# CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL .

JANUARY 18-29, 2023

ChicagoPuppetFest.org

**THE CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL PUPPET THEATER FESTIVAL** is the preeminent event dedicated to the artform in the U.S. In the heart of winter, the Festival spans 12 days and dozens of Chicago venues, sharing 100+ puppetry activities for 14,000+ guests. Since its launch in 2015, the Festival has highlighted artists from nations such as Iran, Korea, and Chile as well as from Europe, Chicago and across the U.S. with the goal of promoting peace, equality, and justice on a global scale.

The Festival is a collaboration among more than 20 Chicago cultural institutions and is made possible by generous philanthropic support from organizations and individuals.

#### **FESTIVAL PARTNERS**









































## WELCOME TO OUR 5TH EDITION!

We are thrilled to return to presenting international productions along with national artists as the darkest part of the pandemic forest recedes behind us. This is our biggest to date and the first time turning around a new Festival within one year as we move to an annual model. We are filled with the energy of making it all happen!

This Festival you will find many gems such as cultural monsters taking the stage in visually stunning adaptations of *Moby Dick* by Plexus Polaire and also of *Frankenstein* by Chicago's celebrated Manual Cinema. Harnessing a new innovation, American hero Frederick Douglass uses the power of photography in slavery-era *Grand Panorama* and the people of Brazil wrestle over their national hero in *Macunaíma Gourmet*. With a stunning marionette made entirely of ice, Oedipus travels with his daughter Antigone on his final journey, melting in front of our eyes in *Anywhere*. A rare visual spectacle of magical Japanese theater technique continuously unfolds using sliding screens in *Dogugaeshi*. Whatsmore, this year notably features 4 heartwarming charmers for all ages presented appropriately at the Chicago Children's Theatre.

Also, for the first time ever we have created a **Puppet Hub** featuring four separate puppet exhibitions along with a **Spoke & Bird Pop-Up Cafe**, open throughout the 12 days of the Festival in partnership with Chicago's Historic **Fine Arts Building**.

Come join us! Follow your curiosity! Explore the possibilities! There is much to *Astonish and Delight* you!

Blair Thomas, Artistic Director & Founder

- MARSHALL FIELD GARDEN
  APARTMENTS / ART ON SEDGWICK
  1408 N. Sedgwick St.
- NAVY PIER
  700 E. Grand Ave.

W. CERMAK RD.

WESTERN AVE.

**D** ETA CREATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION 7558 S. South Chicago Ave.

- 1 LINKS HALL 3111 N. Western Ave.
- 2 CHOPIN THEATRE 1543 W. Division St.
- 3 MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART CHICAGO 205 E Pearson St.
- 4 WARWICK ALLERTON HOTEL 701 N. Michigan Ave.
- 5 CHICAGO CHILDREN'S THEATRE 100 S. Racine Ave.

WESTERN AVE.

- 410 S. Michigan Ave.

  7 FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS + "PUPPET HUB"
- The Fine Arts Building, 4th Floor
  410 S. Michigan Ave.
- 8 HAROLD WASHINGTON
  CINDY PRITZKER AUDITORIUM
  400 S. State St.

6 STUDEBAKER THEATER

The Fine Arts Building



	OPENING NIGHT	WEDNESDAY JANUARY 18	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	SUNDAY JANUARY 29
	OPENING NIGHT PRELUDE RECEPTION [p. 60]	5-7pm										
FAMI	MOBY DICK by Plexus Polaire [p. 12]	7:30pm		7:30pm	5pm							
	OPENING NIGHT POST-SHOW PARTY [p. 60]	8:45 - 10:45pm										

	M <sup>o</sup> re shows	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
	AKUTAGAWA by The Koryū Nishikawa Troupe [p. 14]										2pm 6pm	2pm 6pm
	ANYWHERE by Théâtre de L'Entrouvert [p. 16]	7:30pm	7:30pm	7:30pm	4pm							
	AS THOUGH YOUR BODY WERE RIGHT by Khecari [p. 18]	7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm
FRIEND	CHOO. CHOO. WHISTLE. WOOF! by Naive Theatre [p.20]	+						11:30am 4pm	11:30am 4pm	11:30am 4pm	11:30am 4pm	11:30am 4pm
	DOGUGAESHI by Basil Twist [p. 22]	+							7:30pm	3pm 8pm	11am 4pm 9pm	1pm 6pm
	FRANKENSTEIN by Manual Cinema [p. 24]	+								7:30pm	7:30pm	3pm
FAMI	GO HOME TINY MONSTER by The Gottabees [p. 26]	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm							



