

Sea Beast Puppet Company At The Elastic Arts Foundation

Saved as PDF 10/29/18

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March 7, 2014 by Mary Kate Rix and Kat Pleviak, Filed Under: Arts + Entertainment, Event, Family

There is nothing that the eclectic artists of [Sea Beast Puppet Company \(@seabeastpuppet\)](#) love more than proving puppetry is not just for kids. This March, they will share that passion with Logan Square for their “Oddities: a Collection of Curious Puppetry” event.

From March 8-9, the Sea Beast Puppet Company event will present three puppet shows at the [Elastic Arts Foundation \(@elasticarts, 2830 N. Milwaukee Ave.\)](#) covering a myriad of topics such as hoarding, killer cows and a collection of quirky creatures.

Featured Artists

Atlantan Carole D’Agostino presents “The Hoarding Show,” a comedic and intimate look at the phenomenon of hoarding. Using three distinct puppetry styles, D’Agostino showcases her 25 years of training in a unique blend of comedy, mystery and drama. D’Agostino currently works at the Atlanta Center for Puppetry Arts and has toured the same show in Boston, Providence, Rhode Island, New York City and Philadelphia.

Madison J. Cripps, of Asheville, North Carolina, is set to bring his hand carved marionette variety show “Cripps Puppets: a Slice of Crazy Pie.” He uses a

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combination of puns, audience participation, improvisation and song to bring his puppets to life. He has performed at venues around the country including the Puppeteers of America National Festival in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, and Dragon Con in Atlanta. Cripps performs the show regularly at the Lake Eden Arts Festival in Asheville.



Sea Beast Puppetry is set to round out the performances with their most recent full length show, “Méfiez-Vous de la Vache-Garou! (Beware the Werecow),” a spooky puppetry piece featuring three original and reimagined tales from the Louisiana Bayou. Guests can expect ghosts, monsters and some puppet-on-puppet carnage. The piece premiered at the 2013 Chicago Fringe Festival and won best in show for its size category. It sold out all three nights of performance.

Puppets: Not Just For Kids

For the last three years, Sea Beast has been bringing together some of Chicago’s best puppet performers for their late night Puppet Meltdown puppet slams. Last summer’s “Hold Onto Your Butts: a Tribute to Jurassic Park” brought the slam to the Logan Square area for the first time. It also sold out both performances.

But adult puppetry has a vibrant life outside of the short form styles featured this weekend. All across the nation, some of the country's most innovative puppet artists are creating full length original works of puppetry created for audiences that can tie their own shoes and have long since mastered the alphabet.

"There is so much amazing puppetry happening in the U.S. that is geared for adults, and I want as many people from my community to get to see it as possible," says Sea Beast Puppet Company's artistic director Kat Pleviak.

According to Pleviak, this goal inspired Sea Beast to bring some of their favorite shows from around the country to share with their hometown.

[Tickets for "Oddities: A Collection of Curious Puppetry"](#) are \$12 a show or \$25 for all three shows. Performances have been rated for ages 12 and up in terms of subject matter.



MARY KATE RIX AND KAT PLEVIAK

Mary Kate Rix and Kat Pleviak are the founders of Sea Beast Puppet Company. For five years, they have brought puppetry to the Chicago area. Last year, they brought their annual puppet slam to Logan Square at the Elastic Arts Foundation. □ □

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