



# Puppet Showplace Theater

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Media Contact: Brenda Huggins, Communications Director

info@puppetshowplace.org, 6177316400 x 201

[High res digital images available]

## **Jim Henson Foundation Awards Puppet Showplace Theater \$4000 Grant to Support New Work by Resident Artist Brad Shur**

Brookline, MA -Puppet Showplace Theater's Resident Artist, Brad Shur will receive a 2016 Jim Henson Foundation Family Grant for the production of "Cardboard Explosion!" an interactive new work of puppet theater for family audiences. After 1.5 years in development, the show will have its world premiere January 9-24, 2016.

Cheryl Henson, President of the Jim Henson Foundation and daughter of Muppets creator Jim Henson, praised Puppet Showplace Theater's Incubator program, an initiative dedicated to supporting new works by local artists.

<http://www.puppetshowplace.org/incubator/>

"Puppet Showplace Theater does an excellent job of programming and fostering new works of puppet theater. The Jim Henson Foundation has recently awarded grants to three exciting new shows that have come from their Incubator program. Puppet Showplace sets a standard for family programming in Boston and has become a destination for touring puppeteers throughout the country. We look forward to seeing what they will present in the future."

Since 1982, the Jim Henson Foundation has made over 600 grants for the development of new works of contemporary American puppet theater. Puppet Showplace Theater has received Henson Foundation support for Incubator artists Bonnie Duncan (Jamaica Plain, MA) with the world premiere production of "Squirrel Stole My Underpants" in 2013, and Faye Dupras (Somerville, MA) with the world premiere of "The Great Red Ball Rescue" in 2014.

"Supporting innovative shows by local artists is a huge strategic priority for us," says Puppet Showplace Artistic Director Roxanna Myhrum. "We are thrilled that the Incubator Program has attracted support from the Jim Henson Foundation, as well as

other generous funders."

Additional financial support for "Cardboard Explosion" comes from a grant by the Bob Jolly Charitable Trust, named after celebrated Boston area performer for the development and presentation of new works of theater; and from a \$40,000 gift from the Sakharoff Family Trust, given during the theater's 40th anniversary to support the Incubator program.

## **WORLD PREMIERE: "Cardboard Explosion!" by Brad Shur, Resident Artist**

### **Performance Dates**

**Press opening: Friday January 15 @ 7:00 pm (Opening Night Reception)**

**Shows: Saturday and Sunday January 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24 at 1:00 and 3:00**

**Monday January 18 (Martin Luther King Day) at 10:30 and 1:00**

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VIDEO: <https://vimeo.com/149192287>

### **Description**

In this one-of-a-kind puppetry experience, five original stories are brought to life using nothing but cardboard and the power of an audience's imagination. Inspired by everyday details from kids' lives, puppeteer Brad Shur transforms simple cardboard shapes into elaborate puppet characters and fantastical scenes, then brings them to life before the audience's eyes. Audiences will outsmart dragons, invent superpowers, and leave empowered to create their own cardboard adventures in this fun, energetic, participatory show. Recommended for everyone ages 5 & up.

This performance will mark the fourth annual "New Year, New Shows!" showcase of new work for youth and family audiences at Puppet Showplace Theater. Tickets are \$12 general admission, \$8 members. Tickets and more information are available online at [www.puppetshowplace.org](http://www.puppetshowplace.org), or from the Puppet Showplace Box Office: 617-731-6400 x 101. Puppet Showplace Theater is located at 32 Station Street, Brookline MA 02445.

**ARTIST BIO:** Since 2009, Brad Shur has been the Resident Artist at Puppet Showplace Theater where he has created four original shows: "Dr. Doohickey's Monster Machine," "The Magic Soup and Other Stories," "Tall Tales" and "Robin Hood." He also trained extensively with master puppeteer

and Puppet Showplace Resident Artist Emeritus, Paul Vincent Davis. Brad's newest creation, "Cardboard Explosion!" brings together puppetry, design, and creative improvisation to energize audiences to become art makers themselves. Brad has led workshops at the Center for Puppetry Arts, the National Puppetry Conference, the Puppeteers of America National Puppetry Festival, and at camps, schools, and colleges across New England. Brad is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design.

Puppet Showplace Theater is New England's only professional year round theater dedicated to presenting outstanding professional puppetry to diverse audiences through performances, workshops, and community outreach activities. After 41 years of operations, the theater has become a treasured cultural institution. More information about the Puppet Showplace Incubator Program is available at [www.puppetshowplace.org/incubator](http://www.puppetshowplace.org/incubator)

Puppet Showplace Theater is wheelchair accessible and located opposite the Brookline Village T station on the Green Line D train at 32 Station Street, Brookline MA, 02445.

Puppet Showplace is funded in part by grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The Incubator program is supported by a generous gift from the Sakharoff Family Foundation, given in honor of Micheline Sakharoff.

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## CONNECT WITH US



## OUR MISSION

Puppet Showplace Theater is dedicated to presenting outstanding professional puppetry to diverse audiences through performances, workshops, and community outreach activities.

## ABOUT PERFORMANCES

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