

JAN 21 - FEB 1, 2026

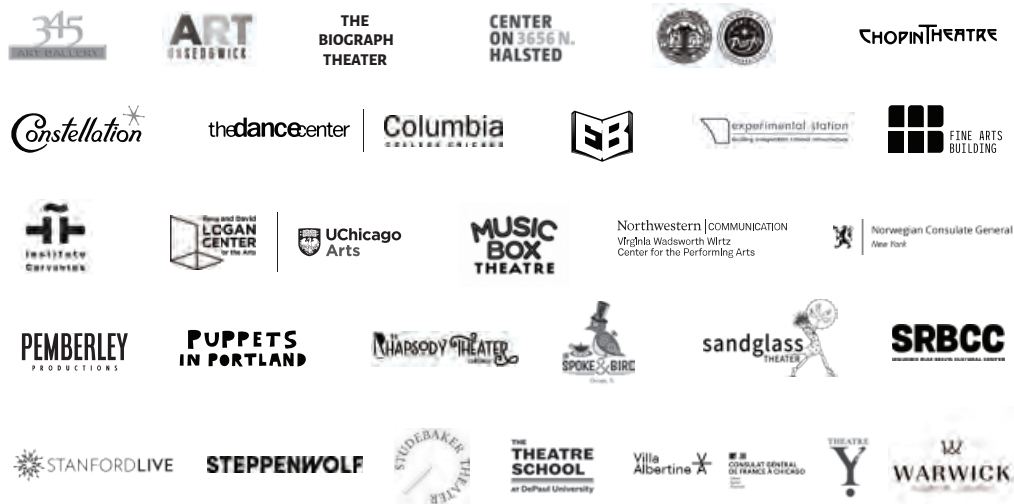
CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL PUPPET THEATRE FESTIVAL



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 22,000+ guests. Since its launch in 2015, the Festival has highlighted artists from nations such as Chile, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, and South Africa, and 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 numerous Chicago cultural institutions and is made possible by generous philanthropic support from organizations and individuals.

FESTIVAL PARTNERS



Cover: *The Sex Lives of Puppets* by Blind Summit. Photo Mark Down

Welcome to our 8TH EDITION!

Dear Human!

Who better than the puppet to startle us awake?
Who better to shake us free from the mire of our daily living and stir the deep knowledge of our shared humanity? This 8th edition of our Festival is, as always, chock full of astonishing revelations and delightful insights about our selves and others, revealing and revelling in what it means to be human.

This year you have the opportunity to see the hero in Ram (*About Ram*), the strength in Nora (*A Doll's House*), the brutishness of Roald Dahl's Crocodile (*The Enormous Crocodile*), ribald rompings (*The Sex Lives of Puppets*) alongside stories told from the U.S. in the ignited vision of a NY widow (*Harlem Doll Palace*), a post war, orphaned girl's survival (*The 4th Witch*), a visit to a sci fi author LeGuin's 1960s genderless planet (*The Left Hand of Darkness*), and the rhinoceros' journey (*Rhynoceron*).

Additionally we bring a unique dinner + puppetry experience from France this year as well as brand new works and premieres from Chicago artists—notably the wildly-popular **Manual Cinema**. Meanwhile, world-renown artists bring to Chicago: master classes, panel discussions, exhibitions and more. *Step inside and enjoy the glow!*

Blair Thomas, *Artistic Director & Founder*



Photo Saverio Truglia

1 THE RHAPSODY THEATER
1328 W. Morse Ave.

2 MUSIC BOX THEATRE
3733 N. Southport Ave.

3 CONSTELLATION
3111 N. Western Ave.

**4 THE BIOGRAPH'S
ZAČEK MCVAY THEATER**
2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

5 STEPPENWOLF'S MERLE RESKIN SPACE
1624 N. Halsted Ave.

6 SPECIAL DINNER-SHOW VENUE
Wicker Park (address disclosed to
ticket buyers)

7 CHOPIN THEATRE Mainstage
1543 W. Division St.

**8 NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY'S
WIRTZ CENTER CHICAGO ABBOTT HALL**
710 N. Lake Shore Dr.

9 WARWICK ALLERTON HOTEL
701 N. Michigan Ave.

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

11 FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS + PUPPET HUB
Fine Arts Building: Balcony (3rd Floor), Studio 433 (4th Floor),
Little Studio (7th Floor), and Curtiss Hall (10th Floor)
410 S. Michigan Ave.

12 DEPAUL'S MERLE RESKIN THEATRE
60 E. Balbo Dr.

13 DANCE CENTER COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO
1306 S. Michigan Ave.

14 REVA & DAVID LOGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Theater East & Performance Hall
915 E. 60th St.



FREE NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR

A LOYOLA PARK FIELDHOUSE
1230 W. Greenleaf Ave *Rogers Park*

B CENTER ON HALSTED
3656 N. Halsted St. *Lakeview*

**C SEGUNDO RUIZ BELVIS
CULTURAL CENTER**
4048 W. Armitage *Hermosa*

**D MARSHALL FIELD GARDEN
APARTMENTS/ART ON SEDGWICK**
1406 N. Sedgwick St. *Old Town*

E INSTITUTO CERVANTES
31 W. Ohio St. *River North*

F 345 GALLERY
345 N. Kedzie Ave. *East Garfield Park*

G AUSTIN TOWN HALL CULTURAL CENTER
5610 W. Lake St. *Austin*

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




I EXPERIMENTAL STATION
6100 S. Blackstone Ave. *Woodlawn*

J TULEY PARK
501 E. 90th Pl. *Grand Crossing*

Check back closer to the Festival for
added locations, dates, and times!

OPENING + CLOSING

Shows and Events

	WEDNESDAY JANUARY 21	THURSDAY JANUARY 22	FRIDAY JANUARY 23	SATURDAY JANUARY 24	SUNDAY JANUARY 25	MONDAY JANUARY 26	TUESDAY JANUARY 27	WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28	THURSDAY JANUARY 29	FRIDAY JANUARY 30	SATURDAY JANUARY 31	SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1
OPENING NIGHT PRELUDE RECEPTION - Fine Arts Bldg. p.12	 5:15 - 6:45 pm											
DEAD AS A DODO by Wakka Wakka - Studebaker Theater p.15	 7 pm		7:30 pm	2 pm 7:30 pm	2 pm							
OPENING NIGHT POST-SHOW PARTY - Fine Arts Bldg. p.12	 8:30-10:15 pm											
CLOSING CABARET with Joshua Holden - Rhapsody Theater p.58												6:30 - 7:45 pm

ALL SHOWS

	THURSDAY JANUARY 22	FRIDAY JANUARY 23	SATURDAY JANUARY 24	SUNDAY JANUARY 25	MONDAY JANUARY 26	TUESDAY JANUARY 27	WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28	THURSDAY JANUARY 29	FRIDAY JANUARY 30	SATURDAY JANUARY 31	SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1
THE 4TH WITCH by Manual Cinema The Biograph's Začek McVay Theater p.17	 7:30 pm	8:30 pm	3 pm 8:30 pm	3 pm 6 pm							
 ABOUT RAM by Katkatha Puppet Arts Trust Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago p.19								7:30 pm	1 pm 6 pm	12 pm	
DOES A DOG HAVE BUDDHA NATURE? by Blair Thomas - Chopin Theatre p.21				8 pm	2 pm 5 pm 8 pm						
A DOLL'S HOUSE by Plexus Polaire DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre p.23	 6 pm	6 pm	6 pm								
 Roald Dahl's THE ENORMOUS CROCODILE by The Roald Dahl Story Company - Studebaker p.25								1 pm	10:30 am 6 pm	11 am 4 pm	10 am 1 pm
THE HARLEM DOLL PALACE by Alva Puppet Theater - Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts p.27	 4 pm 7:30 pm	4 pm 7:30 pm	6 pm								

SHOWS cont.

