NEW YORK, NY

BLAIR THOMAS & CO. presents:

HAMID RAHMANIAN

## FEATHERS OF FIRE



THURSDAY, JANUARY 26 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

*Feathers of Fire: A Persian Epic* is a visually breathtaking cinematic shadow play for all ages, created by Hamid Rahmanian in collaboration with Larry Reed. The play unfolds an action-packed magical tale of star-crossed lovers from the 10th-century Persian epic “Shahnameh” (“The Book of Kings”). Inspired by Iranian visual traditions, Rahmanian uses puppets, costumes, masks, scenography and digital animation to bring the story to life on a cinema-sized screen. The show features original music by Loga Ramin Torkian and Azam Ali.

### STUDEBAKER THEATRE

Fine Arts Building  
410 S. Michigan Ave.

\$40; \$30 student/senior

Thursday, January 26: 7:30 pm

Friday, January 27: 7:30 pm

Saturday, January 28: 3 pm + 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 29: 3 pm  
(panel discussion, see pg. 53)

70 minutes



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)





SOUTH KOREA

Photo: Wooshik Lee

LINKS HALL *and* BLAIR THOMAS & CO. *present:*

GEUMHYUNG JEONG

7WAYS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

Where lies the boundary between the body and the machine? In an empty space, illuminated by cold light, Geumhyung Jeong combines dance, puppetry, and a mastery of visual theatrics to explore the potential of the human: the sensuality, power, and mutability of the body. In seven peculiar "duets" with mundane objects ranging from household appliances to mannequins, Jeong bestows a bizarre and disconcerting life to the inanimate through an intense and risky interaction with her own body.

**LINKS HALL**

Studio A  
3111 N. Western Ave.

\$15; \$12 student/senior

Saturday, January 21: **7:30 pm**

Sunday, January 22: **7:30 pm**

75 minutes



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)



Links Hall



BROOKLYN, NY

Photo: Erik McGregor

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIPS AT  
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO *presents:*

GREAT SMALL  
WORKS

## MUNTERGANG AND OTHER CHEERFUL DOWNFALLS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

In a bilingual Yiddish-English play, *Muntergang and Other Cheerful Downfalls* meditates on power dynamics by revisiting the performances of radical 20th-century puppeteers Zuni Maud and Yosi Cutler. Using original graphics and satirical scripts, Great Small Works combines new puppets and projections with original graphics and satirical scripts, introducing Mae West and The Dybbuk along the way.

**THE DANCE CENTER OF  
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO**  
1306 S. Michigan Ave.

\$20; \$10 student

Thursday, January 26: **7 pm**  
Friday, January 27: **7 pm**  
Saturday, January 28: **7 pm**

75 minutes

**Columbia**  
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Center for Community  
Arts Partnerships



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)





CHICAGO, IL

Illustration: Delicious Design League

THE HOUSE THEATRE OF CHICAGO *presents:*

## DIAMOND DOGS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

*Diamond Dogs* is a classic deadly-maze story set in Alastair Reynolds's Revelation Space Universe. Follow a future team of humans and transhumans as they investigate a mysterious alien tower, bent on brutally punishing all intruders. Body modification is the norm in the 26th century, and award-winning puppet designer Mary Robinette Kowal articulates and re-shapes actors' human forms into powerful, mechanized players battling for their lives. Blood will spill.

### CHOPIN THEATRE

1543 W. Division St.

\$15-\$30

Thursday, January 19: **8 pm**  
Friday, January 20: **8 pm**  
Thursday, January 26: **8 pm**  
Friday, January 27: **8 pm**  
Saturday, January 28: **8 pm**  
Sunday, January 29: **7 pm**

120 minutes



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

**THEHOUSE**  
THEATRE OF CHICAGO



CHICAGO, IL

Photo: William Frederking

MANDALA presents:

I GUSTI NGURAH KERTAYUDA  
& MANDALA ENSEMBLE

CONVERSATIONS WITH DEVI



SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

*Conversations with Devi* brings Hindu mythology to life using intricate Balinese shadow puppetry. When a haughty demon named Mahishasura taunts the goddess Devi, the two engage in an epic battle of shape shifting and strength. Delicate chiseled leather puppets called *wayang kulit* illuminate the story while the sounds of an Indonesian gamelan orchestra draw rhythmic motion from every figure, animal, and tree. Mandala presents beloved Chicago artist and cultural educator I Gusti Ngurah Kertayuda.

**THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE**

Katten-Landau Studio  
425 W. Wabash St., 4th Floor

\$28; \$20 student/senior

Saturday, January 21: 4:30 pm +  
7:30 pm

70 minutes

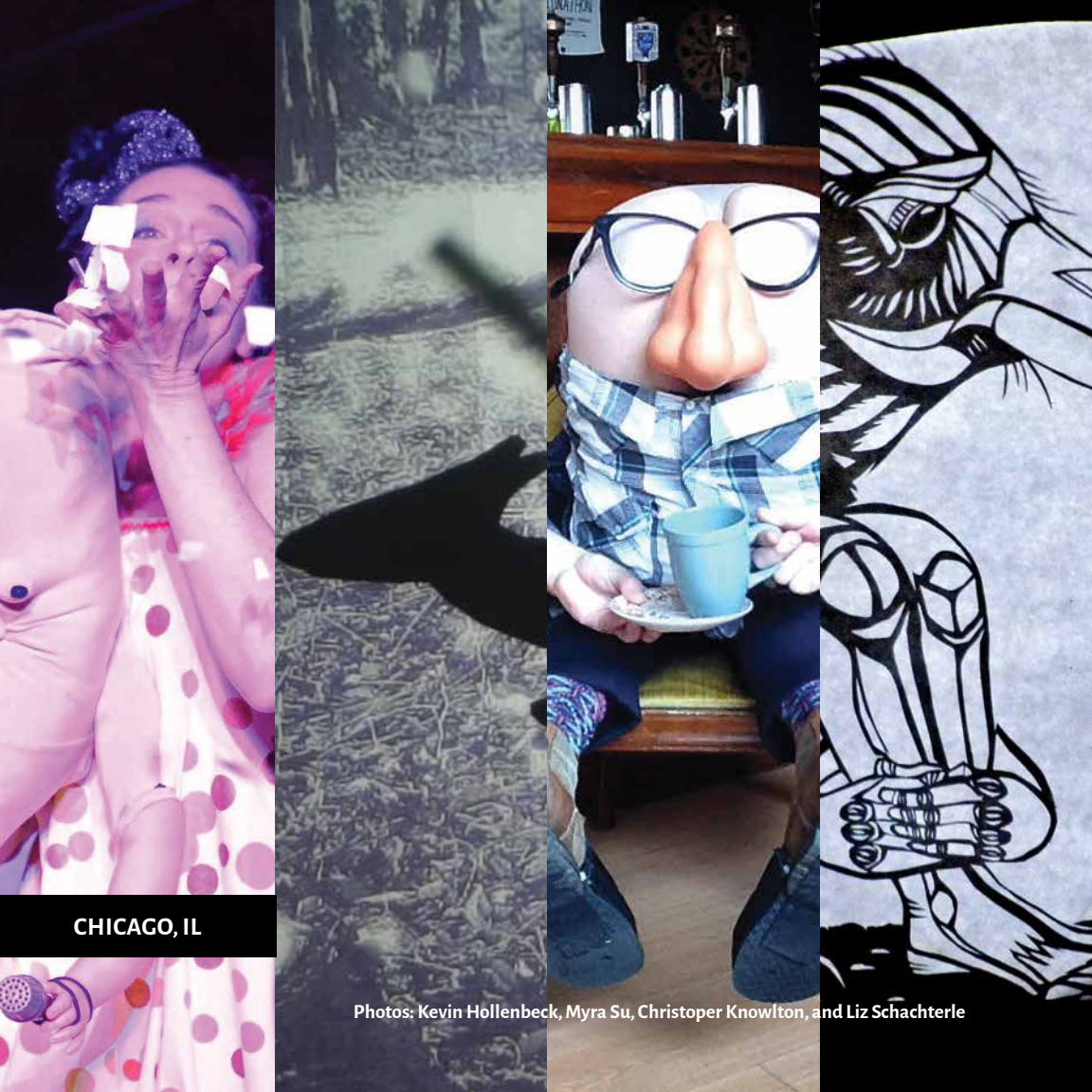


MANDALA



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)