	SHOWS cont.		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
FAMI	GRAND PANORAMA by Theodora Skipitares [p. 28]	8				2pm	5pm	6pm					
	HAMLET by Janni Younge [p. 30]									7:30pm	10:30am	7:30pm	
	INVISIBLE LANDS by Livsmedlet Theater [p. 32]		5:30pm	9pm	4pm	2pm 6pm							
	INVITATION TO A BEHEADING by Rough House Theater Co. [p. 34]										9pm	8:30pm	7pm
	MACBETH MUET by La Fille du Laitier [p. 36]	2					7pm	8:30pm	8:30pm				
	MACUNAÍMA GOURMET by Pigmalião Escultura que Mexe [p. 38]	3								7:30pm	7:30pm	7:30pm	
	NASTY, BRUTISH & SHORT A late-night puppet cabaret [p. 40]			10:30pm	10:30pm						10:30pm	10:30pm	
FRIEND	NEW SHOES by Tian Gombau [p. 42]								10am 1pm	10am 1pm	10am 1pm	10am 1pm	10am 1pm
	R.A.G.E. by Les Anges au Plafond [p. 44]	3	7:30pm	7:30pm	2pm 7:30pm								
FRIEND	SQUIRREL STOLE MY UNDERPANTS by The Gottabees [p. 46]		10am	10am	10am	10am							
FRIEND	SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE FILM A film by Basil Twist [p. 48]							6pm					
FREE!	FREE NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR with Little Uprisings [p. 50-51]		4:30pm	4:30pm	12pm <b>2</b> pm	11am 📴							

POP-UP		
PUPPET I	IUB	7
Food Drink 8		ักหร

Food, Drink & Exhibition	ns	WEDNESDAY JANUARY 18	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
SPOKE & BIRD POP-UP CAFI	E uite 433	8-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	9am-9:30pm	12-6pm		10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	12-6pm
MOTEL (art installation) by Dan Hurlin [p. 53]	uite 403	8-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	9am-9:30pm	12-6pm		10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	12-6pm
AMERICAN PUPPET THEATE TODAY (photo exhibition) [p.54] s		8-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	9am-9:30pm	12-6pm		10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	12-6pm
THE ART OF BASIL TWIST (photo exhibition) [p. 55] s	uite 404	8-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	9am-9:30pm	12-6pm		10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	12-6pm
VANCOUVER (set) [p. 55] s	uite 433	8-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	9am-9:30pm	12-6pm		10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	12-6pm
AS THOUGH YOUR BODY WERE RIGHT(set) [p. 18] s	uite 402	8-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	9am-99:30pm	12-6pm		10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	10am-9:30pm	12-6pm

	WORKSTOPS and so much more!	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
FREE!	ELLEN VAN VOLKENBURG PUPPETRY SYMPOSIUM [p. 56-57]			10am - 12pm 1-3pm							10am - 12pm 1 - 3pm	
	PUPPETRY WORKSHOPS (various locations) [p. 58]		1-4pm Plexus Polaire		10am-1pm Manual Cinema	1-4pm Linda Wingerter	1-4pm Theodora Skipitares			<b>1-4pm</b> Janni Younge	1-4pm Pigmalião Escultu que Mexe	ra
	CATAPULT ARTIST INTENSIVE Professional Development Weekends [p. 59]		—— Sessio	n 1 led by Samuel	J. Lewis II ——					—— Session	2 led by Grace Nee	edlman ——



PLEXUS POLAIRE





#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

Herman Melville's magnificent monster work of literature is also a monster in puppetry. Experience *Moby Dick* like never before at this Chicago premiere, direct from France and Norway, created by the masters that brought Chicago *Ashes* and *Chambre Noire*. Seven actors, 50 puppets, video projections on smoke, an octobass, and a whale-sized whale all play a part in this simple story of a sea voyage, turning it into a dizzying dive into the inexplicable mysteries of life, through Melville's irresistible narrative and the incredible artistry of Plexus Polaire.

#### STUDEBAKER THEATER

410 S. Michigan Ave.



\$45; \$35 students & seniors

Wednesday, January 18 at 7:30pm Friday, January 20 at 7:30pm Saturday, January 21 at 5pm

85 minutes

For ages 14 and up

See pages 52-55 & 60 for Opening Night events and Puppet Hub info



THE KORYŪ NISHIKAWA TROUPE



#### **SATURDAY JANUARY 28 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 29**

#### **World Premiere**

The Koryū Nishikawa Troupe, creators of *Shank's Mare*, brings a collaborative puppet performance by Chicago-based puppet artist Tom Lee and Japanese traditional puppeteer Koryū Nishikawa V. This beautifully detailed production combines traditional kuruma ningyo puppetry with contemporary staging to share a Western perspective on the life of Ryunosuke Akutagawa, the father of the Japanese short story form.

#### **CHOPIN THEATRE**

(mainstage) 1543 W. Division St.