		THURSDAY JANUARY 22	FRIDAY JANUARY 23	SATURDAY JANUARY 24	SUNDAY JANUARY 25	MONDAY JANUARY 26	TUESDAY JANUARY 27	WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28	THURSDAY JANUARY 29	FRIDAY JANUARY 30	SATURDAY JANUARY 31	SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1
	THE HOUSE by Sofie Krog Theatre Steppenwolf's Merle Reskin Space p. 29	5							6 pm 8:30 pm	6 pm 9 pm	2 pm 6 pm	2 pm 4 pm
	LA MÉRIDIENNE by Théâtre de la Massue with Chef Chris Sullivan - Wicker Park p. 31	6 4 pm 6:30 pm 9 pm	4 pm 6:30 pm 9 pm	4 pm 6:30 pm 9 pm	4 pm 6:30 pm 9 pm	4 pm 6:30 pm 9 pm	4 pm 6:30 pm 9 pm	4 pm 6:30 pm 9 pm				
	LAURA HEIT SHORT FILMS by Laura Heit Music Box Theatre p. 33	2				7 pm	7 pm					
	THE LEFT HAND OF DARKNESS by Untitled Theatre Company No. 61 & Yara Arts Group - Wirtz Center p. 35	8							7:30 pm	4 pm 8 pm	4 pm 8 pm	1 pm 6 pm
LATE NIGHT PUPPETRY	THE MATCHBOX SHOWS by Laura Heit Constellation p. 37	3 8 pm 10 pm	8 pm 10 pm	8 pm 10 pm	8 pm							
LATE NIGHT PUPPETRY	NASTY BRUTISH & SHORT curated by Rough House Puppet Arts - Constellation p. 39	3	10:30 pm	10:30 pm						10:30 pm	10:30 pm	
	OIL PRESSURE VIBRATOR by Geumhyung Jeong Chopin Theatre p. 41	7								9 pm	2 pm	
	RHYNOCERON by KT Shivak Chopin Theatre p. 43	7 7 pm	3 pm 8 pm	11 am 7:30 pm	3 pm							
	THE SEX LIVES OF PUPPETS by Blind Summit The Biograph's Začek McVay Theater p. 45	4				7:30 pm	7:30 pm	7:30 pm	5 pm	5 pm 8 pm	4 pm 8 pm	
	TRUST ME FOR A WHILE by Plexus Polaire Reva & David Logan Center for the Arts p. 47	14						5:30 pm 8 pm	5:30 pm 8 pm		2 pm	
FREE!	FREE NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR with Tian Gombau - Various Locations p. 49	4 pm North Lawndale	11 am River North 4:30 pm Old Town	4 pm Hermosa	2 pm East Garfield Park							
	FREE NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR with Alex & Olmsted - Various Locations p. 50							5 pm 8 pm Wicker Park	4 pm Grand Crossing	4:30 pm Rogers Park	1 pm Austin	11 am Woodlawn

PUPPET HUB + EXHIBITIONS

FREE!

THE SPOKE & BIRD POP-UP CAFE
by Spoke & Bird - Fine Arts Bldg. **p. 52**



Closed

12 - 7:30 pm

12 - 7:30 pm

12 - 4 pm

12 - 5:30 pm

12 - 5:30 pm

12 - 5:30 pm

12 - 5:30 pm

12 - 6 pm

12 - 4 pm

12 - 4 pm

EXHIBITION: Laura Heit Two Ways Down
EXHIBITION: Andrew Kim Lantern Puppets p. 53



Closed

9 am - 7:30 pm

9 am - 7:30 pm

9 am - 4 pm

9 am - 5:30 pm

9 am - 5:30 pm

9 am - 5:30 pm

9 am - 5:30 pm

9 am - 6 pm

9 am - 4 pm

9 am - 4 pm

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMING

FREE!

ELLEN VAN VOLKENBURG PUPPETRY SYMPOSIUM: Panels - Fine Arts Bldg. p. 54-55



10 am - 12 pm
Session 1

10 am - 12 pm
Session 2

10 am - 12 pm
Session 3

10 am - 12 pm
Session 4

BOOK TALKS: Alissa Mello, Mark Down, Dr. Dassi Posner & Claudia Orenstein - Fine Arts Bldg. p. 56



5:30 pm
Making Meaning in Puppetry ...

5:30 pm
Race, Gender, and Disability ...

5:30 pm
A Practical Guide to Puppetry

CATAPULT ARTIST INTENSIVE: Professional Development Weekends - Various Locations p. 56

Session 1: Led by Samuel J. Lewis II

Session 2: Led by Erica Mott

GIANT ANIMAL LANTERN PUPPETS Pre-Fest Workshop with Andrew Kim

JAN 11-21

View finished puppets in the Puppet Hub!

(see above for hours and location)

PUPPETRY MASTERCLASSES with Festival Artists - Fine Arts Bldg. (unless otherwise noted) p. 57



9:30 am
Alva Rogers
9:30 am
Manual Cinema
1:30 pm
Wakka Wakka



1:30 pm
Plexus Poliare

9:30 am
Michael Jean-Marain
1:30 pm
Dr. Paulette Richards

9:30 am
Wakka Wakka
1:30 pm
Linda Wingerter

9:30 am
Anurupa Roy
1:30 pm
Mark Down

9:30 am
Anurupa Roy
1:30 pm
Mark Down

9:30 am
Alex and Olmsted
1:30 pm
Wakka Wakka

1:30 pm
Joshua Holden

There's More! Join us for POST-FEST EVENTS

Visit chicagopuppetfest.org for dates and more info

Spring, Summer, and Fall Workshops

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 make these enjoyable and productive workshop opportunities.

The Spring 2026 Living Room Tour

Save the Dates: April 23, 24, 25
The Living Room Tour events are intimate fundraisers at unique, private locations.

Chicago Puppet Lab Showcase

The Chicago Puppet Lab is a developmental lab for artists creating new, original puppet theater work. Join us to celebrate their growth and discoveries at this showing of works-in-progress.

JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL OPENING NIGHT FUNDRAISING EVENTS!

PRELUDE RECEPTION

Sponsored by Art Legacy Institute
Hosted by the Festival Board



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21
5:15 - 6:45 p.m.

**FINE ARTS BUILDING
STUDEBAKER THEATER**
410 S. Michigan Ave. 3rd Floor Balcony

\$125/\$250 benefactor
Show tickets sold separately

POST-SHOW PARTY

Co-Hosted by Alicia Bird and Jin Ivacic

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21
8:30 - 10:15 p.m.

FINE ARTS BUILDING, CURTISS HALL
410 S. Michigan Ave. 10th Floor

\$75

Learn about ways to
**GET INVOLVED
& DONATE:**
ChicagoPuppetFest.org/Support



Join top supporters, Festival leadership, staff and artistic directors from this year's international companies to toast the opening of the 8th edition of the Festival. This exclusive, pre-show reception features

drinks, hors d'oeuvres, early access to claim opening night seats and a sneak-peek at exhibitions before they open to the public, followed by the opening night performance of **Wakka Wakka's Dead as a Dodo** (show tickets sold separately).