CHICAGO, IL

Photos: Kevin Hollenbeck, Myra Su, Christopher Knowlton, and Liz Schachterle

ROUGH HOUSE and LINKS HALL present:

# IMMACULATE, POIGNANT & MEDIUM LENGTH

MONDAY, JANUARY 23 - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

Four innovators present medium-length works: Vanessa Valliere's, *The Life and Times of Terry*, a whimsical multi-media journey of romance, parenthood, and success; Myra Su's *An Inter-Dimensional Love Story*, which tells of an unrequited love between a 2D square and a 4D tesseract; Christopher Knowlton's *Hay in Hard Times*, starring a charming and somewhat bumbling character created by Knowlton's butt; and Liz Schachterle's *Music Box*, a poetic piece about love and loneliness within a mechanical imaginative world.

## LINKS HALL

Studio B  
3111 N. Western Ave.

\$15; \$12 student/senior

Monday, January 23: 7:30 pm  
Tuesday, January 24: 7:30 pm  
Wednesday, January 25: 7:30 pm

60 minutes



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

ROUGH  
HOUSE

Links Hall



CHICAGO, IL

Photo: Sean Williams / Design: Sarah Stec

LOOKINGGLASS THEATRE COMPANY *presents:*



# MR. AND MRS. PENNYWORTH

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 29**

Traveling storytellers Mr. and Mrs. Pennyworth captivate audiences with spellbinding tales. But one day, The Big Bad Wolf mysteriously dies before his story is complete. As fairy tales disappear from their pages, Mr. and Mrs. Pennyworth must journey through the stories to restore order before they are lost forever. Written and directed by Doug Hara, with puppets by Blair Thomas and shadow puppets by Manual Cinema. Recommended for ages 8+.

## LOOKINGGLASS THEATRE

821 N. Michigan Ave.

\$35

Thursday, January 19: **2 pm + 7:30 pm**

Friday, January 20: **7:30 pm**

Saturday, January 21: **2 pm + 7:30 pm**

Sunday, January 22: **2 pm + 7:30 pm**

Wednesday, January 25: **7:30 pm**

Thursday, January 26: **2 pm + 7:30 pm**

Friday, January 27: **7:30 pm**

Saturday, January 28: **2 pm + 7:30 pm**

Sunday, January 29: **2 pm + 7:30 pm**



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

lookingglass





CHICAGO, IL

Illustration: Drew Dir

CHICAGO CHILDREN'S THEATRE *presents:*



MANUAL CINEMA

MAGIC CITY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

Manual Cinema transforms Edith Nesbit's novel *The Magic City* into a live, cinematic shadow puppet show in this new work commissioned by Chicago Children's Theatre. When a young girl moves into a new home, she entertains herself by building a city using household objects. Through some magic, she finds herself inside the city, surrounded by life. Using overhead projectors, paper shadow puppets, live actors in silhouette, miniature toy theater and a live music ensemble, Manual Cinema's *Magic City* modernizes the novel.

**CHICAGO CHILDREN'S  
THEATRE**

The Station, 100 S. Racine Ave.

\$25; \$20 student/senior

Friday, January 27: **7 pm + 9 pm**

Saturday, January 28: **2 pm + 6 pm**

Sunday, January 29: **11 am + 2 pm**

60 minutes



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

chicago  
children's  
theatre





CHICAGO, IL

Photo: Dim Bulb and The Bastard

BLAIR THOMAS & CO. *presents:*

MICHAEL MONTENEGRO

## KICK THE KLOWN PRESENTS A KONKATENATION OF KAFKA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

Utilizing an astonishing variety of puppetry and mask techniques, Kick (an unfortunately named “klown”) performs a series of pieces inspired by the writings of the hysterically lugubrious Franz Kafka. Between these darkly comic works, Kick also explores his own father issues through interactions with a huge shoe. This is the second collaboration between master puppeteer Michael Montenegro and Neo-Futurist director and writer Greg Allen who lovingly refer to themselves as “Dim Bulb and The Bastard”.

