

**Press coverage - August 2024-February 2025**  
**7th Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival**

## Highlights

- National coverage in the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times* (Critics Pick: *Anywhere* at HERE Arts Center), *American Theatre Magazine*, *Thrillist* and *AARP.org*
- 7th Festival named a *Chicago Magazine* Top 10 event in January
- A two-page preview feature in the January *Newcity*, along with previews in the *Chicago Reader*, *Hyde Park Herald*, *Block Club Chicago*, *Arts Midwest* and *Third Coast Review*
- Major preview feature and weekend round-up coverage in the *Chicago Tribune*, followed by Chris Jones' 4-star review of *The Life and Times of Michael K*
- Broadcast coverage including an opening day *NBC5* feature on *Dracula* and Q&A with Blair on *WBBM 780 AM News Radio*, opening night crowd and Puppet Hub exhibit footage on the *ABC7* 10 p.m. news, plus sizzle video placements in the *ABC7* and *NBC5* weekend round-ups.
- Shout-outs on the popular local news podcasts *City Cast Chicago* and *Axios Chicago*
- Show reviews and review round-ups in the *Chicago Reader*, *Third Coast Review* and *Chicago Stage and Screen*
- Ethnic media exposure via two *Telemundo Chicago* Spanish-language TV features on *Dracula* and Poncili Creación, plus stories in *La Voz* and *Reklama* (Russian)
- An in-depth Free Neighborhood Tour feature by student reporters at *The DePaulia*, and a *Dracula* review plus thoughtful Q&A with Blair by the *UChicago Maroon* arts editor
- Capped by the *Chicago Reader* naming the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival "Best Performing Arts Festival" in their 2024 Best of Chicago issue, published 3/6/25.

## CIPTF25 press coverage links - chronological

Thrillist, 23 Things You Have to do in Chicago inc CIPTF 8.1.24

<https://www.thrillist.com/events/chicago/events-calendar-in-chicago-this-year>

Thrillist, repost: 23 Chicago events for 2025 inc CIPTF 2025 in January 11.6.24

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/article/23-things-you-have-to-do-in-chicago-this-year/ar-AAcuSc5>

American Theatre, G Furtado Coutino notes CIPTF promising line-up in November Chicago news round-up 11.25.24

<https://www.americantheatre.org/2024/06/17/on-the-ground-chicago-neighborhoods-at-a-glance/>



ChillMama, CIPTF announcement press release reprint 12.16.24  
<https://www.chiilmama.com/2024/12/fest-alert-7th-chicago-international.html>

Chicago Reader, K Reid year in review kicks off with CIPTF 12.17.24  
<https://chicagoreader.com/performing-arts/performing-arts-feature/2024-theater-year-in-review/>

American Theatre, Top 10 Posts of 2024, plus 10 more (CIPTF24/La Liga) 12.17.24  
<https://www.americantheatre.org/2024/12/17/the-years-10-most-popular-posts-and-10-that-deserve-another-look/>

Tone Glow, contributors year-end Best of's, Chicago's Joshua Minsoo Kim lauds CIPTF24 shows and coverage (w/link) 12.27.24  
[https://toneglow.substack.com/p/our-favorite-albums-2024-individual-2?utm\\_campaign=post&utm\\_medium=web](https://toneglow.substack.com/p/our-favorite-albums-2024-individual-2?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web)

Classic Chicago, Around Town Jan events round-up listing 12.29.24  
<https://classicchicagomagazine.com/about-the-town-in-january-9/>

Chicago Magazine, Agenda item - top 10 event in January (#7) 1.25 posted 12.30.25  
<https://www.chicagomag.com/chicago-magazine/january-2025/january-agenda-2/>

AARP.org, Chicago event listing for CIPTF retrieved 12.30.24  
<https://local.aarp.org/event/chicago-international-puppet-theater-festival-2025-01-22-chicago-il.html>

Hyde Park Herald, A Spiselman's winter roundup inc CIPTF 12.30.24  
[https://www.hpherald.com/arts\\_and\\_entertainment/a-winter-2025-theater-preview/article\\_d1074488-c468-11ef-adbf-8bb52996443f.html](https://www.hpherald.com/arts_and_entertainment/a-winter-2025-theater-preview/article_d1074488-c468-11ef-adbf-8bb52996443f.html)

Daily Herald, Theater Spotlight item and V Valliere photo posted 12.30 in print 1.3.25 (no photo)  
<https://www.dailyherald.com/20241230/theater/spotlight-shucked-broadways-corn-fed-tuner-plays-cibc-theatre/>

Reklama, Chicago Russian-language monthly preview feature by S Elkin 1.24  
<https://thereklama.com/7-y-chikagskiy-mezhdunarodnyy-festival-kukolnykh-teatrov-chast-i/>

Newcity, CIPTF preview feature 1.25 posted 1.8.25  
<https://www.newcitystage.com/2025/01/08/the-theater-of-dreams-the-chicago-international-puppet-theater-festival-returns/>

