



CHICAGO  
INTERNATIONAL  
PUPPET  
THEATER  
FESTIVAL

JANUARY 18-28, 2024

**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 11 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, South Africa, Japan, 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



Cover: *The Beast Dance*, La Liga Teatro Elástico. Photo: Pablo Federico



Photo: Saverio Traglia

## WELCOME TO OUR 6TH EDITION!

*Once again the puppets travel to our Chicago home.*

Deep in the heart of the winter, we gather in dark theaters, set aside our homosapien centrim, and allow the material world of surrogate humans, animals and spirits to stand before us. These puppets have stories to tell.

You will hear of: a revolt of the animals to save the planet, an epic ancient Persian tale, the adventures of a marooned astronaut, the creation of an afrofuturist Pinocchio, a terrible terrible monster facing his greatest fear, an unsuspected deal with the devil, an Aunt's auspicious invitation to lunch, and urban youth encountering gun violence. The treat for you, dear viewer, lies with the storytellers themselves: the puppets. They will speak to us in their own rare language, beyond mere words or the physical world, offering us entry into our own transcendent experience.

We are delighted to feature the world premiere of Wakka Wakka Productions' *Animalia Trilogy*. This year our **Free Neighborhood Tour** will offer performances across all days of our Festival. Please come to the Fine Arts Building to visit our **Puppet Hub** featuring our new **Pop-Up Shop**, **Spoke & Bird Pop-Up Cafe**, two exhibitions, and our **Symposium** of artist panels as well as **book talks** featuring authors of recent U.S. puppet publications.

Let the enchantment begin!

*Blair Thomas, Artistic Director & Founder*

**1** THE RHAPSODY THEATER  
1328 W. Morse Ave.

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

**3** THE BIOGRAPH  
Richard Christiansen Theater and  
Začek McVay Theater  
2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

**4** STEPPENWOLF THEATRE  
Downstairs Mainstage Theatre, 1700 Theater,  
Ensemble Theatre Lobby, and Balcony Bar  
1650 N. Halsted Ave.

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

**6** WARWICK ALLERTON HOTEL  
701 N. Michigan Ave.

**7** INSTITUTO CERVANTES OF CHICAGO  
31 W. Ohio St.

**8** STUDEBAKER THEATER AT THE FINE ARTS BUILDING  
410 S. Michigan Ave.

**9** FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS  
Puppet Hub & Studio 433 (4th fl) and Little Studio (7th fl)  
The Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave.

**10** COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO'S FABRICATION FACILITY  
623 S. Wabash Ave. (10th floor)

**11** DANCE CENTER COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO  
1306 S. Michigan Ave.

**12** NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART  
1852 W. 19th St.

**13** MANUAL CINEMA STUDIO  
2203 W. 21st St.

**14** THE DUSABLE BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER  
740 E. 56th Pl.

**15** REVA & DAVID LOGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
Performance Hall and Performance Penthouse  
915 E. 60th St.

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



## FREE NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR

**A** BERGER PARK COACHHOUSE  
6205 N. Sheridan Rd. *Edgewater*

**B** SEGUNDO RUIZ BELVIS  
CULTURAL CENTER  
4046 W. Armitage *Hermosa*

**C** MARSHALL FIELD GARDEN  
APARTMENTS / ART ON SEDGWICK  
1408 N. Sedgwick St. *Old Town*

**D** NAVY PIER  
600 E. Grand Ave. *Downtown Chicago*

**E** 345 ART GALLERY  
345 N. Kedzie Ave. *Garfield Park*

**F** THEATREY  
3611 W. Cermak Rd. *North Lawndale*

**G** MANDRAKE PARK AUDITORIUM  
900 E. Pershing Rd. *Bronzeville*



**H** REVA AND DAVID LOGAN CENTER  
FOR THE ARTS, Performance Hall  
915 E. 60th St. *Hyde Park*

**I** SOUTH SHORE CULTURAL CENTER  
PAUL ROBESON THEATRE  
7059 S. South Shore Dr. *South Shore*


























# OPENING + CLOSING NIGHTS

	THURSDAY JANUARY 18	FRIDAY JANUARY 19	SATURDAY JANUARY 20	SUNDAY JANUARY 21	MONDAY JANUARY 22	TUESDAY JANUARY 23	WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24	THURSDAY JANUARY 25	FRIDAY JANUARY 26	SATURDAY JANUARY 27	SUNDAY JANUARY 28
<b>OPENING NIGHT</b> PRELUDE RECEPTION [p. 12] 	5:30 - 7:15 pm										
<b>THE IMMORTAL JELLYFISH GIRL</b> (part of the <i>Animalia Trilogy</i> ) by Wakka Wakka [p. 15] 	7:30 pm	1:30 pm	7 pm <i>FREE Mask-Making Workshop at 2:45 pm</i>	1:30 pm <i>FREE Mask-Making Workshop at 2:45 pm</i>							
<b>OPENING NIGHT</b> POST-SHOW PARTY [p. 12] 	8:45 - 10:45 pm										
<b>CLOSING NIGHT CABARET</b> with Yael Rasooly [p. 12] 											6 pm

# MORE SHOWS

	THURSDAY JANUARY 18	FRIDAY JANUARY 19	SATURDAY JANUARY 20	SUNDAY JANUARY 21	MONDAY JANUARY 22	TUESDAY JANUARY 23	WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24	THURSDAY JANUARY 25	FRIDAY JANUARY 26	SATURDAY JANUARY 27	SUNDAY JANUARY 28
<b>ANIMAL R.I.O.T.</b> (part of the <i>Animalia Trilogy</i> ) by Wakka Wakka [p. 17] 		9:30 pm	9:30 pm	9:30 pm	7:30 pm	7:30 pm					
<b>DEAD AS A DODO</b> (part of the <i>Animalia Trilogy</i> ) by Wakka Wakka [p. 19] 			1:30 pm	7 pm							
<b>FREE!</b> <b>THE BEAST DANCE, OR THE SECRET SPELL OF THE WILD</b> by La Liga Teatro Elástico [p. 21]  			2 pm								
<b>BOOK OF MOUNTAINS AND SEAS</b> by Basil Twist [p. 23] 									7:30 pm	7:30 pm	3 pm
 <b>A BUCKET OF BEETLES</b> by Papermoon Puppet Theatre [p. 25] 		5 pm 7:30 pm	3 pm 7:30 pm	3 pm							
<b>CHAYKA</b> by Belova - Iacobelli Theatre Company [p. 27] 									7 pm	7 pm	3 pm