### VICTORY GARDENS

Richard Christiansen Theater  
2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

\$25; \$20 student/senior

Thursday, January 19: **9 pm**

Friday, January 20: **9 pm**

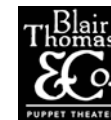
Saturday, January 21: **9 pm**

Sunday, January 22: **2 pm**

60 minutes



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)





CHICAGO, IL

Photo: Mike O'Leary

LINKS HALL *and* ROUGH HOUSE *present:*

## NASTY, BRUTISH & SHORT: A PUPPET CABARET

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

Hit Links Hall for late night cabarets featuring short works by international festival artists, regional puppeteers and local talent. End your evening with a tasty selection of the raucous, raunchy, dark, sassy, sad and hilarious! The program provides a late-night hang out spot for the whole festival, an opportunity for out-of-town talent to bring shorter works, and a space for local artists. Each show features at least two mainstage festival artists bringing secondary short works, and at least two *Nasty, Brutish & Short* contributors.



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

### LINKS HALL

Studio B  
3111 N. Western Ave.

\$10; \$8 student/senior

Friday, January 20: **11pm**

Saturday, January 21: **11 pm**

Friday, January 27: **11pm**

Saturday, January 28: **11 pm**

80 minutes



Links Hall





BROOKLYN, NY

Photo: Leland Bobbe

BLAIR THOMAS & CO. *and* CARDS AGAINST HUMANITY *present:*

NARCISSISTER

## NARCISSISTER LIVE!

ADULTS  
ONLY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

Narcissister employs a spectacle-rich approach to explorations of gender, racial identity and sexuality. Humor, pop songs, elaborate costumes, contemporary dance and her trademark mask are her tools. By opening up and turning against themselves what Stuart Hall calls “fixed and closed stereotypical representations,” Narcissister exposes, in live performance, video and photography, the practice of representation itself, and challenges the audience to question its own attraction and repulsion.

### CARDS AGAINST HUMANITY THEATER

1917 N. Elston Ave.

\$25

Friday, January 20: 7 pm + 9 pm

Saturday, January 21: 7 pm + 9 pm

60 minutes



Cards  
Against  
Humanity



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)



MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Photo: Paul Eide

ADVENTURE STAGE CHICAGO and BLAIR THOMAS & CO. present:



OPEN EYE  
FIGURE THEATRE

## THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

Open Eye Figure Theatre's adaptation of *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* for the marionette stage is a look at youth, aging and the allure of power. Creator Michael Sommers uses Goethe's 1797 poem "Der Zauberlehrling" as inspiration, expanding on the young apprentice's mishaps and mistakes in this original work with a unique Open Eye approach. With its highly designed production, original score and masterful puppetry, this show appeals to both adults and children.

**ADVENTURE STAGE CHICAGO**

at the **VITTUM THEATER**

1012 N. Noble St.

\$17; \$12 ages 14 and under

Friday, January 27: **7 pm**

Saturday, January 28: **1 pm + 7 pm**

Call (773) 342-4141 for information  
about special school performances.

60 minutes



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)





FRANCE

Photo: Kristin Aafloy Opdan

BLAIR THOMAS & CO. presents:

PLEXUS POLAIRE

CENDRES

AGES  
14+

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

*Cendres (Ashes)* is an emotional thriller straddling fiction and reality, equally remarkable and disturbing. Based on the book by Gaute Heivoll, the production tells the true story of a Norwegian arsonist. When Heivoll compares this event to his own life, ambiguous and subtle parallels emerge. Behind multiple house fires lies an intimate narrative, one that examines the mad fire at the bottom of every human being.

**VICTORY GARDENS**

Začek McVey Theater  
2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

\$35; \$25 student/senior

Friday, January 20: **7 pm**

Saturday, January 21: **7 pm**

Sunday, January 22: **7 pm**

60 minutes



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)







CHICAGO, IL & NETHERLANDS

THE NEO-FUTURISTS *present:*

VINCENT DE ROOIJ AND  
THE NEO-FUTURIST ENSEMBLE

FUTURE CRASH

AGES  
14+

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

*Future Crash* collides Vincent de Rooij, puppeteer of site-specific performances and magician of the inanimate object, with The Neo-Futurists, Chicago's purveyors of the first-person play and destroyers of the fourth wall. Traveling from the Netherlands, de Rooij leads the ensemble in an interdisciplinary collaboration, guiding the audience through a solar system of short work hidden throughout the Neo-Futurarium.