Chicago Sun-Times, CIPTF The Mix item and Dracula photo posted 1.8 in print 1.9.25  
<https://chicago.suntimes.com/entertainment-and-culture/2025/01/08/things-to-do-in-chicago-jan-9-15-the-mix>



ChooseChicago, sample event listing for Untold retrieved 1.9.24

<https://www.choosechicago.com/event/chicago-puppet-festival-unterwasser-untold/2025-01-24/>

Third Coast Review, CIPTF preview 1.9.25

<https://thirdcoastreview.com/2025/01/09/preview-7th-chicago-puppet-theater-festival>

Axios.com, CIPTF Plexus Polaire Dracula: Lucy's Dream is reporter Carrie Shepard's pick 1.13.25

<https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-chicago-36a38b70-cf91-11ef-ad53-9bdc9b1a4b56.html>

LaVoz.com (Chicago Sun-Times Spanish-language news site) CIPTF TTD in Jan 1.13.25

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/la-voz/2025/01/13/que-hacer-en-chicago-durante-enero>

Chicago Tribune, Festival preview by Emily McClanathan posted 1.13 in print 1.14.25

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/01/13/its-official-chicagos-international-puppet-fest-has-gone-big-time-2025s-opens-this-week/>

Wall Street Journal, national arts round-up inc CIPTF posted 1.12 in print 1.14.25

<https://www.wsj.com/arts-culture/fine-art/arts-calendar-happenings-for-the-week-of-january-12-air-digital-e0b9b0fd>

ChicagoMag.com, 5 CIPTF shows to see online roundup 1.14.25

<https://www.chicagomag.com/arts-culture/five-chicago-performers-to-catch-at-the-puppet-theater-festival/>

CityCast Hey Chicago Daily E-news inc CIPTF opening mention 1.14.25

<https://link.citycast.fm/view/65ca7d4ad4091a4aa7b58dc3mqdrh.okq/b60cd189>

NBC5 Chicago, LeeAnn Trotter Puppet Fest preview 1.14.24 5 pm News; rebroadcast Morning News 1.15.24

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/top-videos-home/chicago-international-puppet-theater-festival-returns-for-7th-year/3646230/>

Telemundo Chicago, Jessica Suarez Puppet Fest preview 1.14.25 5 pm News

<https://www.telemundochicago.com/que-hacer-en-chicago/comienza-el-festival-internacional-del-tit-ere-de-chicago/2521902/>

Arts Midwest, CIPTF hooked to Chicago puppet history K Campbell 1.15.25

<https://artsmidwest.org/stories/puppetry-in-chicago/>

Chicago Reader, Chi Cultural Center Potential Energy Exhibit feature by I Hsaio 1.15.25

<https://chicagoreader.com/performing-arts/theater/theater-preview/potential-energy-puppets-up-close-chicago-cultural-center/>

Chicago Social Butterflies, Weekly gay-interest email via Windy City Times, inc CIPTF 1.15.25

<https://email.chisocialbutterflies.com/emails/webview/753150/143700038956090973>



WBBM-AM 780, L. Fielding interview w/Blair, numerous afternoon drive repeats 1.15.25

No link

ABC7, camera stopped by opening night to film crowd and Puppet Hub exhibit (he missed Blair's pinning ceremony), 10 p.m. news, 1.15.25

No link

Block Club Chicago, lengthy CIPTF preview feature 1.16.25

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2025/01/16/chicago-international-puppet-theater-fest-spotlights-local-global-talent-with-100-events-citywide/>

Newcity, Today in Culture item Blair Thomas Chevalier honor 1.16.25

<https://www.newcity.com/2025/01/16/today-in-culture-thursday-january-16-2025-intuit-to-reopen-and-rebrand-charlie-trotters-returns-reader-at-risk/>

Third Coast Review, CIPTF weekend to do rec w/2025 fest image 1.16.25

<https://thirdcoastreview.com/2025/01/16/your-chicago-curated-weekend-1-16-and-beyond>

Block Club Chicago, 22 TTD this weekend inc CIPTF 1.16.25

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2025/01/16/22-things-to-do-in-chicago-this-weekend-winter-markets-n-a-day-and-cubs-convention/>

Reklama, CIPTF round up part 2 by Sergey Elkin 1.16.25

<https://thereklama.com/7th-chicago-international-puppet-theater-festival-%d1%87%d0%b0%d1%81%d1%82%d1%8c-ii/>

ChiLLMama, Dracula review 1.16.25

<http://chiilliveshows.com/2025/01/review-beautifully-macabre-puppet.html>

ChiLLMama, Free shows round-up 1.16.25

<https://www.chiilmama.com/2025/01/free-chicago-puppet-fest-shows.html>

Newcity, Today in Culture Puppet Hub item and link 1.17.25

<https://www.newcity.com/2025/01/17/today-in-culture-friday-january-17-2025-eddie-chambers-joins-saic-new-logan-square-taproom-puppet-hub-pop-up/>