# SHOWS *cont.*

	THURSDAY JANUARY 18	FRIDAY JANUARY 19	SATURDAY JANUARY 20	SUNDAY JANUARY 21	MONDAY JANUARY 22	TUESDAY JANUARY 23	WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24	THURSDAY JANUARY 25	FRIDAY JANUARY 26	SATURDAY JANUARY 27	SUNDAY JANUARY 28
<b>THE HIP HOPERA OF SP1N0K10</b> by Tarish "Jeghetto" Pipkins [p. 29] 		7 pm	1 pm 7 pm	1 pm							
<b>ITALO CALVINO'S INVISIBLE CITIES: A TOY THEATER ATLAS</b> by Matthew Gawryk & Dan Kerr-Hobert [p. 31] 	7:30 pm	4 pm 7pm + 9pm	2 pm	5 pm							
<b>KRABAT</b> by Figurentheater Wilde & Vogel and Grupa Coincidentia [p. 33] 								7 pm	9 pm	9 pm	3 pm
<b>LEONARDO! A WONDERFUL SHOW ABOUT A TERRIBLE MONSTER</b> by Manual Cinema [p. 35] 									5 pm	3 pm	1 pm
<b>LITTLE CARL</b> by Theatre Y and Michael Montenegro [p. 37] 									7:30 pm	2 pm 7:30 pm	3 pm
<b>LOGAN CENTER FAMILY PUPPET CABARET</b> with various artists [p. 39] 										4 pm	
<b>LUNCH WITH SONIA</b> by Loco7 Dance Puppet Theater [p. 41] 								7:30 pm	7:30 pm	4 pm	
<b>MAROONED! A SPACE COMEDY</b> by Alex and Olmsted [p. 43] 					7 pm	7 pm	5 pm 8 pm				
<b>NASTY BRUTISH &amp; SHORT</b> with various artists [p. 45] 		10:30 pm 	10:30 pm 						10:30 pm 	10:30 pm 	
<b>SONG OF THE NORTH</b> by Hamid Rahmanian [p. 47] 		7:30 pm	1 pm 5:30 pm								
<b>SPLEEN</b> by Figurentheater Wilde & Vogel [p. 49] 		9 pm	5 pm 9 pm	5 pm							
<b>FREE! TEARS BY THE RIVER</b> by Krystal Puppet Theatre ( <i>Free Neighborhood Tour</i> ) [pp. 50-53] 	4:30 pm Hermosa 	4:30 pm Old Town 	4 pm North Lawndale 	2 pm Garfield Park 			6 pm Edgewater 	10:30 am 7 pm Hyde Park 	6 pm Bronzeville 	12 pm 2 pm Downtown 	3 pm South Shore 

# THE PUPPET HUB

Food, Drink & Exhibitions



FREE!

	THURSDAY JANUARY 18	FRIDAY JANUARY 19	SATURDAY JANUARY 20	SUNDAY JANUARY 21	MONDAY JANUARY 22	TUESDAY JANUARY 23	WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24	THURSDAY JANUARY 25	FRIDAY JANUARY 26	SATURDAY JANUARY 27	SUNDAY JANUARY 28
<b>THE SPOKE &amp; BIRD POP-UP CAFE</b> by The Spoke & Bird [pp. 54-55]		10am-10pm	9am-8pm	9am-6pm	Closed	10am-6pm	10am-6pm	10am-6pm	10am-10pm	9am-10pm	9am-7:30pm
<b>THE MATERIALITY OF THE PUPPET</b> Exhibition [pp. 54-55]		10am-10pm	9am-8pm	9am-6pm	Closed	10am-6pm	10am-6pm	10am-6pm	10am-10pm	9am-10pm	9am-7:30pm
<b>¿LOBO LOBO ESTÁS AHI? (THE BEASTS WAIT INSIDE)</b> Exhibition [pp. 54-55]		10am-10pm	Closed	9am-6pm	Closed	10am-6pm	10am-6pm	10am-6pm	10am-10pm	9am-10pm	9am-7:30pm

# SYMPOSIUM, WORKSHOPS

& so much more!

FREE!

	THURSDAY JANUARY 18	FRIDAY JANUARY 19	SATURDAY JANUARY 20	SUNDAY JANUARY 21	MONDAY JANUARY 22	TUESDAY JANUARY 23	WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24	THURSDAY JANUARY 25	FRIDAY JANUARY 26	SATURDAY JANUARY 27	SUNDAY JANUARY 28
<b>ELLEN VAN VOLKENBURG PUPPETRY SYMPOSIUM: PANELS</b> [pp. 56-57]			10 am <i>Panel 1: Mechanisms</i>	10 am <i>Panel 2: Materials</i>						10 am <i>Panel 3: Manipulation</i>	10 am <i>Panel 4: Construction</i>
<b>ELLEN VAN VOLKENBURG PUPPETRY SYMPOSIUM: BOOK TALKS</b> [p. 57]		5 pm <i>Colette Searls</i>				5 pm <i>Dr. Paulette Richards</i>			4:30 pm <i>Dr. Claudia Orenstein</i>	4:30 pm <i>Dr. Claudia Orenstein &amp; Tim Cusack</i>	
<b>THE BEAST DANCE ADULT WORKSHOP</b> with La Liga Teatro Elástico [p. 58]	<b>JANUARY 16-19</b> <i>Workshop Tuesday - Friday</i> 10 am - 5 pm		<b>FREE!</b> 2 pm The Beast Dance Performance								
<b>PUPPETRY MASTERCLASSES WITH FESTIVAL ARTISTS</b> (various locations) [p. 58]		10 am - 1 pm <i>Krystal Puppeteer Theatre</i>	10 am - 1 pm <i>Papermoon Puppet Theatre</i>	10 am - 1 pm <i>Manuel Cinema</i>						10 am - 1 pm <i>Grupa Coincidentia</i> 11am - 2 pm <i>Loco7 Dance Puppet Theater</i>	
<b>CATAPULT ARTIST INTENSIVE</b> Professional Development Weekends [p. 59]		<b>Session 1</b> <i>Led by Samuel J. Lewis</i>							<b>Session 2</b> <i>Led by Grace Needlman</i>		
<b>"THE OTHER" WORKSHOP IN TWO PARTS</b> with Tita Iacobelli and Natacha Belova [p. 60]										<b>JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 3</b> <i>Post-Festival Workshop: Tuesday - Saturday</i> 10 am - 5 pm	

## JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL OPENING & CLOSING NIGHT FUNDRAISING EVENTS



### PRELUDE RECEPTION

Co-chaired by Jin Ivacic, Julie Moller, & Kim Ohms

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18**

**5:30 - 7:15 pm: STEPPENWOLF'S BALCONY BAR**

1650 N. Halsted St.

\$125/\$250 benefactor (show tickets sold separately)

Join top supporters, festival leadership, artistic directors, and staff to toast the opening of the 6th edition of the festival at this exclusive, pre-show reception including early access to opening night seating. Prelude reception immediately followed by the opening night performance of Wakka Wakka's *Immortal Jellyfish Girl*.



### POST-SHOW PARTY

Co-chaired by Alicia Bird, Julie Moller, & Kim Ohms

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18**

**8:45 - 10:45 pm: STEPPENWOLF THEATRE**

1650 N. Halsted St.

\$75/person (show tickets sold separately)

Celebrate opening night with the artists and acts ready to astonish and delight you for all 11 days of the festival. Enjoy drinks, dessert, live performance, and the regionally-inspired Mexico City ensemble Los Héroes del Desfiero's wind and brass band music.



### CLOSING NIGHT CABARET

Co-hosts: Cheryl Lynn Bruce & Kerry James Marshall, Judy & Howard Friedman, Justine Jentes & Dan Karuna

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28**

**6 pm: THE RHAPSODY THEATER**

1328 W. Morse Ave.

Valet available | See web for details

Featuring the world-celebrated vocalist, actress, puppeteer, director: **Yael Rasooly** with incomparable accordionist, **Iliya Magalnyk**. Join us for a French cabaret scene and revel in the virtuosic talents of these exceptional, classically-trained artists who are also wildly entertaining. There may even be a surprise appearance by a very special, Edith Piaf.



## CHICAGO PUPPET FEST presents THE WORLD PREMIERE OF:



# ANIMALIA TRILOGY

BY WAKKA WAKKA



*The Immortal Jellyfish Girl*

January 18-21



*Animal R.I.O.T.*

January 19-23



*Dead as a Dodo*

January 19-21

The Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival is proud to be the first to present the complete Animalia Trilogy from the remarkable Wakka Wakka company (Norway/NY). *Animal R.I.O.T.* and *The Immortal Jellyfish Girl* have been widely celebrated, receiving rave reviews. This will be the premiere of the newest of the three pieces: *Dead as a Dodo*. The Festival is a proud co-commissioner thanks to support from our new work development program. Whether you see each of these three works in one day or across several days, you will be astonished and delighted!

*Catch all three performances in one day or over several days. See the following pages for showtimes and more information!*



NORWAY/NEW YORK

Photo: Richard Termine

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

WAKKA WAKKA  
Part of the *Animalia Trilogy*

# THE IMMORTAL JELLYFISH GIRL

OPENING  
NIGHT!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

## World Premiere of the *Animalia Trilogy*

A gripping tale of humanity on the brink of annihilation and the unlikely hero who might just save them all. The year is 2555. Large swaths of earth's surface are considered dead zones, and mass extinction has begun. There is a war (there is always a war). As both sides grow desperate, their thirst for destruction becomes more and more volatile. An improbable meeting between an orphan and a jellyfish girl threatens to tip the balance forever, but in whose favor, and at what cost? Hilarious, ridiculous and virtuosic, this puppet show blends innovative projection, original music and puppetry that soars through dimensions, unconfined by time, gravity or biology.

## STEPHENWOLF'S DOWNSTAIRS MAINSTAGE THEATRE

1650 N. Halsted Ave.

\$45; \$40 students & seniors

Thursday, January 18 at 7:30 pm

*See p.12 for info on Opening Night events*

Friday, January 19 at 1:30 pm

Saturday, January 20 at 7 pm

Sunday, January 21 at 1:30 pm

*Free Mask-Making Workshops: 1/20 + 1/20 at 2:45*

80 minutes

**For ages 10 and up**

Special support provided by:  
Cheryl Lynn Bruce & Kerry James Marshall  
With additional support from Cheryl Henson



Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)





NORWAY/NEW YORK

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

WAKKA WAKKA  
Part of the *Animalia Trilogy*

ANIMAL R.I.O.T.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19 - TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

**World Premiere of the *Animalia Trilogy***

Animal R.I.O.T. (Animal Resurgence In Our Time) is an anonymous anthropomorphic organization, founded by the Fantastic Mr. Fox (the non-fictional one). Can you believe it? The human species will come together and save all animals from extinction (including ourselves)! Become a real life masked avenger answering the CALL of the WILD and join the BIO-ECCENTRIC PACIFIST FIGHT CLUB!