**THE NEO-FUTURARIUM**

5153 N. Ashland Ave.

\$25; \$15 student/senior with ID

Thursday, January 26: 7:30 pm

Friday, January 27: 7:30 pm

Saturday, January 28: 7:30 pm

70 minutes



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)



CHICAGO, IL

Photo: Joe Mazza / Brave Lux

LINKS HALL presents:

ROUGH HOUSE

## UBU THE KING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

*Ubu The King* brings Alfred Jarry's seminal satire Ubu Roi to life in all its absurd, grotesque glory. In the hands of five power hungry puppeteer-performers, loveable tyrant Pa Ubu murders, lies and farts his way up to the Polish throne—and back down again. Beautifully designed and meticulously realized, Ubu is ridiculous, heartbreaking and spectacular. Chicago-based Rough House is committed to connecting individuals and communities through art.

### LINKS HALL

Studio B  
3111 N. Western Ave.

\$15; \$12 student/senior

Thursday, January 26: 7:30 pm  
Friday, January 27: 7:30 pm  
Saturday, January 28: 7:30 pm

90 minutes



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

Links Hall





CHILE

Photo: Marcelo Ultreras

MCA STAGE presents:

SILENCIO BLANCO

## CHIFLÓN EL SILENCIO DEL CARBÓN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

A shaft collapses. A young miner, to keep working, must travel to Chiflón del Diablo, one of the most dangerous mines in Chile. Using white marionettes constructed of newspaper, this stunning North American debut ominously builds the violence of the global economy and affects a montage of sensations that are indisputably human. It is performed in silence. Based in part on the story by distinguished Chilean author Baldomero Lillo, and devised during trips to the mining town of Lota, *Chiflón* reflects a deep creative process.

### MCA CHICAGO

Edlis Neeson Theatre  
220 E. Chicago Ave.

\$30

Thursday, January 19: 7:30 pm

Friday, January 20: 7:30 pm

Saturday, January 21: 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 22: 3 pm

50 minutes



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)



ITALY

BEVERLY ART CENTER, BLAIR THOMAS & CO., ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI  
CULTURA/ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO, *in association*  
*with* INSTITUTO CERVANTES OF CHICAGO, *present:*



TEATRO DEI PIEDI

## SONATA FOR 4 FEET

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

Part mime, part contortion, Italy's Teatro dei Piedi (Feet Theater) stages characters whose stories are by turns romantic, ironic, poetic and ridiculous – with their feet! Laura Kibel and Verónica González put their hands, feet and knees together to create extraordinarily articulate characters.

\$20; \$12 student; \$10 children under 12/Istituto Italiano and Cervantes members

### BEVERLY ARTS CENTER

2407 W. 111th St.

Friday, January 20: **7 pm**

Saturday, January 21: **11 am**

### INSTITUTO CERVANTES

31 W. Ohio St.

Saturday, January 21: **7 pm**

Sunday, January 22: **11 am**

60 minutes



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)





MONTREAL, CANADA

ADVENTURE STAGE CHICAGO *presents:*



THÉÂTRE PUZZLE

## PLASTIQUE

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 - MONDAY, JANUARY 23**

What's more surprising than a plastic-bag-world, where funny and colorful creatures appear and transform? They fill up, they empty out, they fly, they get bored and they resemble us a little bit. With *Plastique*, Théâtre Puzzle brings to Adventure Stage a multicolored performance with unusual puppets, humor and unexpected situations. Created in Bulgaria and established in Montreal since 2004, Théâtre Puzzle presents a unique style by mixing various genres, traditional and contemporary.