\$40; \$30 students & seniors

**Saturday, January 28** at 2pm and 6pm

Sunday, January 29 at 2pm and 6pm

80 minutes

For ages 9 and up





### THÉÂTRE DE L'ENTROVERT and CHICAGO PUPPET FEST PRESENT present:

THÉÂTRE DE L'ENTROUVERT



#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

#### **US Premiere**

A marionette made of ice will melt your heart in **Anywhere**, an exquisite, landmark string-marionette work created by the French company Théâtre de l'Entrouvert. Freely inspired by Henry Bauchau's novel "Oedipus on the Road," **Anywhere** evokes the long wandering of Oedipus accompanied by his daughter Antigone. The fallen Oedipus appears in the form of an ice puppet that gradually melts, then appears as mist and finally disappears in the forest, the place of clairvoyance. **Anywhere** traces with gentleness and strength a poetic journey, in black and white, of fire and ice, which speaks to us about our bodies, our environment, our fragilities, and our wanderings in the infinite circle of renewal.

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org

#### THE CHOPIN THEATRE

(mainstage) 1543 W. Division St.



\$40; \$30 students & seniors

Thursday, January 19 at 7:30pm Friday, January 20 at 7:30pm Saturday, January 21 at 7:30pm Sunday, January 22 at 4pm

50 minutes

For ages 12 and up

With special support from: Ferdi Foundation/Julie Moller, Jentes Family Foundation, Justine Jentes & Dan Karuna, and the Manaaki Foundation









KHECARI

# AS THOUGH YOUR BODY WERE RIGHT

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

An audience of seven in a room within a room. A micro-theater. A puppet theater. The performer's body as landscape. Watching the cells of the body murmurate like starlings. A creature that would live on such a landscape. Crawling over it, flying over it. Calling it home. as though your body were right is an invitation to confront the bodiliness of being human - a shared experience of the vulnerability of being a body, and of the power of being a body. When the show is not in process, the set can be viewed as part of the Puppet Hub exhibitions (see pages 52-55).

#### THE FINE ARTS BUILDING

410 S. Michigan Ave.



\$40; \$30 students & seniors

Thursday, January 19 through Sunday, January 29 7pm all days

62 minutes

For ages 17 and up (adult)



With special support from: ArtsTour

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org



NAIVE THEATER

# CHOO. CHOO. WHISTLE. WOOF!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

#### **US Premiere**

He spends his days gardening, and just on the other side of the fence, she runs in the yard—until her owner whistles. As it happens, not only in the lives of dogs, the two have become enchanted with each other, perhaps even fallen in love. A charming and ingenious series of events full of garden railings, railway yards, steam locomotives and dogs in cars, *Choo. Choo.*Whistle. Woof! unfolds in continual tabletop puppetry delight as the classic boy meets girl story is playfully retold as dog meets dog, dog loses dog and hopefully, finds her again!

### CHICAGO CHILDREN'S THEATRE



100 S. Racine Ave.

\$25; \$20 students & seniors

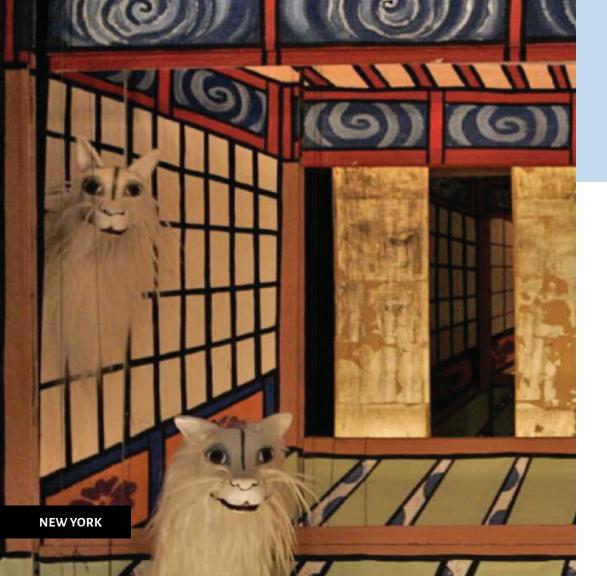
Wednesday, January 25 Thursday, January 26 Friday, January 27 Saturday, January 28 Sunday, January 29 11:30am and 4pm all days

40 minutes

For ages 2 and up

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org





#### REVA AND DAVID LOGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS AT THE UNIVERSITY **OF CHICAGO** and **CHICAGO PUPPET FEST PRESENT** present:

**BASILTWIST** 



#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 26 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 29**

Basil Twist, the internationally acclaimed master puppeteer and recipient of the Rome Prize, unfolds an intimate, abstract, contemporary journey of images and emotions. A feast for the eyes, heart and soul, this Chicago premiere is influenced by "Dogugaeshi," a rarefied tradition of Japanese sliding screen stage technique, and Twist's own encounters with the remaining rural caretakers of this once popular art form. Winner of the 2005 Bessie Award and an UNIMA Award for Excellence in Puppetry, Dogugaeshi features original shamisen compositions created and performed live by by authorized master musicians Yumiko Tanaka and Yoko Reikano Kimura.