Join us or die out! Learn more at:

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

**STEPPENWOLF'S 1700 THEATER**


1650 N. Halsted St.

\$40; \$30 students & seniors

**Friday, January 19** at 9:30 pm  
**Saturday, January 20** at 9:30 pm  
**Sunday, January 21** at 9:30 pm  
**Monday, January 22** at 7:30 pm  
**Tuesday, January 23** at 7:30 pm

75 minutes

*For ages 13 and up*

Special support provided by:  MANAAKI  
Cheryl Lynn Bruce & Kerry James Marshall  
With additional support from Cheryl Henson

Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)



NORWAY/NEW YORK

Photo: Erato Tzavara

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

WAKKA WAKKA  
Part of the *Animalia Trilogy*

DEAD AS A DODO

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

### World Premiere of the *Animalia Trilogy*

Deep within the underworld, a skeleton Dodo and a skeleton Neanderthal are tirelessly digging for fresh bones; their ancient skeletal forms are quickly deteriorating and they are afraid of disappearing completely. One day, a peculiar occurrence disrupts their routine...without warning, the Dodo miraculously sprouts a new bone! A maelstrom of transformation begins to unravel within the realm of bones, shattering the established order. The great reversal has begun. Infused with a blend of puppetry, projections, and humor, *Dead as a Dodo* offers a fantastical glimpse into a future that harkens back to the distant past.

Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

### THE BIOGRAPH THEATER'S ZAČEK-MCVAY MAINSTAGE

2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

\$45; \$40 students & seniors

Friday, January 19 at 7 pm

Saturday, January 20 at 1:30 pm

Sunday, January 21 at 7 pm

75 minutes

For ages 8 and up

Special support provided by:  
Cheryl Lynn Bruce & Kerry James Marshall  
With additional support from Cheryl Henson





MEXICO

Photo: Andrea Calderón

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART *and*  
CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *present:*

LA LIGA TEATRO  
ELÁSTICO

# THE BEAST DANCE

(or *The Secret Spell of the Wild*)



SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

La Liga Teatro Elástico celebrates the important role of the wildest predators within our natural ecosystem using spectacle and community interaction in reverence to the wolf with *The Beast Dance (or The Secret Spell of the Wild)*. This spectacle revives the ancient dance of the hunter and the prey to the rhythm of festive traditional sounds. Workshop participants young and old who have spent the prior week building puppet-beasts will assemble the production right in front of the audience and then release it into the public space. It's been performed more than 50 times in streets, squares and parks on three continents, where people have participated to the rhythm of Oaxacan sones, Basque trikitritxas or Otomi tunditos on beaches, mountains, semi-deserts or snow. Now Chicago will take its turn continuing to evolve and enrich this community spectacle featuring the live band, Los Héroes del Desfierro.

Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF  
MEXICAN ART

1852 W. 19th St.

FREE

Saturday, January 20 at 2 pm

75 minutes

*For all ages*

Participate in the performance by taking the workshop—see p. 58 for info! Learn about the Exhibition on p. 55.





NEW YORK/CHINA

Photo: Ólafur Gestsson

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *and* CHICAGO OPERA THEATER *present:*

BASIL TWIST

# BOOK OF MOUNTAINS AND SEAS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

## Midwest Premiere

*Book of Mountains and Seas* examines our modern-day relationship with the natural world. Four fables centered around the creation and destruction of the earth are uniquely told by a company of 12 singers, two percussionists, and six puppeteers with staging by internationally celebrated puppeteer Basil Twist. Huang Ruo's vibrant and inventive score, which draws inspiration from Chinese folk music, breathes new life into the ancient stories. This is a powerful and extraordinary work that will challenge the way audiences interact with nature and the environment.

Music & Libretto by Huang Ruo  
A Beth Morrison Projects Production  
Chinese and Invented language with English subtitles

Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

## STUDEBAKER THEATER

410 S. Michigan Ave.

\$45; \$40 students & seniors

Friday, January 26 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, January 27 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 28 at 3 pm

80 minutes

*For ages 12 and up*



INDONESIA

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

PAPERMOON PUPPET  
THEATRE

# A BUCKET OF BEETLES



FRIDAY, JANUARY 19 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Wehea lives in a big rainforest where even the smallest of beings are his friends. Inspired by the drawings of a four-year-old and imbued with the exquisite puppetry of Indonesia's Papermoon Puppet Theatre, comes a story of a beautiful friendship, of enchanting creatures and of the delicate connection between humans and nature. To date, Papermoon Puppet Theatre has created more than 30 puppet performances and visual art installations and exhibitions, which have toured more than 10 countries, from Japan to the Netherlands, from Australia to the U.S.

**CHOPIN THEATRE** (mainstage)

1543 W. Division St.

\$40; \$30 students & seniors

**Friday, January 19** at 7:30 pm

**Saturday, Jan 20** at 3 pm + 7:30 pm

**Sunday, January 21** at 3 pm

50 minutes

*For ages 5 and up*

See p. 58 for Papermoon  
workshop info.

Special support  
provided by:



Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)



BELGIUM/CHILE

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

BELOVA ~ IACOBELLI  
THEATRE COMPANY

CHAYKA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

In the backstage of a theater, an aging actress named Chayka struggles to remember why she is there. A young woman arrives to remind her: tonight she must play the part of Arkadina in Chekhov's *The Seagull*. As her memory fades, not knowing quite who she is nor the part she is meant to be playing, Chayka is determined at least to give this last performance. In her struggle and descent, reality and fiction intersect. This multi-award winning production, told in a dreamlike style, is a duo performance for one actress and one puppet, and is the first piece from the Belgo-Chilean company Belova ~ Iacobelli.

Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

**CHOPIN THEATRE** (mainstage)

1543 W. Division St.

\$40; \$30 students & seniors

Friday, January 26 at 7 pm

Saturday, January 27 at 7 pm

Sunday, January 28 at 3 pm

60 minutes

*For ages 13 and up*

See p. 60 for Belova ~  
Iacobelli workshop info.