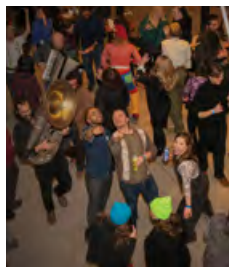


Photo: Richard Termine

After the show, celebrate opening night with the artists who have come to town to share their astonishing and delightful acts with you for the next 12 days of the Festival. Enjoy drinks, dessert, and live puppetry performance at the top of Chicago's historic Fine Arts Building.

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org

INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

FOCUS ON NORWAY

It gives us great pleasure to present this Focus on Norway with three outstanding shows.

Culture is well supported in Norway, a country whose entire population is the equivalent of ours here in the City of Chicago, and their puppetry community is exemplary—robust, and vibrant.

Special Thanks



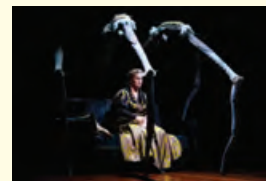
Norwegian Consulate General
New York

We must acknowledge the visionary contribution of the **Company Residencies at Nordland Visual Theatre on the Lofoten Islands** (just north of the Arctic Circle in a fishing village of 1,000 residents), which was instrumental in the development of each of these shows. In fact, with the exception of our first Festival, every subsequent Festival has included at least one show developed through this program. We value the strong work created and were honored to present **Plexus Polaire's** very first premiere in the U.S.

This spotlight on Norway brings Ibsen's singular Nora pushing through her soul-crushing marriage, a futuristic imagining of the Dodo being the first species to reanimate after all had become bones and dust, and an intimate picture of an uncanny ventriloquist dummy terrorizing its master-maker puppeteer.



WAKKA WAKKA
Dead as a Dodo
See page 15



PLEXUS POLAIRE
A Doll's House
See page 23



PLEXUS POLAIRE
Trust Me for a While
See page 47



Spotlight on Norway (see p. 13)

NORWAY/NEW YORK

Photo: Richard Termine

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

DEAD AS A DODO

WAKKA WAKKA

OPENING
NIGHT!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Back by popular demand, *Dead as a Dodo* takes us deep within the underworld, where two skeleton friends, a Dodo and a boy, concerned about disappearing completely, notice something peculiar: the Dodo is miraculously sprouting feathers! A wave of transformation begins, shattering the established order of the dead. As the Dodo continues to grow flesh, fear and chaos erupt. The two friends must flee, fighting to stay together as they are drawn into the heart of an epic battle between life and death. Infused with puppetry, humor, and stunningly innovative visual effects, *Dead as a Dodo* is a mesmerizing musical odyssey about survival, transformation, and the power of true friendship.

**STUDEBAKER THEATER AT
THE FINE ARTS BUILDING**

410 S. Michigan Ave.

\$48; \$40 students & seniors

Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. + 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 25 at 2 p.m.

80 minutes

For ages 8 and up

*Special thanks to Norwegian
Embassy in New York*

**TAKE A
WORKSHOP**
with the artists!
See p. 57



CHICAGO

Photo: Katie Doyle

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

THE 4TH WITCH

MANUAL CINEMA



THURSDAY, JANUARY 22 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

A new and fantastic tale from Chicago's Manual Cinema, inspired by elements of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, in which a girl escapes war and flees into a dark forest. Told through shadow puppetry, actors in silhouette and live music, without dialogue or narration, *The 4th Witch* begins on the eve of an invasion of a small town by the local warlord, Macbeth. The girl flees into the nearby forest, where, orphaned and exiled, she is rescued by a witch, who adopts her as an apprentice. As the girl becomes more skilled in witchcraft, her grief and rage draw her into a nightmarish quest for vengeance against the warlord who killed her parents. An inversion of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, the show explores themes of grief, war, generational conflict, and cycles of violence.

THE BIOGRAPH'S ZAČEK MCVAY THEATER

2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

\$48; \$40 students & seniors

Thursday, Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 23 at 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 24 at 3 p.m. + 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 25 at 3 p.m. + 6 p.m.

65 minutes

For ages 12 and up

TAKE A
WORKSHOP
with the artists!
See p. 57

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org



INDIA

Photo: ashrafscape

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



ABOUT RAM

KATKATHA PUPPET ARTS TRUST

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

About Ram is an experimental theatrical piece using excerpts from the Bhavbhuti's "Ramayana" told through animation, digitally projected dance, masks and puppets. Experience this ancient Indian story about Prince Ram, an incarnation of the god Vishnu, who is exiled and must fight the demon king Ravana to rescue his wife Sita. Follows Ram's life, his exile, Sita's abduction by Ravana, his alliance with the monkey general Hanuman, and his eventual return to rule, an epic tale that serves a guide for Hindu principles like dharma, exploring themes of good versus evil, ideal relationships and duty.

DANCE CENTER OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE

1306 S. Michigan Ave.

\$35; \$30 students & seniors;
\$15 Columbia College students

Thursday, Jan. 29 at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 30 at 1 p.m. + 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 31 at 12 p.m.

60 minutes
For ages 5 and up

*Special thanks to Sandglass
Theater Company and
Puppets in Portland*

**TAKE A
WORKSHOP**
with the artists!
See p. 57

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org

CHICAGO



CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

DOES A DOG HAVE BUDDHA NATURE?

BLAIR
THOMAS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 - MONDAY, JANUARY 26

As charming as it is beautiful, Blair Thomas' most recent puppetry creation takes the form of a large-scale, four-panel crankie in this koan, offering insight into the rascally nature of a dog and his owner. Performed with "technically superb and musically brilliant" Chicago saxophone quartet ~Nois and featuring hand painted, 100-foot long scrolls. With special opening act, *Cowboy Outlaw* performed with Silas Thomas, and based on the true story of an outlaw who's fame and travels outlived him.

CHOPIN THEATRE Mainstage

1543 W. Division St.

\$43; \$35 students & seniors

Sunday, Jan. 25 at 8 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 26 at 2 p.m., 5 p.m.
+ 8 p.m.

45 minutes

For all ages

*With special support from The Marshall
Frankel Foundation*

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org



Spotlight on Norway (see p. 13)

FRANCE/NORWAY

Photo: Tomas Lauvland Pettersen

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

A DOLL'S HOUSE

PLEXUS POLAIRE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Plunge into a world on the edge of the fantastic, where the heroine is a prisoner of her own web of lies, woven over many years.

A Doll's House brings together puppets, actors, music and video projections in this eerie retelling of Henrik Ibsen's 1879 play, one of the great Nordic classics. Created by and starring Plexus Polaire's visionary artistic director Yngvild Aspeli, the production features her signature puppetry innovation in a house haunted by hyper-realistic, life-sized puppets, dead birds and a possessed female choir. A fascinating re-envisioning of the world-renowned classic. A must-see.

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org

U.S.
PREMIERE!

DEPAUL'S MERLE RESKIN THEATRE

60 E. Balbo Dr.

\$48; \$40 students & seniors

Thursday, Jan. 22 at 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 23 at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m.