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org

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



915 E. 60th St.

\$40; \$30 students & seniors

Thursday, January 26 at 7:30pm Friday, January 27 at 3pm and 8pm Saturday, January 28 at 11am, 4pm and 9pm

Sunday, January 29 at 1pm and 6pm

60 minutes

For ages 11 and up











# MANUAL CINEMA FRANKENSTEIN

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

Love, loss, and creation merge in unexpected ways when Manual Cinema presents its thrilling version of the classic Gothic tale, "Frankenstein." This Chicago-based performance collective imaginatively combines shadow puppetry, cinematic techniques, sound effects, and live music in haunting shows like nothing else you've ever seen. With *Frankenstein*, Manual Cinema stitches together the original gothic novel with the biography of its author, Mary Shelley, creating an unexpected story magically created right before your eyes.

#### STUDEBAKER THEATER

410 S. Michigan Ave.



\$45; \$35 students & seniors

Friday, January 27 at 7:30pm Saturday, January 28 at 7:30pm Sunday, January 29 at 3pm

66 minutes

For ages 12 and up



With special support from: ArtsTour



#### THE GOTTABEES

# GO HOME TINY MONSTER

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

What happens when a girl and her family of homespun creatures suddenly find themselves in need of a new home? They look for help and, luckily, they find it. Featuring The Gottabees' trademark mix of puppetry, joyously absurd silliness, physical theater, live music and surprising poignancy. Presented in "daily rep" with Squirrel Stole My Underpants (see page 47). See one or both!

### CHICAGO CHILDREN'S THEATRE



100 S. Racine Ave.

\$25; \$20 students & seniors

Thursday, January 19 Friday, January 20 Saturday, January 21 Sunday, January 22 1pm all days

40 minutes

For ages 3 and up





### HAROLD WASHINGTON LIBRARY and CHICAGO PUPPET FEST presents:

THEODORA SKIPITARES



#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 - TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

Frederick Douglass is widely recognized as the most photographed person in the 19th century. In Grand **Panorama**, his obsession with photography takes center stage illuminating the power of image to "tell the truth" about humanity and the African-American experience during slavery. Directed and designed by Greek artist, Theodora Skipitares, using her trademark larger-than-life size puppets and featuring music by Mazz Swift, artforms blend with panorama, magic lantern, shadow theater and crankies to articulate Douglass's belief that "Rightly viewed, the whole soul of man is a sort of picture gallery, a grand panorama." Music performed by Brittany Harris. Puppetry direction by Jane Catherine Shaw.

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org

### HAROLD WASHINGTON CINDY PRITZKER AUDITORIUM

400 South State Street (Entrance on Plymouth Ct)



\$30; \$20 seniors, CPS students free, limited availability

Sunday, January 22 at 2pm Monday, January 23 at 5pm Tuesday, January 24 at 6pm

52 minutes

For ages 9 and up



With special support from: Cheryl Henson and the Paul M. Angell Family





#### **DUSABLE BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER** and **CHICAGO PUPPET FEST** present:

**JANNI YOUNGE** 



#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 26 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

#### **US Premiere**

Humans and puppet creatures coil, tangle, knot and mesh together in celebrated South African artist Janni Younge's new adaptation of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Told through beautifully crafted life-size puppets, this captivating production explores the complex psychological facets of humanity facing an onslaught of challenges.

#### THE DUSABLE BLACK **HISTORY MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER**

740 E. 56th Place



\$40; \$30 students & seniors

Thursday, January 26 at 7:30 Friday, January 27 at 10:30 Saturday, January 28 at 7:30 Sunday, January 29 at 2pm

77 minutes For ages 10 and up



With special support from: The Jim Henson Foundation







LIVSMEDLET THEATER

# INVISIBLE LANDS

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

#### **US Premiere**

Across the desert, behind our back. Up the mountain, down our spine. Over the sea, just under our nose. On the day the war broke out, we left home. Finnish visual theater duo Livsmedlet brings a unique meeting of puppetry and choreography to Chicago, to explore empathic approaches to refugee travels. Geography and politics extend and transform to create organic performance platforms — bodies. Take a closer look at what presence, connection and endurance are really all about in this mix of performance, projection and puppetry.

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org

#### **CHOPIN THEATRE**

(downstairs) 1543 W. Division St.



\$40; \$30 students & seniors

Thursday, January 19 at 5:30pm
Friday, January 20 at 9pm
Saturday January 21 at 4pm
Sunday, January 22 at 2pm and 6pm

50 minutes

For ages 12 and up





Finnish Cultural Foundation

With special support from: American-Scandinavian Foundation and Finnish Cultural Foundation



ROUGH HOUSE THEATER CO.

# INVITATION TO A BEFEADING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

In a bizarre and irrational world, a man is condemned to death for an absurd crime and sent to a surreal prison to await his execution.

But the prison may not be what it seems...