Special thanks to: La MaMa





NORTH CAROLINA

Photo: Richard Termine

ETA CREATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION *and*  
CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *present:*

TARISH "JEGHETTO"  
PIPKINS

## THE HIP HOPERA OF SP1NOK10

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Set in an Afro-futuristic post-apocalyptic realm, *The Hip Hopera of SP1NOK10* (pronounced "Spin-o-kio") is a science fiction tale about an android who wants to be a real B-Boy. It's co-written by Pierce Freelon and Tarish "Jeghetto" Pipkins, and performed with Tarish's two sons, Divine and Tarin. Featuring an original score by hip-hop producer Hir-O, video, and emceeing, Jeghetto's magical plywood marionettes share his "artivism" as the title character encounters racism, oppression and police brutality on their path toward a better future.

ETA CREATIVE ARTS  
FOUNDATION

7558 S. South Chicago Ave.

\$30; \$20 students & seniors

**Friday, January 19** at 7 pm  
**Saturday, January 20** at 1 pm  
and 7 pm  
**Sunday, January 21** at 1 pm

45 minutes

*For ages 10 and up*

Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)



CHICAGO/MINNESOTA

INSTITUTO CERVANTES OF CHICAGO *and*  
CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *present:*

MATTHEW GAWRYK &  
DAN KERR-HOBERT

## ITALO CALVINO'S INVISIBLE CITIES: A TOY THEATER ATLAS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Kublai Khan feels his empire slipping away, and only from the tales of his emissary Marco Polo can he grasp it. A meditation on the nature and form of cities, of both their uniqueness and ubiquity, this toy theater adaptation of Italo Calvino's novel compresses 18 cities into a menagerie of objects that articulate the narrative, using a variety of mediums including puppetry, object theater, paper mechanics and living sculpture.

**INSTITUTO CERVANTES  
OF CHICAGO**

31 W. Ohio St.

\$30; \$20 students & seniors

**Thursday, January 18** at 7:30 pm

**Friday, January 19** at 4 pm

**Saturday, January 20** at 2 pm

**Sunday, January 21** at 5 pm

55 minutes

*For ages 7 and up*

*Special thanks to: The Italo Calvino estate*

Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)





GERMANY/POLAND

Photo: Michał Strokowski

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

FIGURENTHEATER WILDE &  
VOGEL AND GRUPA COINCIDENTIA

KRABAT

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Based on the classic German children's book "Krabat and the Sorcerer's Mill," a stray war orphan finds shelter with eleven millers and their Master. Strict rules, dark practices, black magic...anything can be endured as long as the bowl is full and the bed is dry. Krabat grows closer and closer to the Master. Finally, it is not heroism, but disobedience – the motive of gaining a friend and a girl who loves him – that breaks the power of the spell. A play about hard times, human falls and the power of first love, *Krabat* goes straight to the heart with penetrating clarity, power of image, stage humor and a minimum of words. Dark, bold and at the same time incredibly light, it's a carousel of feelings spinning among great musical landscapes.

Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

THE BIOGRAPH THEATER'S  
ZAČEK-MCVAY MAINSTAGE

2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

\$45; \$35 students & seniors

Thursday, January 25 at 7 pm

Friday, January 26 at 9 pm

Saturday, January 27 at 9 pm

Sunday, January 28 at 3 pm

70 minutes

For ages 13 and up

See p. 58 for Grupa  
Coincidentia workshop info.

Special thanks to: Goethe-Institut Chicago

TAKE A  
WORKSHOP



CHICAGO

Photo: Rebecca J Michelson

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

MANUAL CINEMA

# LEONARDO! A WONDERFUL SHOW ABOUT A TERRIBLE MONSTER



FRIDAY, JANUARY 26 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Leonardo is a terrible monster. He tries so hard to be scary, but he just...isn't. Then Leonardo finds Sam, the most scaredy-cat kid in the world. Will Leonardo finally get to scare the tuna salad out of someone? Or will it be the start of an unlikely friendship? The plot thickens when this pair meets Kerry and Frankenthaler, an even scaredier-cat and her monster friend. Kerry and Sam need to make a big decision: will they just be scaredy cats or can they become friends? Chicago's Manual Cinema brings two of Mo Willems' popular children's books to life with hundreds of illustrated paper puppets, book pages, two-dimensional props, furry monster puppets and original songs.

## THE DUSABLE BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER

740 E. 56th St.

\$40; \$30 students & seniors

**Friday, January 26** at 5 pm  
**Saturday, January 27** at 3 pm  
**Sunday, January 28** at 1 pm

45 minutes

*For ages 3 and up*

*See p. 58 for Manual Cinema workshop info.*



Special support provided by:



Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)



CHICAGO

Photo: Karl Soderstrom

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

THEATRE Y AND MICHAEL  
MONTENEGRO

LITTLE CARL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

In *Little Carl*, Theatre Y's Youth Ensemble grapples with the difficult issue of gun violence by creating a dream play using puppets, masks, and poetry, making beautiful imagery as an antidote to despair. Members of Theatre Y's youth program have steered this project, guided by an extraordinary set of tools and support from veteran masters of their craft including multidisciplinary artist and North Lawndale native Marvin Tate, puppetry artisan Michael Montenegro, and the Firehouse Community Arts Center. Youth from Chicago's west side have created each aspect of the vision, while maintaining a critical distance from the work to protect them from re-traumatization or any feelings of exploitation.

Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

THE BIOGRAPH'S RICHARD  
CHRISTIENSEN THEATER

2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

\$30; \$20 students & seniors

Friday, January 26 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, January 27 at 2 pm  
and 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 28 at 3 pm

80 minutes

**For ages 12 and up**

Special support  
provided by:





CHICAGO

Photo: Richard Termine

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *in partnership with* THE REVA AND DAVID LOGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS *and* THEATER AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO *present:*



## LOGAN CENTER FAMILY PUPPET CABARET

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

Bring the kids to see local puppeteers performing a diverse set of short, family-friendly works, set against fantastic panoramic views of the city from the Logan Center Penthouse.