80 minutes

For ages 13 and up

Special thanks to Norwegian
Embassy in New York, Kulturrådet,
Performing Arts Hub Norway, and
Villa Albertine/French Institute

TAKE A
WORKSHOP
with the artists!
See p. 57



ENGLAND

Photo: Danny Kaan

THE ROALD DAHL STORY COMPANY *and*
CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL PUPPET THEATER FESTIVAL *present:*



Roald Dahl's

THE ENORMOUS CROCODILE

THE ROALD DAHL
STORY COMPANY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1*

The Enormous Crocodile is weaving his way through the jungle with his tummy rumbling ... Only the other jungle creatures can foil his secret plans and clever tricks, but they're going to have to find a large amount of courage to stop this greedy brute. From Trunky the Elephant to Muggle-Wump the Monkey, get to know the menagerie of creative puppets in the U.S. premiere tour of this smash U.K.-hit production. You'll go from the jungle into outer space and back again, just in time for a wild dance party! This mischievous musical based on Roald Dahl's snappy book has toe-tapping tunes by Ahmed Abdullahi Gallab, a rib-tickling book and lyrics by Suhayla El-Bushra, and additional music and lyrics by Tom Brady.

STUDEBAKER THEATER AT THE FINE ARTS BUILDING

410 S. Michigan Ave.

\$48; \$40 students & seniors
(20% Discount for groups of 8 or more with
code **CROCODILE8**)

Thursday, Jan. 29 at 1 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 30 at 10:30 a.m. + 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 31 at 11 a.m. + 4 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 1 at 10 a.m.
+ 1 p.m.

60 minutes

For all ages

* Show continues after the festival. To get tix
for Feb 6-21, visit fineartsbuilding.com

TAKE A
WORKSHOP
with the artists!
See p. 57



NEW YORK

Photo: Richard Termine

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



THE HARLEM DOLL PALACE

ALVA PUPPET
THEATER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Welcome to *The Harlem Doll Palace*, based on the true story of Lenon Holder Hoyt, better known as Aunt Len, a public school art teacher for 40 years who created a doll museum in her Harlem brownstone. Join the dolls from the “dollection” inside Aunt Len’s Doll and Toy Museum as they recreate their journeys to the museum and seek to keep its beloved founder alive while Harlem deteriorates around her. Informed by keen insights and wisdom into the relationships between dolls, children, and expectations, this is a show not to be missed.

**REVA & DAVID LOGAN CENTER
FOR THE ARTS, THEATER EAST,
UCHICAGO**

915 E. 60th St.

\$43; \$35 students & seniors

Thursday, Jan. 22 at 4 p.m. + 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 23 at 4 p.m. + 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m.

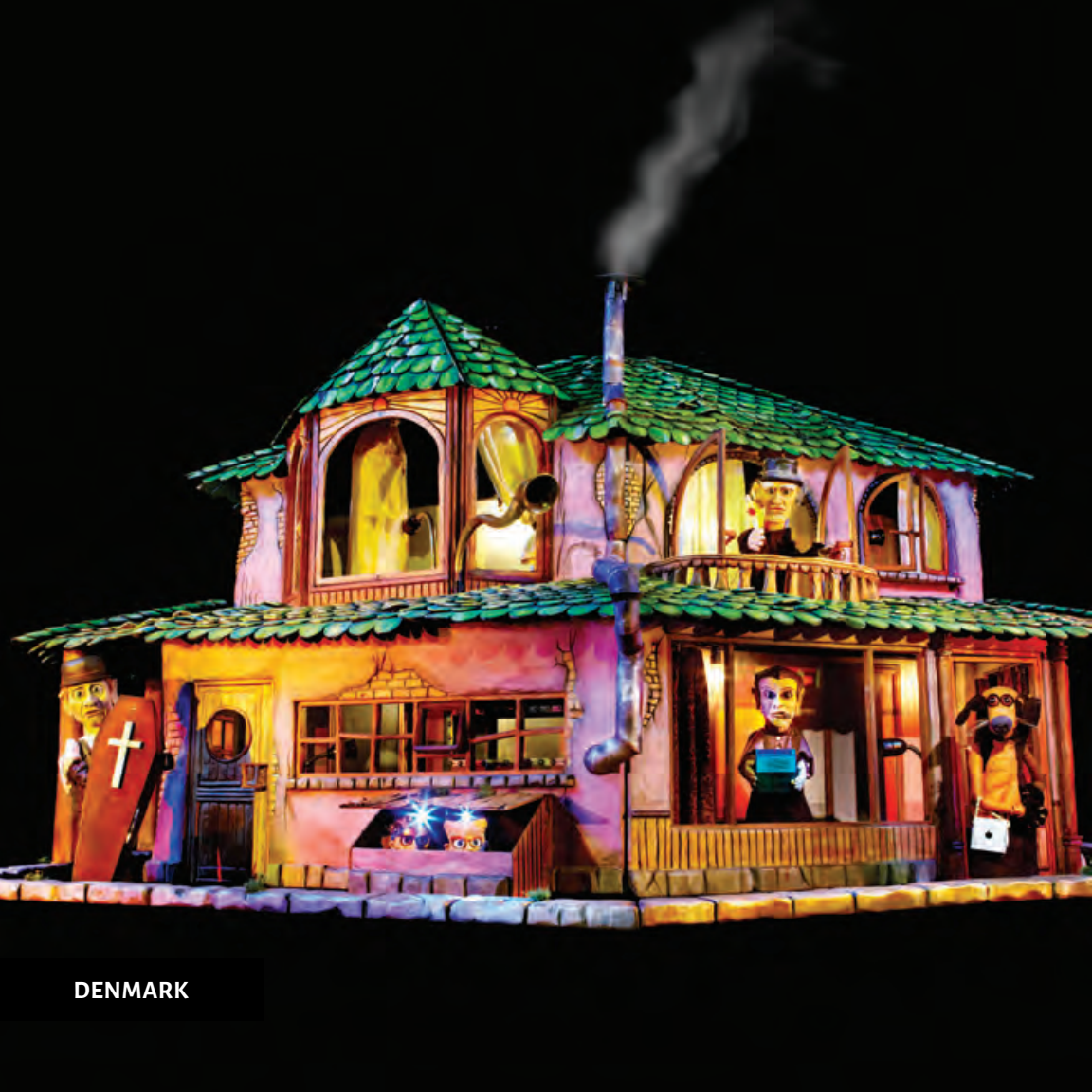
80 minutes

For ages 10 and up

*With special support
from Cheryl Henson*

**TAKE A
WORKSHOP**
with the artists!
See p. 57

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org



DENMARK

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

THE HOUSE

SOFIE KROG THEATRE



THURSDAY, JANUARY 29 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

The House is a puppet comedy thriller for teens and adults that tells the story of the Warehouse Family Funeral Home. On her deathbed, the undertaker changes her last will and testament, as a secret begins to unravel and an evil plan is formed. Puppeteers lead audiences behind closed doors and into rooms which hide unspeakably dark deeds. Their complex puppet performance takes place in a revolving set featuring intricate lighting, strange contraptions and scary sound effects—the perfect setting for a comic thriller filled with hilarious horror, twists and turns and jumping souls.

STEPPENWOLF'S MERLE RESKIN SPACE

1624 N. Halsted St.

\$43; \$35 students & seniors

Thursday, Jan. 29 at 6 p.m. + 8:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 30 at 6 p.m. + 9 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 31 at 2 p.m. + 6 p.m.