**ADVENTURE STAGE CHICAGO**  
at the **VITTUM THEATER**  
1012 N. Noble St.

\$17; \$12 ages 14 and under

Saturday, January 21: **3 pm**  
Sunday, January 22: **3 pm**  
Monday, January 23: **7 pm**

60 minutes



[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)





Blair Thomas & Co., Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Navy Pier, and the Chicago Park District's Night Out in the Parks series present:

# FESTIVAL NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR



**18 PERFORMANCES IN 6 LOCATIONS!**

The Festival Neighborhood Tour fosters an appreciation of puppetry in every corner of the city by presenting three Festival artists—Schroeder Cherry, Magali Chouinard, and Interstate Arts—in six neighborhood locations, for a total of 18 performances.

**FREE** and open to the public.  
*Reservations required for Garfield Park shows only.*



*These free events invite families to sample shows or share a full day of puppetry. Each show runs 40-45 minutes. Audiences are invited to meet the artists after each performance. See next page for details.*

## 1. NAVY PIER

600 E. Grand Ave.

**Saturday, January 21**

**2 pm** Magali Chouinard; **3 pm** Schroeder Cherry; **4 pm** Interstate Arts

## 4. CALUMET PARK

9801 S. Ave. G

**Thursday, January 26**

**11:30 am** Magali Chouinard; **12:30 pm** Interstate Arts; **1:30 pm** Schroeder Cherry

## 2. CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER

Preston Bradley Hall, 78 E. Washington St.

**Sunday, January 22**

**11 am** Schroeder Cherry; **1 pm** Interstate Arts; **3 pm** Magali Chouinard;

## 5. MARQUETTE PARK

6743 S. Kedzie Ave.

**Friday, January 27**

**5 pm** Schroeder Cherry; **6 pm** Magali Chouinard; **7 pm** Interstate Arts

## 3. GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY\*

Jensen Room, 300 N. Central Park Ave.

**Wednesday, January 25**

**4:30 pm** Schroeder Cherry; **5:30 pm** Interstate Arts; **6:30 pm** Magali Chouinard

## 6. HAMILTON PARK

513 W. 72nd St.

**Saturday, January 28**

**1 pm** Magali Chouinard; **2 pm** Interstate Arts; **3 pm** Schroeder Cherry

*\*Reservations required*

# FESTIVAL NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR CONT.

See previous page for performance  
times and locations.



MONTREAL, CANADA

## MAGALI CHOUINARD

In *The White Woman*, Montreal's Magali Chouinard takes a tender look at how solitude can be a special place, a place where we discover and rediscover ourselves. By daring to be silent, to move slowly and deliberately, and by steering away from a linear narrative, Chouinard invites audiences to invest themselves in an otherworldly visual poem.



DETROIT, MI

Photo: Melissa Dettloff

## INTERSTATE ARTS

Designed for families and kids, *PLAY with Your Food* by Detroit-based Interstate Arts mixes hilarious and bizarre live performers with sweet and spectacular puppets of all sizes in celebration of the universal human experience of eating. This original piece invites audiences to learn urban gardening and cooking how-tos, hear from a chatty muffin and get down with the sweet sound of a veggie synthesizer.



BALTIMORE, MD

Photo: Schroeder Cherry

## SCHROEDER CHERRY

In *Underground Railroad, Not A Subway*, Schroeder Cherry shares the story of a young boy who escapes slavery and runs North, encountering free blacks, sympathetic whites and slave catchers along the way. Will he make it? This 45-minute presentation is performed with a variety of puppets constructed by Schroeder Cherry: rod puppets, hand puppets and wood cutouts.

## PORTMANTEAU T(W)O MARIAS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 -  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

**T(w)O MARIAS** features handcrafted puppets and diorama-like set pieces in a walk-through, immersive exploration of the ways that loss can shift and change our inner landscapes. This experimental, installation-based work (the culmination of a two-month residency with DCASE) takes inspiration from the vast, surreal beauty of the American southwest.

### CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER

Dance Studio  
78 E. Washington St.

**FREE** and open to the public,  
no reservations required

Saturday, January 21: **12 - 4 pm**  
Sunday, January 22: **12 - 4 pm**  
Drop-in/open studio



*Presented by the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events*

## PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

This year the Festival features a variety of puppetry workshops for amateurs and professionals, children and adults. Please see the website for details: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

## PUPPET QUARTET: UCHICAGO PERFORMANCE LAB RESIDENCIES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

An immersive afternoon of four works in development in various sites of performance within the Logan Center for the Arts.