Alternately disorienting, absurd, hysterical, and hopeful, this great novel by one of the 20th century's masters is brought to the stage by Michael Brown and Rough House, with their signature combination of playfulness and strangeness. Full of surprising twists and turns, the novel comes to life through a combination of puppetry, masks, and imaginative storytelling.

#### **CHOPIN THEATRE**

(downstairs) 1543 W. Division St.



\$30; \$20 students & seniors

Friday, January 27 at 9pm
Saturday, January 28 at 8:30pm
Sunday, January 29 at 7pm

80 minutes
For ages 12 and up



LA FILLE DU LAITIER

# MACBETT MUET

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 23 - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25**

Performed entirely without words, Macbeth Muet completely deconstructs this Shakespeare Tragedy into a fast paced, visceral theater experience, using the body, objects as imagery, and a ton of fake blood. Entire scenes are reduced to a single look, as Shakespeare's complex and beautiful poetry is rendered mute, and searing.

#### **CHOPIN THEATRE**

(downstairs) 1543 W. Division St.



\$40; \$30 students & seniors

Monday, January 23 at 7pm Tuesday, January 24 at 8:30pm Wednesday, January 25 at 8:30pm

60 minutes

For ages 12 and up



#### PIGMALIÃO ESCULTURA QUE MEXE

# MACUNAÍMA GOURMET

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 26 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

#### **US Premiere**

Met by standing ovations at its 2019 premiere, this reinterpretation of the popular Brazilian novel "Macunaíma" by Mário de Andrade is full of spectacle, outrageousness and political perspective that demanded expression through puppetry and object. This adaptation, *Macunaíma Gourmet*, transports the modernist novel to the present day. In its new guise, the piece discusses the storm that Brazilian and global society faces in its socioeconomic and cultural structures with distinctive raucous imagery, unforgettable Brazilian style, and the urgency with which puppets can make political points.

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org

#### MCA CHICAGO

205 E. Pearson St.



\$45; \$35 students & seniors

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

80 minutes

For ages 14 and up





LINKS HALL, ROUGH HOUSE and CHICAGO PUPPET FEST present:

# NASTY, BRUTISH & SHORT: A PUPPET CABARET

JANUARY 20 - 21 and JANUARY 27 - 28

Extend your festival experience by hitting Chicago's favorite late-night puppet cabaret, Nasty, Brutish & Short. This special festival edition, featuring the charming and furry host, Jameson, is home to raucous, raunchy, dark, sassy, sad and mostly hilarious puppet theater, highlighting more experimental work by out of towners as well as local favorites in four different nights of puppet revelry.

#### LINKS HALL

3111 N. Western Ave.



\$18; \$15 students & seniors

Friday, January 20 at 10:30pm Saturday, January 21 at 10:30pm Friday, January 27 at 10:30pm Saturday, January 28 at 10:30pm

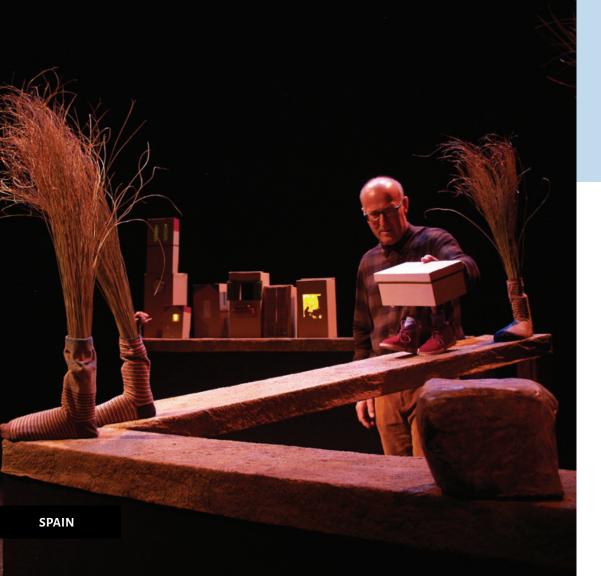
85 minutes

For ages 16 and up

Check website for livestream details.

Links Hall





**TIAN GOMBAU** 





#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

#### **US Premiere**

A child puts on a pair of new shoes and goes to the river for a snack. Along the way he discovers the world that surrounds him: streets, houses. landscapes, people, and animals. His shoes accumulate experiences as he grows, little by little. Internationally recognized Tian Gombau creates large experiences from very little. In this one-man show, a local event at a Mediterranean town takes you on a universal journey, speaking with simplicity and poetry about the fact of growing up. People of all ages can venture into the child's world in the gentle flow of popular songs, nature, and the sands of time.

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org

#### CHICAGO CHILDREN'S THEATRE





\$25; \$20 students & seniors

Wednesday, January 25 Thursday, January 26 Friday, January 27 Satursday, January 28 Sunday, January 29 10am and 1pm all days

30 minutes For ages 3 and up





LES ANGES AU PLAFOND

R.A.G.E.