**REVA AND DAVID LOGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS, Performance Penthouse**

915 E. 60th St.

\$18; \$15 students & seniors

Saturday, January 27 at 4 pm

60 minutes

*For all ages*

Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)



NEW YORK/COLOMBIA

Photo: Richard Termine

THE DANCE CENTER OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO *and*  
CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *present:*

LOCO7 DANCE  
PUPPET THEATER

## LUNCH WITH SONIA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

*Lunch with Sonia* is inspired by Loco 7 founder and artistic director Federico Restrepo's true-life experience with his Aunt Sonia, who at the age of 72, asked her family to gather for lunch. Lyrical storytelling, dance, projection and a team of talented puppeteers tell the story of this larger-than-life, unapologetic and robust woman. It's a piece of incredible intimacy proposing the idea that dying is the final event of living a self-actualized, individual human life. The *New York Times* called *Lunch with Sonia* "strange, daring, gorgeous and far from the mainstream."

Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

THE DANCE CENTER OF  
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

1306 S. Michigan Ave.

\$40; \$30 students & seniors

Thursday, January 25 at 7:30 pm

Friday, January 26 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, January 27 at 4 pm

55 minutes

For ages 12 and up

See p. 58 for Loco7 Puppet  
Theater workshop info.





MARYLAND

Photo: Ryan Maxwell

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

ALEX AND  
OLMSTED

## MAROONED! A SPACE COMEDY



MONDAY, JANUARY 22 - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

An astronaut traveling 87,000 light years into space crash-lands on an uncharted planet, where she must resort to emergency measures to seek rescue. From the award-winning team Alex and Olmsted, elegant puppetry design meets joyful, meaningful storytelling. Live performance, shadow puppetry and marionettes shine to delightful effect. "Achingly beautiful" hailed *MD Theatre Guide*. "Amusing, charming, delightful and, at times, utterly and completely astonishing" raved *DC Theatre Scene*. This is puppetry life support of the best kind - at just the right moment.

Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

### CHOPIN THEATRE

(mainstage)

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1543 W. Division St.

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\$40; \$30 students & seniors

**Monday, January 22** at 7 pm

**Tuesday, January 23** at 7 pm

**Wednesday, January 24** at 5 pm

60 minutes

*For all ages*



UNIMA-USA Citation of Excellence  
in the Art of Puppetry



CHICAGO/INTERNATIONAL

Photo: Richard Termine

ROUGH HOUSE THEATRE CO., LINKS HALL, UCHICAGO and  
CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *present:*

## NASTY, BRUTISH & SHORT

FRIDAYS and SATURDAYS, JANUARY 19-20 and JANUARY 26-27

Hit the fan-favorite late show to take your puppetry experience from the highest heights to the best kind of lows. Enjoy Chicago's long-standing puppet cabaret with your host Jameson and somewhat furry friends for a naughty night of raucous, raunchy, dark, sassy, sad and mostly hilarious puppet theater. The best part? Fancy out-of-towner puppeteers are invited to join local legends in a bawdy night of revelry followed by friendly unwinding. Rough House heads south to Hyde Park on the festival's final weekend for two more nights of its *Nasty, Brutish & Short* puppet cabaret.

Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

**LINKS HALL (Wknd 1: Jan 19-20)**

3111 N. Western Ave.

**REVA AND DAVID LOGAN  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS,  
Performance Penthouse**

**(Wknd 2: Jan 26-27)** 915 E. 60th St.

\$18; \$15 students & seniors

**Friday, January 19** at 10:30 pm

**Saturday, January 20** at 10:30 pm

**Friday, January 26** at 10:30 pm

**Saturday, January 27** at 10:30 pm

60 minutes

*For ages 16 and up*



NEW YORK/PERSIAN

Photo: Richard Termine

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

HAMID RAHMANIAN

# SONG OF THE NORTH



FRIDAY, JANUARY 19 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

*Song of the North*, adapted from the “Book of Kings” (Shahnameh), is a visually breathtaking, large-scale, cinematic play of shadow puppetry and projected animation. It tells the classic Persian tale of the courageous Manijeh, a heroine from ancient Persia, who must use all her strengths and talents to rescue her beloved, Bijan, from a perilous predicament of her own making to help prevent a war. This epic love story employs a cast of 500 handmade puppets and a talented ensemble of nine actors and puppeteers, which come together to create a spectacular experience that advances themes of unity, collaboration and experimentation through performance and story. *Le Monde* said *Song of the North* has “breathtaking fireworks of creativity.”

Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

**STUDEBAKER THEATER AT  
THE FINE ARTS BUILDING**

410 S. Michigan Ave.

\$45; \$35 students & seniors

**Friday, January 19** at 7:30 pm

**Saturday, January 20** at 1 pm

and 5:30 pm

80 minutes

*For all ages*

*Funded in part by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Theater Project, with lead funding from The Mellon Foundation and support from the Doris Duke Foundation.*





GERMANY

Photo: Georg Poehlein

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

FIGURETHEATER  
WILDE & VOGEL

SPLEEN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

*Spleen* is a kaleidoscope of pictures, songs and miniatures, inspired by Charles Baudelaire's collection of poems "Le Spleen de Paris," published posthumously in 1869. Mankind on the threshold to modernity is described in scenes played out between thirst for life and longing for death, between a romantic search for infinity and a brutal triviality. The performers are on the stage with puppets and musical instruments, while Baudelaire's texts are spoken by children recorded on tape. The magic of this kaleidoscope develops in the imagination between actors, material and audience – a sequence of pictures and live music that wants to counterpoint Baudelaire's vision of the world and open it for a new understanding for the present.

Get Tickets at: [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

**THE BIOGRAPH'S RICHARD  
CHRISTIENSEN THEATER**

2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

\$30; \$20 students & seniors

**Friday, January 19** at 9 pm

**Saturday, January 20** at 5 pm  
and 9 pm

**Sunday, January 21** at 5 pm

70 minutes

**For ages 16 and up**

*Special thanks to: Goethe-Institut Chicago*

Chicago Puppet Fest, Navy Pier, and Chicago Park District's Night Out in the Parks present:

FREE  
**NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR**



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 28**

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, **Krystal Puppeteers** presents *Tears by the River*, a beautiful blending of traditional Kenyan puppetry, artistry and vocals.