Audiences will move from space to space to experience the works by noted puppet artists Liz Joyce, Jesse Mooney-Bullock, Molly Ross and Micheal Sommers. Attendees are invited to join the artistic staff for dinner following the performances.

**REVA AND DAVID LOGAN  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

915 E. 60th St.

**FREE** and open to the public

Saturday, January 28: **4 pm**

REVA AND DAVID  
**LOGAN**  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
**Theater**  
Performance Studies

*Presented by Theater and Performance Studies and the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts*

## THE CATAPULT

This year the Festival launches **The Catapult**, a pilot program serving 20+ practicing professional artists from across the country. The program provides the artists with an intensive experience including professional puppetry workshops and backstage access to over a dozen shows. The Catapult is designed to advance the form of puppetry in the United States. Please see the website for details: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

# VOLKENBURG PUPPETRY SYMPOSIUM

## The Ellen van Volkenberg Puppetry Symposium

brings together practicing Festival artists with scholars to consider the intersection of puppetry with other disciplines and ideas.

*Presented by the Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry at the University of Chicago in cooperation with Blair Thomas & Co. and the MCA Chicago.*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 | 10 AM - 12:45 PM**

### MCA CHICAGO

Edlis Neeson Theatre  
220 E. Chicago Ave.

**Moderator: John Bell** (Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry) with guests from the University of Chicago

**FREE** and open to the public, no reservations are required.

### Puppetry and the Human Body

**10 - 11:15 am**

What kind of performance dynamics emerge between fabricated puppets and human bodies? **Panelists:** Magali Chouinard (Montréal), Stephanie Diaz (Chicago), Geumhyung Jeong (South Korea), Narcissister (Brooklyn)

### Puppets as Narrative Vehicles

**11:30 am - 12:45 pm**

How do puppets tell stories, and what is distinct about their theatrical language? **Panelists:** Yngvild Aspeli (Director, Plexus Polaire, France), Sarah Fornace (Co-director, Manuel Cinema, Chicago), Dominga Gutierrez (Co-director, Silencio Blanco, Chile), Michael Summers (Director, Open Eye Figure Theatre, Minneapolis), Santiago Tobar (Co-director, Silencio Blanco, Chile)

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28 | 5 - 6:15 PM**

### STUDEBAKER THEATRE

Fine Arts Building  
410 S. Michigan Ave.

### Literary & Cultural Adaptation: The Shahnameh 5 - 6:15 pm

Hear from the artists and adaptors of Feathers of Fire, the spectacle shadow puppet production of the Persian Book of Kings, as they consider cultural translations, traditional and contemporary imagery, and shadow puppetry. **Panelists:** Hamid Rahmanian (Director and Designer, Feathers of Fire), Ahmad Sadri (Translator and Gorter Professor of Islamic World Studies and Professor of Sociology at Lake Forest College, with guests from the University of Chicago.

### ELLEN VAN VOLKENBURG



*Before 1912, the term "Puppeteer" did not exist in the English language. Ellen van Volkenburg, a director with the Chicago Little Theatre, needed a program credit for the actors she had trained to manipulate marionettes while speaking the text of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Van Volkenberg coined this word at the dawn of the movement in puppetry that has brought us to the rich art form that is practiced today.*

graycenter  
FOR ARTS AND INQUIRY





*The Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival is a project conceived by*

## BLAIR THOMAS & COMPANY

**Blair Thomas & Co.** is the organization behind the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival. BT&Co. is devoted to the advancement of puppetry through original productions and presentation of the biennial Festival. The organization produces and presents work and programs that are vital to the cultural life of Chicago

and influential in the field of puppetry nationally and internationally. Founded in 2002 in Chicago by puppeteer and director/designer Blair Thomas, BT&Co. has created over a dozen original puppet theater pieces and is a national and international touring puppet theater company.

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Christopher Carson

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### Up to \$99 CONT.

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*This list represents gifts  
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*Please accept our apology and  
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Chicago International Puppet  
Theater Festival  
The Fine Arts Building  
410 S. Michigan Ave. #501  
Chicago, IL 60605

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 [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)