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

#### **US Premiere**

In a spectacular blending of magic, puppetry, gesture and manipulation, *R.A.G.E.* presents the outlandish story of a literary imposter who, to escape censorship, invents a new identity and plots one of the most beautiful deceptions of the 20th century. This politically epic and scathing story teeters on the porous border between reality and fiction. Join miles of threads, dozens of puppets, a trumpeter, a singer and a man as they weave a plot of resistance with maternal love in a desperate attempt to re-enchant the world. *Performance with English subtitles* 

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org

#### MCA CHICAGO

205 E. Pearson St.



\$45; \$35 students & seniors

Thursday, January 19 at 7:30pm Friday, January 20 at 7:30pm Saturday, January 21 at 7:30pm

105 minutes

For ages 13 and up





With special support from: FACE, Cultural Services French Embassy United States





#### THE GOTTABEES

### SQUIRREL STOLE MY UNDERPANTS

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

In this poignantly silly adventure tale for families, Sylvie is sent to the backyard to hang up the laundry. The moment her back is turned, a mischievous squirrel steals her favorite piece of clothing and runs off. When Sylvie gives chase, an entire world emerges from her laundry basket, and curious characters show her the way through mysterious lands. Presented in "daily rep" with *Go Home Tiny Monster* (see page 27). See one or both!

### CHICAGO CHILDREN'S THEATRE





\$25; \$20 students & seniors

Thursday, January 19 Friday, January 20 Satursday, January 21 Sunday, January 22 10am all days

40 minutes

For ages 3 and up









# BASILTWIST SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE FILM

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 24**

In 1998, puppeteer Basil Twist debuted his boundary-breaking response to Berlioz's 1830 "Symphonie Fantastique" to universal acclaim. In the two decades since. Twist became an internationally recognized artist in opera, ballet, and on Broadway, winning countless awards including the illustrious MacArthur Fellowship. This film was created in 2018 when Twist revisited his legendary masterpiece in its original home, the HERE Arts Center in NYC with live accompaniment by the virtuosic Christopher O'Riley playing the exquisite Liszt transcription for concert piano and in a significantly larger aquarium. A riveting behind-the-scenes art film.

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org

#### STUDEBAKER THEATER

410 S. Michigan Ave.



\$15; \$10 students & seniors

Tuesday, January 24 at 6pm

55 minutes *For all ages* 

Navy Pier and Chicago Puppet Fest present:

# NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR



#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

The Free Neighborhood Tour fosters an appreciation for puppetry throughout the city by bringing free, family-friendly performances to locations outside of Chicago's theaters. The tour offers a range of high-quality puppetry styles in order to create moments of community enjoyment while expanding the base of puppet enthusiasts. This year, Little Uprising's My Night in the Planetarium will tour to four locations around the city.

#### SEE NEXT PAGE FOR LOCATIONS AND SHOW DETAILS

**FREE** first come, first serve

Thursday, January 19 at 4:30pm Friday, January 20 at 4:30 pm Saturday, January 21 at 12pm + 2pm Sunday, January 22 at 11 am

45 minutes

For all ages



With special support from: The Marshall Frankel Foundation and Cheryl Henson



#### **LITTLE UPRISINGS**

## MY NIGHT IN THE PLANETARIUM

Based on the award-winning book by Innosanto Nagara, a graphic artist and acclaimed author/illustrator of *A Is for Activist* and *Counting on Community*. Nagara tells his own story facing dictatorship and oppression—a true story from his childhood in Indonesia. It is a child's view of a particular place and time—but it is also an introduction to Indonesia, a story about colonialism, and a message about the power of creativity.

#### Thursday, January 19

at 4:30pm

SEGUNDO RUIZ BELVIS CULTURAL CENTER

4048 W. Armitage Ave.

#### Friday, January 20

at 4:30pm

MARSHALL FIELD GARDEN APARTMENTS / ART ON SEDGWICK

1408 N. Sedgwick St.

#### Saturday, January 21

at 12pm and 2pm

**NAVY PIER** 

700 E. Grand Ave.

#### Sunday, January 22

at 11am

ETA CREATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION

7558 S. South Chicago Ave.



# PUPPET HUB

Your Puppetry Destination: Food, Drink, and Exhibitions



#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

Our new Pop-Up Puppet Hub is bursting with activities. The perfect place to relax between shows, meet up with friends and make some new ones! Enjoy the Spoke & Bird Pop-Up Cafe (Suite 433) serving coffee, tea, winter soups and baked treats in a cozy, puppet-inspired setting. Check into *Motel*, a puppet show exhibition that doesn't move, created by Dan Hurlin (Suite 403). The Puppet Hub is also the host site for two photo exhibitions, "American Puppet Theater Today: The Photography of Richard Termine" (Suite 410) and "The Art of Basil Twist" (Suite 404). Next door to the cafe, explore *Vancouver*, showcasing the made-for-film puppet theater collaboration with Ma-Yi Theater Company (Suite 433). And, if you didn't get a ticket to see as though your body were right, you can pop in and check out the remarkable set designed for only seven audience members at a time (Suite 402).