Special support provided by:



**SEE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR LOCATION AND DETAILS**

**FREE**, no reservations required

- Thursday, January 18 at 4:30 pm
- Friday, January 19 at 4:30 pm
- Saturday, January 20 at 4 pm
- Sunday, January 21 at 2 pm
- Wednesday, January 24 at 6 pm
- Thursday, January 25 at 10:30 am + 7 pm
- Friday, January 26 at 6 pm
- Saturday, January 27 at noon + 2 pm
- Sunday, January 28 at 3 pm

35 minutes  
For all ages



**KENYA**

## TEARS BY THE RIVER

BY KRYSTAL PUPPETEERS

*Tears by the River* is a beautiful blending of traditional Kenyan puppetry, artistry and vocals telling this classic folktale about the brave monkey called Libendi. A great famine sends him seeking a far away river and a better life. Crossing valleys, mountains, deserts, and barren land, Libendi risks everything and although the animals of the forest honor, respect and praise him, others will do anything for fame.



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18** at 4:30 pm  
**Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center**  
4046 W. Armitage Ave. | *Hermosa*

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 19** at 4:30 pm  
**Marshall Field Garden Apartments/  
Art on Sedgwick**  
1408 N. Sedgwick St. | *Old Town*

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20** at 4 pm  
**Theater Y**  
3611 W. Cermak Rd. | *North Lawndale*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 21** at 2 pm  
**345 Art Gallery**  
345 N. Kedzie Ave. | *Garfield Park*

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24** at 6 pm  
**Berger Park Coachhouse**  
6205 N. Sheridan Rd. | *Edgewater*

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 25** at 10:30 am  
and 7 pm  
**Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts,  
The University of Chicago**  
915 E. 60th St. | *Hyde Park*

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 26** at 6 pm  
**Mandrake Park**  
3858 S. Cottage Grove Ave. | *Bronzeville*

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27** at Noon  
and 2 pm  
**Navy Pier**  
600 E. Grand Ave. | *Downtown Chicago*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28** at 3 pm  
**South Shore Cultural Center  
Paul Robeson Theatre**  
7059 S. South Shore Dr. | *South Shore*

# THE PUPPET HUB

Your Puppetry Destination: Food, Drink, and Exhibitions



**FRIDAY, JANUARY 19 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 28**

Come check out The Puppet Hub on the 4th floor of the Fine Arts Building. Bursting with site-specific activities, it's the perfect place to relax between shows, meet up with friends and make some new ones! Enjoy Spoke & Bird Pop-Up Cafe as well as two special exhibitions: *The Materiality of the Puppet*, featuring design renderings from the 2024 festival productions, and *¿Lobo lobo estás ahí? (The Beasts wait inside)*, an up close and behind the scenes look at the wild puppets and preliminary drawings for *The Beast Dance* production by La Liga Teatro Elástico (see p. 21).



Presented in partnership with The Spoke & Bird Cafe.

## THE FINE ARTS BUILDING

Studio 433, 4th Floor  
410 S. Michigan Ave.

**FREE, for all ages**

**Friday, January 19:** 10 am-10 pm

**Saturday, January 20:** 9 am-8 pm

**Sunday, January 21:** 9 am-6 pm

*Closed Monday, January 22*

**Tuesday, January 23:** 10 am-6 pm

**Wednesday, January 24:** 10 am-6 pm

**Thursday, January 25:** 10 am-6 pm

**Friday, January 26:** 10 am-10 pm

**Saturday, January 27:** 9 am-10 pm

**Sunday, January 28:** 9 am-7:30 pm

## SPOKE & BIRD POP-UP CAFE

Presented by *The Spoke & Bird*

Take a break between the events in this puppet-inspired pop-up cafe inside the Fine Arts Building! Meet fellow puppetry enthusiasts for coffee, tea, winter soups and baked treats.



Photo: Richard Termine

## EXHIBITIONS



Photo: Pablo Federico

### *¿Lobo lobo estás ahí?* *(The Beasts wait inside)*

An up close and behind the scenes look at the wild puppets and preliminary drawings for *The Beast Dance* production by La Liga Teatro Elástico.



Image: Lauren Marin

### *The Materiality of the Puppet*

A special exhibition featuring design renderings from the 2024 festival productions.

Presented by the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival, sponsored by UNIMA-USA

## 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.

### ARTIST PANELS

All events located at:

**THE FINE ARTS BUILDING**

**Little Studio, 7th Floor**

410 S. Michigan Ave.

*Check website for livestream details.*

**FREE** and open to the public

This year's Symposium will feature Festival Artists on four different panels discussing the materiality of the puppet in both theory and practice. It also features book talks by puppet scholars of four new publications released this year.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20: 10am - 12pm**

**Panel 1 - Mechanisms:** How do mechanisms, both digital and mechanical, ingenious and simple work to animate the material characters and performance?

**Panelists:** Matthew Gawryk & Dan Kerr-Hobert, *Italo Calvino's Invisible Cities: A Toy Theater Atlas*; Tarish "Jeghetto" Pipkins, *The Hip Hopera of SP1NoK10*; Michael Vogel, *Spleen*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 21: 10am - 12pm**

**Panel 2 - Materials:** What tells the story? How does the performance start with the selection of materials chosen for the puppet and set fabrication?

**Panelists:** Iwan Effendi & Maria Tri Sulistyani (Ria), *A Bucket of Beetles*; Jacqueline Serafin & Iker Vicente, *The Beast Dance*; Hamid Rahmanian, *Song of the North*

### ARTIST PANELS

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27: 10am - 12pm**

**Panel 3 - Manipulation:** How does the material used to construct the puppet affect the manipulation technique used to animate it? How do the needs of the performance influence the choice of materials and manipulation techniques?