Sunday, February 1 at 2 p.m. + 4 p.m.

55 minutes

For ages 13 and up

With special support from the Danish Art Council, Puppets in Portland, Puppet Showcase Theater, and Sandglass Theater Company

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org



FRANCE

Photo: Lin Delpierre

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

LA MÉRIDIDIENNE

THÉÂTRE DE LA MASSUE with
CHEF CHRIS SULLIVAN of
TWILIGHT KITCHEN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22 - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

Don't miss this unique dining and puppet experience. A farm-to-table, family-style dinner for 12 people, pairs with a five-minute puppet show, *La Méridienne*. The event begins as guests take their seats in a beautiful, private, chef's kitchen for a delicious, multi-course meal created by Chicago chef **Chris Sullivan**. One by one, each dinner guest is taken into another room for a private viewing of the puppet play which illuminates the human experience over time. The puppet showman, invisible and tucked away in his theater, shares with his viewer a vision of humanity, slipping away like a dream, back to the universe.

PRIVATE WICKER PARK LOCATION

*(address shared two weeks prior to event. Please note: **not ADA accessible**)*

\$125 per seat (includes gourmet dinner plus puppet show)

Thursday, Jan. 22, Friday, Jan. 23,
Saturday, Jan. 24, Sunday, Jan. 25,
Monday, Jan. 26, Tuesday, Jan. 27,
and Wednesday, Jan 28
at 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m. + 9 p.m.

60 minutes

For ages 18 and up

With support from French Institute in Chicago

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org



PORTLAND

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

LAURA HEIT SHORT FILMS

MONDAY, JANUARY 26 - TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

Laura Heit, who you can also see in *The Matchbox Shows* (p. 37) presents her short film works, spanning two decades. This program showcases numerous animation techniques including drawing, stop-motion, and puppetry. Disquieting and evocative, her work seamlessly crosses genres to unfold poetic visual narratives. This collection of films employs a strong handmade aesthetic and an irreverent sense of humor to bring together ideas and stories that make visible hidden corners of the human psyche. A debut presence for Heit and the Festival at Chicago's historic Music Box Theatre.

MUSIC BOX THEATRE

3733 N. Southport Ave.

\$20; \$15 students & seniors

Monday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.

50 minutes

For ages 8 and up

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org



NEW YORK/CHICAGO

Photo: Zach Sun

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

THE LEFT HAND OF DARKNESS

UNTITLED THEATRE
COMPANY NO. 61 and
YARA ARTS GROUP



THURSDAY, JANUARY 29 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

The Left Hand of Darkness is a new work based on the 1969 novel by famed sci-fi author Ursula K. Le Guin, wherein a lone human emissary to an alien world tries to facilitate inclusion in a growing intergalactic civilization. To do so he must bridge the gulf between his own views and those of the newly encountered, completely dissimilar culture whose inhabitants spend most of their time without a gender. This adaptation was written and co-directed by Edward Einhorn, Artistic Director of UTC61 with puppetry and co-direction by Tom Lee, Co-director of the Chicago Puppet Studio and Chicago Puppet Lab, Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival.

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org

**NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY'S
WIRTZ CENTER CHICAGO
ABBOTT HALL**

710 N. Lake Shore Dr.

\$35; \$30 students & seniors

Thursday, Jan. 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 30 at 4 p.m. + 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 31 at 4 p.m. + 8 p.m.

Sunday, February 1 at 1 p.m. + 6 p.m.

120 minutes
(with intermission)

For ages 16 and up

With special support from Carol Farver
& Robert Needlman, Julie Moller, and
The Marshall Frankel Foundation

**TAKE A
WORKSHOP**
with the artists!
See p. 57



PORTLAND

Photo: Sean Meredith

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

THE MATCHBOX SHOWS

LAURA HEIT

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Laura Heit walks on stage with a glass of wine wearing a sequined tube top. She takes her place behind a table and begins to bring to life her miniature cabaret. Playing the part of Miniature raconteur, sequined pyromaniac, Laura Heit performs teeny tiny puppet shows inside matchboxes. A dead boyfriend, a sausage fairy, a tiger whisperer, a perfectionist, a bath-loving ghost, and many others play their parts in these uncanny micro plays. The miniature stages come to life with crankies, and pop-up paper engineering. The puppet shows are simultaneously projected on a screen behind the table making the little tiny details of this portable variety show delightfully larger than life.

CONSTELLATION

3111 N. Western Ave.

\$25; \$20 students & seniors

Thursday, Jan. 22 at 8 p.m. + 10 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 23 at 8 p.m. + 10 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 24 at 8 p.m. + 10 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 25 at 8 p.m.

50 minutes

For ages 13 and up

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org



CHICAGO/INTERNATIONAL

Photo: Richard Termine

ROUGH HOUSE *and* CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *present:*

NASTY, BRUTISH & SHORT

FRIDAYS *and* SATURDAYS, JANUARY 23 - 24 *and* JANUARY 30 - 31

Hit these fan-favorite late night shows and enjoy a celebratory community environment where raucousness in all its flavors takes center stage with a wide range of surprising puppet theater pieces. The best part? Fancy international out-of-town puppet artists join Noah Ginex Puppet Company's cabaret host Jameson, his somewhat furry friends, and legendary Chicago puppeteers for a wild night of puppet revelry and fellowship followed by friendly unwinding. All four ***Nasty, Brutish & Short*** cabarets will also be streamed live—each show has a different lineup, join us for them all! *Curated by Rough House Puppet Arts.*

CONSTELLATION

3111 N. Western Ave.

\$20; \$15 students & seniors

Friday Jan. 23 at 10:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 24 at 10:30 p.m.

Friday Jan. 30 at 10:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 31 at 10:30 p.m.

60 minutes

For ages 16 and up

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org



SOUTH KOREA

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

OIL PRESSURE VIBRATOR

GEUMHYUNG JEONG



FRIDAY, JANUARY 30 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

Geumhyung Jeong is a South Korean artist interested in the human body, the objects that surround it, and the blurred boundaries between who controls who, what controls which. *Oil Pressure Vibrator* articulates her fascination with the excavator and its movements, wielding heavy machinery to break into the complexities of sexuality. Narrated live (with English subtitles), it is a quest interwoven with performance, documentary film and genre-defying video work. For all its wildness, it is also a contemplative and starkly beautiful show... an intrepid performance-lecture that plunges a big bucket into preconceptions about sexuality, technology and the body.

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org

CHOPIN THEATRE Mainstage

1543 W. Division St.

\$43; \$35 students & seniors

Friday, Jan. 30 at 9 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 31 at 2 p.m.

60 minutes

For ages 18 and up



CHICAGO

Photo: Richard Termine

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

RHYNOCERON

KT SHIVAK



THURSDAY, JANUARY 22 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

A Chicago premiere, *Rhynoceron* traces the true events surrounding the arrival of a one-horned rhinoceros to Renaissance Europe, sparking an obsession that continued for hundreds of years. Through acts of hunting and collecting, KT Shivak's life-size, life-like rhino puppet transforms in front of our eyes from a natural inspiring wonder to an object of human greed. Celebrated for exquisite puppet design, Shivak has won awards for designs on stage as well as for film, including Chicago's coveted Jeff Award.