Chicago Tribune, 10 weekend events leads with CIPTF, photo online posted 1.17 in print 1.18.25

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/01/17/what-to-do-in-chicago-cubs-convention-puppet-fest-and-an-mlk-concert/>

NBC5 LTrotter Weekend roundup inc CIPTF 1.17.25

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/top-videos-home/things-to-do-in-chicago-jan-17-19/3648538/>

ChicagoParent.com, Family friendly & FNT show roundup 1.17.25

<https://www.chicagoparent.com/things-to-do/guides/chicago-puppet-festival-with-kids/>



ChiLMama, The Cabinet review 1.17.25

<http://chiilliveshows.com/2025/01/review-cabinet-of-curiositys-cabinet.html>

ABC7, Weekender roundup inc CIPTF 1.18.25

<https://abc7chicago.com/weekender-report-chicago-weekend-events/14651515/>

Third Coast Review, capsule reviews of Dracula, Anywhere, Aanika's Elephants, Concerned Others, House by the Lake & The Cabinet 1.20.25

<https://thirdcoastreview.com/2025/01/20/stages-dispatch-first-week-of-puppet-theater-festival>

Hyde Park Herald, Aanika's Elephant staff photographer week in Hyde Park photo 1.23.25

[https://www.hpherald.com/evening\\_digest/this-week-in-photos-puppet-fest-skis-and-snow/collectio\\_n\\_238cc126-d78b-11ef-902e-5337f695f69f.html](https://www.hpherald.com/evening_digest/this-week-in-photos-puppet-fest-skis-and-snow/collectio_n_238cc126-d78b-11ef-902e-5337f695f69f.html)

Third Coast Review, final weekend preview 1.23.25

<https://thirdcoastreview.com/2025/01/23/your-chicago-curated-weekend-1-23-and-beyond>

Chicago Tribune, C Jones 4-star review of Life & Times of Michael K posted 1.23 in print 1.24.25

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/01/23/review-simply-put-handsprings-life-times-of-michael-k-raises-the-art-form-of-puppetry/>

Telemundo Chicago, 6 p.m. News, J. Suarez weekend roundup inc FNT PCreacion insta video and photos, 1.24.25

<https://www.telemundochicago.com/fotosyvideos/que-hacer-en-chicago-este-fin-de-semana-3/2524285/>

Third Coast Review, Final weekend capsule reviews Life &

Times of Michael K, Edith & Me, Skeleton Canoe, Arctic Tall Tales, Birdheart. Scarecrow, Organismo 1.27.25

<https://thirdcoastreview.com/2025/01/27/stages-dispatch-puppet-theater-festival-closes>

American Theatre, Gabriela F Curtado Report from Chicago inc CIPTF + Around Town link to Emily McClanathan's Tribune preview 1.28.25

<https://www.americantheatre.org/2025/01/28/resilience-and-delicacy/>

The DePaulia, FNT feature Sandglass @ Marshall Fields Garden Apts 1.27.25

<https://depauliaonline.com/74302/artslife/chicago-puppet-fest-pulls-strings-to-bring-shows-to-local-communities/>

The DePaulia, FNT Instagram feature Poncili Creacion @ Segundo Ruiz Belvis CC1.27.25

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DFgUk87q8j/>

Chicago Stage & Screen, festival recap 1.28.25

<https://www.chicagostageandscreen.com/post/chicago-international-puppet-theatre-festival-astounds-and-delights-for-its-7th-edition>



Reklama, M Gurevich week 2 Russian-language reviews 1.29.25

<https://thereklama.com/voploshcheniya-v-kukol-2-temy-i-variatsii/>

New York Times, Anywhere @ HERE Critic's Pick Laura Collins-Hughes 2.6.25

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/06/theater/plays-musicals-theater-nyc-february.html>

Chicago Reader, festival recap w/multiple reviews 2.6.25

<https://chicagoreader.com/performing-arts/theater/theater-review/2025-chicago-international-puppet-theater-festival/>

UChicago Maroon, Plexus Polaire Dracula review by Toby Chan 2.17.25

<https://chicagomaroon.com/45562/arts/blood-death-and-sex-plexus-polaires-dracula-lucys-dream>

UChicago Maroon, in depth Q&A with Blair by Toby Chan 2.17.25

<https://chicagomaroon.com/45567/arts/in-conversation-with-blair-thomas-puppeteer/>

Newcity, Today In Culture item and link to UChicago Maroon Q&A 2.19.25

<https://www.newcity.com/2025/02/19/today-in-culture-wednesday-february-19-2025-facets-hosts-os-cars-preview-silver-rooms-mag-mile-design-lab-bookclub-gets-elbo-room-frequency-festival-begins/>

Chicago Reader, Best of Chicago 2024, CIPTF is best performing arts festival 3.6.25

<https://chicagoreader.com/best-of-chicago/arts-culture-poll-winners-2024/>