#### THE FINE ARTS BUILDING

4th Floor 410 S. Michigan Ave.

FREE, for all ages

#### **Opening Night**

Wednesday, January 18: 8-9:30pm January 19-29

Tuesday-Friday: 10am-9:30pm Saturday: 9am-9:30pm

Sunday: 12-6pm

Presented in partnership with: The Spoke & Bird and Fine Arts Building







### POP-UP SPOKE & BIRD CAFE

Presented in Partnership with The Spoke & Bird and Fine Arts Building

Take a break between the many Puppet Hub shows and exhibits in this puppet-inspired pop-up cafe inside the Fine Arts Building, or just pop in to meet fellow puppetry enthusiasts for coffee, tea, winter soups and baked treats.

### MOTEL by DAN HURLIN

"A world-class contemporary art installation... so magical and odd...The entire experience is mesmerizing and tantalizing." - Art Spiel

A curious, half-scale motel awaits you with appropriately diminutive accouterments like packaged soap and plastic wrapped cups. A woman sits listening to a varying soundscape of crickets, dogs, trucks rumbling by against a backdrop of the droning sound of Nixon testifying in front of a grand jury during Watergate, or the January 6th congressional hearings, depending on the day of your visit. Puppeteer and sculptor Dan Hurlin explains "a motel is a liminal space, situated



inconclusively between a departure and an arrival. It is a way station between what happened before, and what happens next. Far less brutal than Trump's vision for our Southern border, a motel is a temporary detention center of sorts (albeit a voluntary one), where the inhabitants hold up and wait with eager anticipation for the future, or a fearful dread of it."

With special support from: Cheryl Henson

The Jim Henson Foundation Presents

### AMERICAN PUPPET THEATER TODAY:

#### The Photography of Richard Termine

New York-based photographer Richard
Termine has documented American puppet
theater for over 30 years. Termine's work
captures the animated gesture of the puppet
in still images. Images and objects in this
exhibition, including photographs of Jim
Henson at work, illustrate the dynamic range
of puppet theater being created by a vibrant
community of artists in the New York City
area, as well as some of the excellent work
presented at national puppet festivals across
the United States. A special section, "Puppetry
During the Pandemic," celebrates resilient
puppet artists who continued to create and
perform new work over the past two years.

With special support from: Cheryl Henson and The Jim Henson Foundation









### THE ART OF BASIL TWIST

As seen by Richard Termine, presented by Tandem Artist Productions

Photographer Richard Termine's keen eye zooms in on the exceptional work of one of the United States' most prolific and versatile puppeteers, festival artist Basil Twist.

With special support from: Cheryl Henson and The Jim Henson Foundation



## VANCOUVER

Presented by the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival's Chicago Puppet Studio

See the the original storyboards, the cast of puppet characters, and the miniature sets and props designed and crafted by the Chicago Puppet Studio for *Vancouver*, the multi-award winning, made-for-film puppet theater collaboration initiated in 2020 by Ma-Yi Theater Company, in association with The Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival, and directed by Ralph B. Peña.





The School of the Art Institute Performance Dept. & Chicago Puppet Fest present:

THE ELLEN VAN VOLKENBURG

# PUPPETRY SYMPOSIUM



The Ellen Van Volkenburg Puppetry Symposium brings together practicing Festival artists with scholars to consider the intersection of puppetry with other disciplines and ideas.

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 and SATURDAY, JANUARY 28



Before 1912, the year the Little Theater of Chicago was founded in the historic Fine Arts Building, the term "puppeteer" did not

even exist. Little Theater director **ELLEN VAN VOLKENBURG** needed a program
credit for the actors she had trained to
manipulate marionettes while speaking
the text of Shakespeare's A Midsummer
Night's Dream, and she coined the word
"puppeteer." That marked the dawn of the
movement that has brought us to the rich
art form now practiced around the world.

#### STUDEBAKER THEATER

410 S. Michigan Ave.

Check website for livestream details.

**FREE** and open to the public

Puppetry is an absorbent and persistent art form, leaping categories and classifications such as the religious and secular, political and personal, ribald and regal, just to name a few. In Van Volkenburg's honor, as we seek to expand the field of our art, we host our Symposium to bring to the forefront the ideas and inspiration behind **why** the puppet.



#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 21**

10am - 12pm

#### **Boundless Bodies**

Moderator: Dr. Paulette Richards
Panelists: Ishmael Falke (Invisible Lands),
Elise Vigneron (Anywhere), and Camille
Trouvé (R.A.G.E.)