CHOPIN THEATRE Mainstage

1543 W. Division St.

\$43; \$35 students & seniors

Thursday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 23 at 3 p.m. + 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 24 at 11 a.m. + 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 25 at 3 p.m.

70 minutes

For ages 10 and up

With special support from Deb & Andy Wolkstein, Julie Moller, and The Marshall Frankel Foundation

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org



ENGLAND

Photo: Charlie Lyne

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST *presents:*

THE SEX LIVES OF PUPPETS

BLIND
SUMMIT



MONDAY, JANUARY 26 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

The Sex Lives of Puppets pulls back the covers on puppet sex in contemporary Britain: filthy, funny, shocking and touching...lots of touching. This collaboration between Blind Summit's puppets and the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles is not so much "birds and bees," more "nuts and bolts." Co-writers/directors Ben Keaton and Mark Down, took inspiration from real-life responses to lead an impish cast of improviser puppeteers, and a veritable smorgasbord of different puppets, to explore sex and humanity and expose the underbelly of puppet eroticism.

In collaboration with  STANFORD LIVE

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org

THE BIOGRAPH'S ZAČEK MCVAY THEATER

2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

\$48; \$40 students & seniors

Monday, Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 29 at 5 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 30 at 5 p.m. + 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 31 at 4 p.m.

+ 8 p.m.

100 minutes

(with intermission)

For ages 18 and up

TAKE A
WORKSHOP
with the artists!
See p. 57



Spotlight on Norway (see p. 13)

FRANCE/NORWAY

CHICAGO PUPPET FEST presents:

TRUST ME FOR A WHILE

PLEXUS POLAIRE

U.S.
PREMIERE!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

Trust Me for a While brings us into the curious and rather fraught relationship between a failed magician and his professional puppet collaborator. In this wild, suspenseful and entertaining horror-comedy, director Yngvild Aspeli explores her fascination with the ventriloquist dummy. A show replete with off-the-rails mischief, it plays on the traditionally tense and intimate relationship between ventriloquists and their dummies while startling the audience with contemporary questions like What is real? What is fake? And, what happens when reality flails between the two?

**REVA & DAVID LOGAN
CENTER FOR THE ARTS,
PERFORMANCE HALL**

915 E. 60th St.

\$43; \$35 students & seniors

Wed., Jan. 28 at 5:30 p.m. + 8 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 29 at 5:30 p.m. + 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 31 at 2 p.m.

45 minutes

For ages 15 and up

Special thanks to Norwegian
Embassy in New York, Kulturrådet,
Performing Arts Hub Norway, and
Villa Albertine/French Institute

**TAKE A
WORKSHOP**
with the artists!
See p. 57

Get Tickets at: chicagopuppetfest.org

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

FREE NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR



THURSDAY, JANUARY 22 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

The Free Neighborhood Tour brings free, family-friendly performances to locations outside of Chicago's theaters to foster an appreciation for puppetry throughout the city. The tour offers a range of high-quality puppetry styles to create opportunities for community enjoyment while expanding the city's base of puppet enthusiasts. The Tour once again presents **two free, family-friendly puppet shows**, this year from Spain and Baltimore, to venues and community spaces all over the city.

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

See the following pages and check the website for added shows!

FREE

30 minutes - *Stone by Stone*
60 minutes - *Happy Birthday, Mon Ami*

For all ages

Special support provided by:

Pat Yuzawa-Rubin
Chicago Park District



Learn more at: chicagopuppetfest.org

STONE BY STONE TIAN GOMBAU

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

4 p.m. at **Theatre Y**
3611 W. Cermak Rd. (*North Lawndale*)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

11 a.m. at **Instituto Cervantes**
31 W. Ohio St. (*River North*)
4:30 p.m. at **Marshall Field Garden Apartments/Art on Sedgwick**
1406 N. Sedgwick St. (*Old Town*)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

4 p.m. at **Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center**
4046 W. Armitage Ave. (*Hermosa*)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

2 p.m. at **345 Gallery**
345 N. Kedzie Ave. (*Garfield Park*)



SPAIN

Spanish puppet artist **Tian Gombau** was walking barefoot on the beach one day when he suddenly realized there are so many stones on earth. He started to classify them and keep them as precious treasures, thinking, if you look at what's inside them, one realizes there is something more than just a stone. The result is an ingenious, endearing, imagination-awakening experience for children using only inanimate objects. **30 minutes**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MON AMI

ALEX AND OLMSTED



Class, cultures, and expectations clash when Jacques' American cousin Sam visits him in Paris for a birthday celebration. Winner of a 2024 Jim Henson Foundation grant award, **Happy Birthday, Mon Ami** combines glove puppetry, live music, and audience participation to create a delightful hour of fun for the whole family. *60 minutes*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

6 p.m. at **Center on Halsted/John Baran Hall**
3656 N. Halsted St. (*Lakeview*)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

4 p.m. at **Tuley Park**
501 E. 90th Pl. (*Grand Crossing*)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

4:30 p.m. at **Loyola Park Fieldhouse**
1230 W. Greenleaf Ave. (*Rogers Park*)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

1 p.m. at **Austin Town Hall Cultural Center**
5610 W. Lake St. (*Austin*)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

11 a.m. at **Experimental Station**
6100 S. Blackstone Ave. (*Woodlawn*)



Learn more at: chicagopuppetfest.org

"...tiny, enchanting and exquisite."

—Broadwayworld



BALTIMORE

Photo: Leah Huete

TAKE A
WORKSHOP
with the artists!
See p. 57

THE PUPPET HUB

Your Puppetry Destination:
Food, Drink, and Exhibitions



Photo: Richard Termine

FREE
EVENTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

THE FINE ARTS BUILDING

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

Presented in partnership with The Spoke & Bird Cafe



Bursting with site-specific activities, the **Puppet Hub** is the perfect place to relax between shows, meet up with friends and make some new ones! Take a break at the **Spoke & Bird Pop-Up Cafe**. While you snack, enjoy the pop-up shop for Puppet Fest merch, as well as two special exhibitions: **Two Ways Down**, featuring festival artist Laura Heit's hand-drawn animation and film inspired by Hieronymus Bosch's "The Garden of Heavenly Delights," and a room full of **giant lantern puppets** created in the pre-festival workshop with **Andrew Kim** of Thingumajig.

*Hub and Exhibitions are **FREE**; cafe items are available for purchase.*

Hub Hours: The Puppet Hub opens Friday, January 23, every day at 9 a.m., and closes when the Cafe closes.

Cafe Hours:

Friday, Jan. 23 - Saturday, Jan. 24

12 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 25

12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 26 - Thursday, Jan. 29

12 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 30

12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday Jan. 31 - Sunday, Feb. 1

12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Exhibitions at the PUPPET HUB:



Photo: Mario Galucci

Two Ways Down

by **Laura Heit**

This showcase of visiting festival artist Laura Heit's exquisite hand-drawn animation and film *Two Ways Down* takes inspiration from Hieronymus Bosch's "The Garden of Heavenly Delights." Reflecting on the momentary nature of life, marvel how Heit's fantastical piece uses thrown shadows from tabletop dioramas and reflected and refracted animated projections to create a fleeting world.

