

## PUPPETROPOLIS CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL PUPPET PAGEANT

Chicago Sun-Times - Friday, June 15, 2001

Redmoon Theater (Chicago): The 18 windows on the west facade of the Museum of Contemporary Art are transformed into an enormous shadow screen for the world premiere of "Galway's Shadow," written and directed by Jim Lasko, about a woman trying to come to terms with the death of her husband. Shadow puppet design is by Frank Maugeri, based on artwork by illustrator and cartoonist Cherise Mericle. Original music by Mark Messing and MaestroMatic will be broadcast on antique radios encircling the plaza. For all ages; admission is free. At 9 nightly, Monday through June 24. Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago.

Heather Henson (Florida): In "Echo Trace," Henson creates striking images with the use of lights, shadow and movement that celebrate the rhythms and cycles of nature. For adults. At 7 tonight and 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Storefront Theater, 66 E. Randolph. Tickets: (312) 742-8497.

Faulty Optic Theater of Animation (United Kingdom): "Snuffhouse Dustlouse" follows Mabel, a half-human, half-sack figure, who lives in isolation until an intruder throws her fragile world into chaos and reveals her harrowing past. A feast for the eyes, the work features winged creatures with beaked masks, pickled talking heads and an intricate junkyard set. For adults. At 7 p.m. Thursday through June 22, 3 and 7 p.m. June 23 and 3 p.m. June 24. Storefront Theater, 66 E. Randolph. Tickets: (312) 742-8497.

Combustible Puppet Cabaret: Short works are presented by local, national and international puppet artists, including Laura Heit, Bird Family Baby Bird, Rubber Monkey Puppet Theater, Le Petit Theatre de l'Absolu, the Insurrection Landscapers, Blair Thomas, Beth Nixon, Kevin Long, Cyclomatic Circus and Paul Zaloom. For adults. At 10 tonight, Saturday night and June 22-23. Storefront Theater, 66 E. Randolph. Tickets: (312) 742-8497.

Improbable Theatre (United Kingdom): From the creators of "Shockheaded Peter" comes "Spirit," the story of three brothers. Told in the company's energetic and hilarious style using props-as-puppets, creative scenery and improvisational techniques, it is an introduction to a unique collective imagination. For all ages. At 7:30 p.m. Thursday through June 23. Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State. Tickets: (773) 722-5463.

Teatro Hugo & Ines (Peru): Hugo Suarez and Ines Pasic present "Short Stories," a series of vignettes in which puppets are created by using knees, hands, feet, elbows and only a handful of props. For all ages. At 7 tonight; 3, 6 and 8 p.m. Saturday, and 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday. Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph. Tickets: (773) 722-5463.

El Periferico de Objetos (Argentina): Dark, cutting-edge images abound in "Maquina Hamlet," and interpretation of East German Heiner Muller's postmodern masterpiece "Hamletmachine." Life-size mannequins, hand puppets and dolls bring to life the violence of a post-fascist era. Performed in Spanish with English subtitles. For adults. At 8 p.m. Thursday through June 23. Chernin Center for the Arts/Duncan YMCA, 1001 W. Roosevelt. Tickets: (773) 722-5463.

Puppet Film Festival: Puppet films from around the world, including works by Janie Geiser, Nancy Andrews and Sungyeon Joh (afternoon) and the Brothers Quay, Michael Sommers and Genivieve Anderson (evening). For all ages. At 4 and 8 p.m. June 23-24. Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State. Tickets: (773) 722-5463.

Tamara and the Shadow Theater of Java (New York): Tamara Fielding is one of the only women who performs this ancient form of puppetry. She re-creates "Ramayana," a story

from her homeland\_a Hindu-Javanese legend about a princess abducted by an ogre and the prince who rescues her. All ages. At 2 p.m. June 22-23. Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore. Tickets: (312) 665-7400.

Michael Montenegro (Evanston): An original puppet play, "Iktu Blas," tells the story of the different sides of a ruthless dictator. Montenegro and his ensemble use a series of images\_dreamy, comic, monstrous, poignant\_to showcase the imaginative freedom available to the puppet artist. For ages 10 and up. At 8 tonight; 5, 8 p.m. Saturday; 7 p.m. Sunday, and 8 p.m. Thursday through June 23. Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division. Tickets: (847) 328-2795.

Running With Scissors (Chicago): "Breathing Underwater," written by Maia Morgan, tells the story of a middle-age man on the brink of suicide who befriends an eccentric old woman in a wheelchair. For all ages. At 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through June 23 and 6:30 p.m. June 24. Theater on the Lake, Fullerton and North Lake Shore. Tickets: (312) 742-7994.

Sandglass Theater (Vermont): "Autumn Portraits" features a series of five interlocking vignettes, each exploring one puppet character and its interplay with its manipulator. The handcrafted rod puppets are characters in the "autumn" of life who act out stories as they come to terms with their existence. For adults; admission is free. At 7 p.m. Saturday. Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph.

Karagoz Puppeteers (Turkey): The traditional Turkish shadow puppet performance "Love the World, Protect the Green" tells the tale of Karagoz and his adventures with a snake, an evil tree, witches and magical spells. For all ages; admission is free. At 2 and 7 p.m. Monday. Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph.

Puppet Happy Hour Cabaret: A showcase of short works by emerging and established puppeteers. For all ages; admission is free. At 6:30 p.m. Thursday. Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph.

**Caption:** LEFT: Eric Bass' handcrafted rod puppets make up the characters in Sandglass Theater's "Autumn Portraits." ABOVE: The Lookingglass Theatre Company and the Actors Gymnasium present "Iktu Blas," by Michael Montenegro. See also related stories pages 30, 31.

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**Edition:** LATE SPORTS FINAL

**Section:** WEEKEND PLUS

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**Index Terms:** ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT; Puppets ; shows ; list ; calendars ; schedules

**Record Number:** 0ED61285CAC8210B

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