#### 1pm - 3pm

#### Grand Narratives and Petits Récits

Moderator: **Dr. Paulette Richards**Panelists: **Michael Brown** (Invitation to a

Beheading), **Sarah Fornace** (Frankenstein), and **Theodora Skipitares** (Grand Panorama)

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 28**

10am - 12pm

#### Maya: The Uses of Illusion

Moderator: Dr. Paulette Richards

Panelists: Eduardo Felix (Macunaíma Gourmet),

Michaela Homolová (Choo. Choo. Whistle....),

Jonathan Meyer (as though your body were right),

and Janni Younge (Hamlet)

#### 1pm - 3pm

#### **Building New Worlds: Emerging Voices**

Moderator: Dr. Dassia N. Posner

Panelists: Felicia Cooper (University of
Connecticut), Camille Casemier (School of
the Art Institute of Chicago), Claudia Kinahan
(Northwestern University), and Yiwen Wu
(University of Chicago)



#### THE CATAPULT ARTIST INTENSIVE

# for discount at THE WARWICK

#### **1ANUARY 20-28**

# TER PUPPETRY CLASSES



#### **Plexus Polaire**

Friday, January 20: 1-4pm Fine Arts Building 410 S. Michigan Ave.

#### Theodora Skipitares

Tuesday, January 24: 1-4pm On stage at Harold Washington Cindy Pritzker Auditorium 400 S. State St.

#### Manual Cinema

Sunday, January 22: 10am-1pm Manual Cinema Studios 2415 W. 19th St.

#### Janni Younge

Friday, January 27: 1-4pm On stage at DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center 740 E. 56th Pl.

#### **Linda Wingerter**

Monday, January 23: 1-4pm Fine Arts Building 410 S. Michigan Ave.

#### Pigmalião Escultura que Mexe

Saturday, January 28: 1-4pm On stage at MCA Chicago 205 E. Pearson St.

\$60 each; no application required. Learn more and register at chicagopuppetfest.org

3 hours each

For all ages 18 and up

### THE CATAPULT

The Catapult Artist Intensive returns with two unique professional weekends to inspire and inform practicing artists of all disciplines. Over each three-day period, participants take a deep dive into puppetry with a curated, guided experience of the Festival programming. Join an intimate cohort, escorted by a professional leader, for discussions, backstage access and more. The Catapult is designed to advance the form and provide artists the opportunity to expand their understanding of the field of puppetry. Each weekend includes 8 performances in 3 days, with 2 panel discussions, some meals, and local transportation. No application required. Hotel is not included in the price, but hotel discount is available. Cost: \$590

#### **SESSION 1: JANUARY 20-22**

Led by Samuel J. Lewis II

Shows include:

Anywhere, Moby Dick, R.A.G.E., Squirrel Stole My Underpants, Grand Panorama, Invisible Lands, Nasty, Brutish & Short (2), and symposiums.

#### **SESSION 2: JANUARY 27-29**

Led by Grace Needlman

Shows include:

Macunaíma Gourmet, Akutagawa, Invitation to a Beheading, Choo. Choo. Whistle. Woof!, Frankenstein, Dogugaeshi, Nasty, Brutish & Short (2), and symposiums.

With special support from







#### **10IN US FOR THESE SPECIAL OPENING NIGHT EVENTS**



### OPENING NIGHT PRELUDE RECEPTION

Co-chaired by Julie Moller & Kim Ohms

#### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18**

5-7 PM STUDEBAKER THEATER

Starts on 4th floor Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave.

#### **TICKETS:** \$125/\$250 BENEFACTOR

Show tickets sold separately



Join top supporters, festival artists and staff to toast the opening of the 5th Chicago

Puppet Fest at this exclusive, pre-show reception including early access to Opening Night festivities, immediately followed by the opening night production, Moby Dick by Plexus Polaire.

### OPENING NIGHT POST-SHOW PARTY

Co-chaired by Kristy Moran & Kim Ohms

#### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18**

8:45 - 10:45 PM STUDEBAKER THEATER

On 8th Floor

Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave.



Come back up for air after Moby Dick to toast Plexus Polaire and all of the amazing puppet

artists and acts ready to amaze and delight audiences over the next 12 days during the 5th Chicago Puppet Fest.

TICKETS: \$75/person

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributors for their generous support:









































#### \$100,000 - \$150,000

Ferdi Foundation/Julie Moller Jentes Family Foundation lustine lentes & Dan Karuna Kristy & Brandon Moran

#### \$75,000 - \$99,999

Cheryl Lynn Bruce & Kerry James Marshall

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It's not too late to help out!





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This list represents cash contributions received between 1/4/22 and 12/1/22. If you notice an error. please accept our sincerest apologies and let us know so we can make it right.

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Bla thanks to all the Box office staff and Transportation staff

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Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival The Fine Arts Building 410 S. Michigan Ave. #310 Chicago, IL 60605

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and Special Thanks

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Make a gift and we will include you in the 2023 Festival Report magazine!"