Learn more at: chicagopuppetfest.org



Photo: Courtesy Andrew Kim

Giant Puppet Lanterns

from **Andrew Kim's Workshop**

Come check out the giant lantern puppets created in the pre-festival workshop with Andrew Kim of Thingumajig. Andrew has created and performed puppet and mask plays, parades and events for over 30 years. He is the founder and former Artistic Director of the Hebden Bridge Handmade Parade and the Todmorden Lamplighter Festival. He has led masterclasses in England, Scotland, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, Bulgaria, South Korea and several cities throughout the USA.

Chicago Puppet Fest presents:

THE ELLEN VAN VOLKENBURG PUPPETRY SYMPOSIUM



SATURDAYS - SUNDAYS: JAN 24-25 and JAN 31 - FEB 1

All panels located at:

**THE FINE ARTS BUILDING
LITTLE STUDIO, 7TH FL**

410 S. Michigan Ave.

FREE and open to the public

Moderated by Paulette Richards

*The Ellen Van Volkenburg Puppetry
Symposium brings together practicing*

*Festival artists with
scholars to consider
the intersection of
puppetry with other
disciplines and ideas.*

Artists often regard their creative talents as a gift that they are called to share, whether they receive financial compensation or not. As a result, it can be difficult for artists to negotiate equitable compensation for their work within a money economy that tends to commodify their creative output. This symposium series examines the benefits and drawbacks of different funding sources including government funding, commercial ventures, and strategies community supported artists use for audience building.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Panel 1 - The Labor of Gratitude

In *The Gift: Creativity and the Artist in the Modern World*, Lewis Hyde posits that the creativity of the artist is a gift that comes from a source outside the artist's control. Artists labor in gratitude for many years to fully realize the power of their gifts and finally claim them only in sharing with others. This panel invites participants to trace the labors of gratitude they have undertaken in their artistic development and how they have navigated the demands of the market.

Panelists: Drew Dir and Julia Miller (*The 4th Witch*), Ash Winkfield and Alva Rogers (*The Harlem Doll Palace*), Laura Heit (*The Matchbox Shows*)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Panel 3 – Find a Good Reason to Sell Out

In the United States, commercial success is often treated as the measure of artistic success, yet not all works reach broad audiences and not all audiences can afford the art that matters most to them. This is especially true in children's theater, which is hard to fund through ticket sales alone. This panel will discuss commercial strategies pursued by artists to support their work and will consider what constitutes a good reason to "sell out."

Panelists: Michael Jean-Marain (*Roald Dahl's The Enormous Crocodile*), Yngvild Aspeli (*A Doll's House*), Sofie Krog (*The House*), Andrew Kim (*Thingumajig Theater*)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Panel 2 – We Let Out These Works on the Vote of the People

The 1935 Federal Theater Project was a New Deal program designed to create employment for theater artists thrown out of work during the Great Depression, allowing some artists to remain in the field and deepen their craft. Meanwhile, racially integrated Federal Theater Project productions sparked controversy as left-wing propaganda. This panel will explore some of the benefits and tradeoffs of creating art with public funding.

Panelists: Yngvild Aspeli (*A Doll's House*), KT Shivak (*Rhynoceron*), Gwen Warnock and Kirjan Waage (*Dead As A Dodo*), Mark Down (*The Sex Lives of Puppets*)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Panel 4 – The Art of Asking

Puppetry is a powerful community building activity that historically functioned within the gift economy in cultures all around the world. Recently, artists like Amanda Palmer have refined *The Art of Asking* on digital crowdfunding platforms. Palmer received over \$1 million from fans for an album, but faced criticism for bringing local musicians on stage and not paying them. How can puppetry thrive and contribute to a gift economy that builds community equitably?

Panelists: Anurupa Roy (*About Ram*), Geumhyung Jeong (*Oil Pressure Vibrator*), Tom Lee and Edward Einhorn (*The Left Hand of Darkness*)

**TAKE A
WORKSHOP**
with the moderator!
See p. 57

BOOK TALKS

Fine Arts Building, Little Studio
410 S. Michigan Ave., 7th Floor
FREE



THE CATAPULT

The Catapult Artist Intensive returns with **two professional development weekends** designed to advance the form and expand understanding of the field of puppetry in the United States. Each weekend, artists of all disciplines are taken on a three-day, curated, guided experience of festival programming. Join an intimate cohort, escorted by a professional leader, for discussions, backstage access to the shows, and more.

SESSION 1: JANUARY 23 - 25

Led by Samuel J. Lewis II

SESSION 2: JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 1

Led by Erica Mott

For more details and to register, visit: ChicagoPuppetFest.org/catapult

Monday, January 26 at 5:30 p.m.

Making Meaning in Puppetry, Materials, Practice, Perception

Edited By Dassia N. Posner, Claudia Orenstein, Alissa Mello

Moderator Paulette Richards interviews Dassia Posner and Claudia Orenstein

Tuesday, January 27 at 5:30 p.m.

Race, Gender, and Disability in Puppetry and Material Performance

Edited By Paulette Richards, Hazel Briar, Alissa Mello, Laura Purcell-Gates/

Associate Editor Katherine Kipkiss

Moderator Claudia Orenstein interviews Dr. Paulette Richards

Wednesday, January 28 at 5:30 p.m.

A Practical Guide to Puppetry

By Mark Down of Blind Summit

Moderator Ana Díaz Barriga interviews Author Mark Down

MASTER PUPPETRY CLASSES

with Festival Artists

Fine Arts Building, Little Studio, 410 S. Michigan Ave., 7th Floor (unless otherwise noted): **\$65 each**
Workshops are designed for adult artists working in any discipline. Everyone welcome

Alva Rogers

(The Harlem Doll Palace)

Friday, January 23

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Manual Cinema

(The 4th Witch)

Friday, January 23

9:30 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Workshop at The Biograph Theater
2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

Plexus Polaire

(A Doll's House and Trust Me for a While)

Sunday, January 25

1:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Michael Jean-Marain

(Roald Dahl's The Enormous Crocodile)

Monday, January 26

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Dr. Paulette Richards

(Volkenburg Puppetry Symposium)

Monday, January 26

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wakka Wakka

(Dead as a Dodo)

Tuesday, January 27

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Friday, January 30

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Linda Wingerter

(The Left Hand of Darkness)

Tuesday, January 27

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Anurupa Roy

(About Ram)

Wednesday, January 28

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 29

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Mark Down

(The Sex Lives of Puppets)

Wednesday, January 28

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 29

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Alex and Olmsted

(Happy Birthday, Mon Ami)

Friday, January 30

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Joshua Holden

(Closing Cabaret)

Saturday, January 31

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Learn more &
REGISTER!

ChicagoPuppetFest.org/Workshops

SAVINGS!
Register for two
workshops,
get the third
half off with code
26BUNDLE

CLOSING NIGHT EVENT

CLOSING CABARET

Co-hosted by Julie Moller, Jordan Shields & Sarah Donovan

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

6:30 pm - 7:45 p.m.

THE RHAPSODY THEATER

1328 W. Morse Ave.

TICKET LEVELS:

\$35 Basic ticket: Regular unreserved seating, includes 1 drink ticket

\$50 Regular ticket: Regular seating, includes 2 drink tickets

\$75 Booster ticket: Regular seating, includes 2 drink tickets

\$150 Donor ticket: Reserved seats, includes 2 drink tickets

\$250 Benefactor ticket: Reserved seats, includes 2 drink tickets

\$500 Superdonor ticket: Preferred, reserved seating, includes 2 drink tickets

\$1,000 Superstar ticket: Optimal, reserved seating, includes 2 drink tickets

\$2,000 Underwriter ticket: Prime time, optimal reserved seating, t-shirt & tote bag, includes 2 drink tickets

For these benefit events the portion of the ticket price over \$20 is tax deductible.



