Puppet Showplace Theater presents TWO World Premieres by Local Artists in Annual "New Year, New Shows" Series

Brookline, MA – Two puppetry productions by Massachusetts based artists will have their world premiere performances at Puppet Showplace Theater in January and February 2015.

The 2015 "New Year, New Shows" series runs January 11 – February 16. Weekend performances are at 1:00 and 3:00 pm. Holiday and school vacation performances are at 10:30 am and 1:00 pm. Friday evening performances and receptions are at 7:00 pm on Jan 16 (The Pied Piper of Hamelin) and Feb 6 (Lollipops for Breakfast). Tickets are $12 general admission, $8 members. Tickets and more information are available online at puppetshowplace.org, or from the Puppet Showplace Box Office: 617-731-6400 x 101. To request press comps: email info@puppetshowplace.org.

This series will be presented during Puppet Showplace Theater’s 40th Anniversary Season and is the third annual showcase of new work for youth and family audiences. Each year, the artists receive production support through the theater’s Incubator program. Incubator puppeteers become part of a supportive artistic community and receive rehearsal space, a materials stipend, and fiscal sponsorship for outside funding.

ABOUT THE SHOWS:

“The Pied Piper of Hamelin” by CactusHead Puppets
Previews: Sat and Sun, Jan 10 & 11 at 1 & 3pm. Opening Night and Reception: Fri, Jan 16 at 7pm. Sat & Sun, Jan 17 & 18 at 1 & 3pm. Martin Luther King Day: Jan 19 at 10:30am and 1pm. Sat & Sun, Jan 24 & 25 at 1 & 3pm
PHOTO: https://www.flickr.com/photos/94230110@N05/15358393389/sizes/l
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CactusHead Puppets create fun and slightly silly shows and workshops for audiences of all ages. Husband and wife team John and Megan Regan of West Springfield, MA have toured their productions throughout Massachusetts, and are regularly featured at the Eric Carle museum. John and Megan are both graduates of the University of Connecticut's Puppet Arts program.

In “The Pied Piper of Hamelin”, the town of Hamelin has a rat problem, and there is only one man who can help. Join a cast of colorful characters in this delightful and witty adaptation of the classic tale. Kids help the pied piper save the day and teach grown ups a lesson about generosity. This new production features beautiful scenery, multiple styles of puppetry, and plenty of very silly rats. Recommended for all ages 3 & up.

“Lollipops for Breakfast” by Bonnie Duncan with Brendan Burns and Tony Leva
Previews: Sat & Sun, Jan 31 & Feb 1 at 1 & 3pm. Opening Night and Reception: Fri, Feb 6 at 7pm. Sat & Sun, Feb 7 & 8 at 1 & 3pm. Sat & Sun, Feb 14 & 15 at 1 & 3pm, and Mon Feb 16 at 10:30am & 1pm.
PHOTO: https://www.flickr.com/photos/94230110@N05/15557596463/sizes/l
Bonnie Duncan of Jamaica Plain has blended puppetry, dance, and physical theatre in surprising and delightful ways for the past 14 years. Her work has been described as “an artful world of silent dreams, mime, and dance” (Austin Live Theatre). She has most recently been working as one half of They Gotta Be Secret Agents with Tim Gallagher. Their show, “Poste Restante,” continues to tour worldwide, winning “Best Touring Show of 2011,” Austin, TX; Best of the Fringe, San Francisco, 2009; and a nomination for Most Innovative Show at Prague Fringe Festival. She is currently touring her solo family show, “Squirrel Stole My Underpants,” throughout the U.S.

You can’t have lollipops for breakfast! But today, Sylvie decides she’s going to break that rule, even if it means she has to make her own amazingly perfect lollipop from scratch. Come along as she and her trusty pet bird search for missing ingredients, wrestle with giant candy machines, and get lost in a magical pop-up cookbook. "Lollipops for Breakfast" is a wildly imaginative ode to children’s boundless creativity. The performance, told entirely without words, features multiple styles of puppetry, original music, acrobatics, and lots of audience participation. Recommended for all ages 3 & up.

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 40 years of operations, the theater has become a treasured cultural institution. Puppet Showplace Theater is wheelchair accessible and located opposite the Brookline Village T station on the D-Green Line.

The 2015 “New Year, New Shows” series is sponsored by Chobee Hoy Associates. Puppet Showplace is funded in part by grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the New England Foundation for the Arts.

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