**Panelists:** Michael Montenegro, *Little Carl*; Basil Twist, *Book of Mountains and Seas*, Yael Rasooly

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28: 10am - 12pm**

**Panel 4 - Construction Techniques:** How do various building techniques - simple and direct, or complex - impact character, presentation, and storytelling?

**Panelists:** Dagmara Sowa & Paweł Chomczyk, *Krabat*; Fedelis Kyalo, *Tears by the River*; Federico Restrepo, *Lunch with Sonia*

### BOOK TALKS

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 19** at 5 pm

Author Colette Searls

*A Galaxy of Things: The Power of Puppets and Masks in Star Wars and Beyond*

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 23** at 5 pm

Author Dr. Paulette Richards

*Object Performance in the Black Atlantic*

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 26** at 4:30 pm

Author Dr. Claudia Orenstein

*Reading the Puppet Stage: Reflections on the Dramaturgy of Performing Objects*

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27** at 4:30 pm

Authors Dr. Claudia Orenstein & Tim Cusack  
*Puppet and Spirit: Ritual, Religion, and Performing Objects*

## WORKSHOPS

# MASTER PUPPETRY CLASSES

with Festival Artists

**\$60 each**; no application required. Learn more and register at [chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)

For ages 18 and up

### Krystal Puppeteers

Friday, January 19

10am-1pm

Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave.

### Papermoon Puppet Theatre

Saturday, January 20

10am-1pm

Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division St.

### Manual Cinema

Sunday, January 21

10am-1pm

Manual Cinema Studio, 2203 W. 21st St.

### Grupa Coincidentia

Saturday, January 27

10am-1pm

The Biograph's Začek McVay Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

### Loco7 Dance Puppet Theater

Saturday, January 27

11am-2pm

Dance Center Columbia College Chicago, 1306 S. Michigan Ave.

SPECIAL  
5-DAY  
WORKSHOP



Photo: Andrea Calderón

### The Beast Dance Adult Workshop or How to Raise an Untamed Avian Puppet

Tuesday, January 16 -  
Saturday, January 20

10am-5pm; *Performance on Saturday, 1/20 at 2pm (see p. 21)*

**\$295 (For adults; performance experience and ability to lift 20 lbs helpful, but not required.)**

Columbia College Chicago's Fabrication Facility, 623 S. Wabash Ave., 10th floor

## THE CATAPULT ARTIST INTENSIVE

# 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 9 performances in 3 days, with symposium events, some meals, and local transportation. Cost: \$595. No application required. Hotel is not included in the price, but hotel discount is available. (See circle above.)

### SESSION 1: JANUARY 19-21

Led by **Samuel J. Lewis II**

Shows include: *A Bucket of Beetles*, *Spleen*, *The Beast Dance (or The Secret Spell of the Wild)*, *The Immortal Jellyfish Girl*, *Animal R.I.O.T.*, *The Hip Hopera of 5P1NOK10*, *Italo Calvino's Invisible Cities: A Toy Theater Atlas*, *Nasty, Brutish & Short (2)*, a symposium and a book talk

### SESSION 2: JANUARY 26-28

Led by **Grace Needlman**

Shows include: *Chayka*, *Krabat*, *Tears by the River*, *Lunch with Sonia*, *Little Carl*, *Leonardo! A Wonderful Show About A Terrible Monster*, *Book of Mountains and Seas*, *Nasty, Brutish & Short (2)*, symposiums and a book talk

NEED A HOTEL?

Use code **PUPPETFEST24** for discount at **THE WARWICK ALLERTON HOTEL** (312) 440-1500

# JOIN US FOR THESE POST FESTIVAL EVENTS...

SPECIAL  
5-DAY  
WORKSHOP

## THE OTHER

Tita Iacobelli &  
Natacha Belova  
Workshop

Jan 30 - Feb 3, 2024  
Tuesday – Saturday,  
10am-5pm

\$530  
Fine Arts Building  
Studio 433, 4th floor



Photo: Yves-Jortay

Join Tita Iacobelli and Natacha Belova for this 5 day intensive workshop learning the construction and performance techniques used to create *Chakya* (see p. 27). The first part of the week participants learn to use thermoplastic material formed at high temperature and a clay face sculpture, to create a puppet head and character of their own design. This is followed by training in puppet manipulation with fundamental notions of performance such as gaze direction, dissociation and the fixed point, with improvisational exercises taking place throughout the workshop.

Register now at:  
[chicagopuppetfest.org](http://chicagopuppetfest.org)



April 25 - 27, 2024

The Living Room Tour is a series of intimate fundraisers in special settings. Always a wonderful time, each event takes place at a unique, private location. Your ticket includes drinks, dinner, dessert and puppetry performances. Funds raised support The Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival and the FREE Neighborhood Tour.

## SPRING WORKSHOPS 2024

Take a live, online workshop from anywhere in the world, or join us for in-person workshops at the Fine Arts Building in downtown Chicago. Live work sessions, group sharing and personal feedback, combine to make these some of the most enjoyable and productive workshop opportunities available.



Photo: Vanessa Valliere by C.B. Lindsey

In-person workshops include *Full Bodied Puppetry* with Lindsey Noel Whiting and *Realizing Your Puppet Slam Act* with Vanessa Valliere. Live, online workshops include *Cardboard Sculpting* with Tarish "Jeghetto" Pipkins, *Hand Puppets* with Chad Williams, *Toy Theater* with Roberto Rossi, and *Shadow Puppetry* with Chinese Theatre Works. Visit [ChicagoPuppetFest.org](http://ChicagoPuppetFest.org) for details.

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It's not too late  
to help out!



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Map of Locations 4-5

Calendar of Events 6-11

Opening & Closing Events 12

Shows 13-51

Free Neighborhood Tour 50-53

Pop-Up Puppet Hub 54-55

Vollenburg Puppetry  
Symposium 56-57

Workshops + Catapult  
Artist Intensive 58-59

Post-Festival Events 60-61

Sponsors, Staff, Board,  
and Special Thanks 62-65