Photo: Brendan Burke

Festival favorite **Joshua Holden**

and his right-hand man, the charmingly misanthropic **Mr. Nicholas**, co-emcee this final must-see evening of wildly unforgettable puppetry featuring performances by Artistic Director and Festival Founder **Blair Thomas**, **Mark Down** of Blind Summit, and other artists.

LEAD SPONSORS

It's not too late
to help out!



We gratefully acknowledge the following leading contributors for their generous support:

Cheryl Lynn Bruce &
Kerry James Marshall



Julie Moller

Kristy & Brandon Moran

Jentes Family Foundation, Justine Jentes & Dan Kuruna



The Marshall
Frankel Foundation



Lannan



SUPPORTERS *cont.*

*It's not too late
to help out!*



\$200,000 and up

Cheryl Lynn Bruce* &
Kerry James Marshall
Ferdi Foundation / Julie Moller*
Kristy* & Brandon Moran

\$100,000 - \$199,999

Jentes Family Foundation,
Justine Jentes & Dan Kuruna

\$50,000 - \$99,999

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\$20,000 - \$29,999

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\$10,000 - \$14,999

Anonymous
The Chicago Community Trust
Chicago Park District Night
Out in the Parks Program
Ginger Farley
Cheryl Henson
The Jane Henson Foundation
Sarah Donovan &
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John Supera*
Chuck Thurow
Pat Yuzawa-Rubin* &
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Nancy & Michael Timmers

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Alicia Bird*
Nancy Bishop
Candice Goldstein &
Abraham Steinberg

Nancy Juda & Jens Brasch
Jossy Nebenzahl
Kim Ohms & Joe Novelli
Kate Thomas & Lloyd Perlow
Leesa & Jes Sherborne*

\$500 - \$999

Linda Mishoulam
Jackie Zydeck & Ted Phillips
Jacqueline Souroujon
Henderson & Hank Adams
Molly & Tom Fleming
Becky & Jeff Chandler
Missy Burke
Irina Niculescu Lewandowski
& John Lewandowski
Laurie Hammel &
Bruce English
Leah Bohannon
Dee & Ron Tevonian
Walter Stearns
Catherine Mertes
Helen Zell
Sara & Chris Julsrud
Caroline Randazzo &
Dave Frohardt-Lane
Deborah Garber
Carolyn Toren & Tomas Petkus

\$250 - \$499

Anonymous
Liz Aviles & Michael Sauer
Nancy & Randy Blankstein
Karen Carreno
Rupa Datta &
Ravi Datta-Nemana
Rolanda Derderian
Sue Geshwender

Jennifer Hammond
Jill Mannor & Ken Konopka
Lisa & Steve Korol
Rudolph Rasin
Barry Rosen
David Rudman
Rhoda & Michael Schlesinger
Nancy & Barry Schultz
Tracy & Marc Whitehead
Steven Widerman &
Linda Bookheim

\$100 - \$249

Anonymous
Geri Biamonte
Wendy Bloom & Art Kessler
Christine Busby
Irena Čajková
Michelle & Dane Carr
Christy Clark
Amber Creger
Mark Croghan
Carol Farver &
Robert Needlman
Molly Fitzgibbon
Scott Golas
Honey Goodenough
Sinane Goulet
Jeremy Goyette
Susan & Peter Gray
Vesna Grbovic
Mick Hans & Ellen Damlich
Sarah Hosford, *in honor
of Cousin Blair*
Kurt Hunter
Heather Jagman
Michelle Sterling, *in memory
of Paul Levy*

Candice Kistner
Sheila Spade & Paul Kolenda
Karen Laner
Annelise & Thomas Lawson
Lorraine LeBlanc
Beatriz Ledesma
Roberta Lee

Jinzi Liang
Jill Liebhaver
Anna Lipowska
Charles Mackie &
Janet Mesic Mackie
Eric Mahn
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Sandy Smith &
Edward McCartin
Rick Stoneham
Sutton Family
Dr. Charlotte Tsou
Marco Verzocchi
Caylei Vogelzang
Dr. Jamie Wabich
Erin Wage

Walsh-Rock Family
Julia Wayne & Scott Wirtz
Audrey Petty &
Michelle Williams
Michelle Wilson &
Eric Caddis
Teresa Zhu & John Mitchell

\$50 - \$99

Anonymous
Carol Barnett
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\$25 - \$49

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*It's not too late
to help out!*



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*It's not too late
to help out!*



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Brett Garry
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Gillian Grant
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Sally Hewitt
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Hirschfeld / Kondrashov
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Katelin Reinert
Melinda Resser
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Sarah Scott
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*Indicates member of the Board
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*Please note: This list includes gifts
received between 4/1/25 - 12/5/25.
If you notice an error, please accept
our sincerest apologies and let us
know so we can make it right.*

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Samantha V.
Andrij Vaskevics
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Tina Woelke
Emre Yilmaz

LIVING ROOM TOUR

2026 Co-chairs: Alicia Bird, Cheryl Lynn Bruce, Patti Gilford

Thank you to our 2025 Living Room Tour Co-chairs: Alicia Bird, Kim Ohms

Hosts and Co-Hosts: Eighth Blackbird Studios, Jacqueline Souroujon Henderson & Hank Adams, Justine Jentes & Dan Kuruna, Manual Cinema, Julie Moller, Kristy & Brandon Moran, Bici & David Pritzker, Nina & Steve Schroeder

And Committee: Liz Aviles, Tanya Bermudez, Leah Bohannon, Ruth Border, Irena Čajková, Maureen Mizwicki, Klára Moldová, Elizabeth Monkus, Ted Phillips & Jackie Zydeck, Salena Potter, Margaret Radnick, Eva Silverman, Emily Stoltzfus, Dee & Ron Tevonian, Steve Widerman. *Interested in joining the 2026 Living Room Tour Committee? Let us know: info@chicagopuppetfest.org*

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SPECIAL THANKS

Basil Twist, Shoshana Bass, Charlie Branda, Krista Bryski-Richard, Barbara Busackino, Marc Chevalier, Brenda Coughlin, Adrian Danzig, Matthew Duvall, Ginger Farley, Fine Arts Building Staff, Fine Fröhlich, Vanessa Valliere & John Gregorio, Gwei Lun-Mei, Jacob Harvey, Lela Headd & Zygmunt Dyrkacz, Paul Hefflen, Cheryl Henson, Heather Henson, Teresa Hernandez Rojo, Brett Holmes, Lisa Kaplan, Rowena Liu, Midwest Academy for Gifted Education, Bill Michel, Charla Moseley, Kim Ohms, Diane Pascale, Mike Reed, Michael Reed, Andrea Sáenz, Roell Schmidt, Matthew Sostrin/Mayer Brown, Spektrix Staff, Spoke & Bird Staff, Connie Spreen, Meredith Sutton, The Saints, Omar Torres-Kortright, Jeff Usow, Will von Hartz, Naomi Walker, Michael Wallace, Zac Whittenburg, Kristi Widgery ...and thank you to our fabulous Box Office Team, Drivers, and Volunteers!



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

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