

RI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SMALL SCALE HITS THE BIG TIME

*Heather Henson presents Handmade Puppet Dreams,
along with a rare, vintage Jim Henson's Muppet film at the
Rhode Island International Film Festival*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 @ 12:30 Columbus Theatre Arts Center, Providence

Providence, Rhode Island, August 3, 2006—Heather Henson presents Handmade Puppet Dreams-- independent puppet films, along with a rare Jim Henson film to be screened and presented by Heather Henson at screened at The Rhode Island International Film Festival on Saturday, August 12th at 12:30pm, at the Cinematheque—located in the historic Columbus Theatre Arts Center, 270 Broadway, Providence. Cost: Film Screening (Adult) - \$10.00 Film Screening (Flickers Member) - \$7.00.

For more information contact the Rhode Island Film Festival @ 401. 861.4445 or visit their web site at www.film-festival.org.

Fresh from showings at the Cannes Marche' du Film 2006, and the 30th Annual Atlanta Film Festival, Heather Henson presents Handmade Puppet Dreams, a touring festival of independent artists' films exploring the art of handmade craft especially for cinema. Even the Westside hipsters will love Handmade Puppet Dreams; a provocative, challenging, and savvy collection of puppet shorts created by the next generation of small-scale artists.

In the spirit of handmade craft and unique puppetry, Heather Henson, daughter of Jim Henson visionary creator of the Muppets, is a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design. With this presentation, Heather explores new territory that expands an art of puppetry with the help of a select group of talented filmmakers. "I love to see artists use the ancient art of puppetry to express their independent self expression," Henson says . This collection of short films exposes a rare breed of filmmakers and storytellers. Puppetry today has become a residential medium for contemporary artists in the world of performing and fine

arts. Handmade Puppet Dreams provides an opportunity for all audiences to enjoy this unique storytelling medium from an original perspective.

Heather will also introduce and comment on the Muppet film created by her father, Jim Henson.

Handmade Puppet Dreams will feature the following collection of puppet short films at the Rhode Island International Film Festival:

"SAMMY AND SOFA" (2005)

Tim Lagasse

An eight inch tall Mohawk-ed psychic and his pet sofa are the brainchild of puppet artists Tim Lagasse and Jim "Nappy" Napolitano, "Sammy and Sofa" was initially conceived for performance at late night Puppet Slams, and was developed in front of the live audiences.

"FINGER PUPPETS EVERYWHERE" (2005)

Laura Heit

Live action spots featuring hand made finger-puppets!

"UNICYCLE BABY GUY" (1997)

Matty Sidle

Absurd, black & white mini films starring Unicycle Baby Guy, the nicest little chap who, waist-down, is a unicycle. All he wants to do is make friends with the galaxy's other creatures, but problem is, all he gets is his tire flattened. His only support comes from his best-estest friend ever, a talking Shoulder.

"HARKER" (2005)

Tony Giordano, Jason Murphy & Scott Shoemaker

This retelling of the story of Jonathan Harker was fashioned as homage to German Expressionist silent films. It recreates the mood and feel of these films by using expressionless puppets and exuding their emotions with camera work, lighting, music, and skillful puppeteer.

"LAST RITES" (1997)

Paul Andrejco

It's the grudge match of the millennium! See my first grade teacher and Satan duke it out for the souls of innocent!

"GRAVEYARD JAMBOREE WITH MYSTERIOUS MOSE" (1999)

Seamus Walsh & Mark Caballero

Inspired by an old record by Harry Reser and his Radio All-Star Novelty Orchestra. Three techniques were used in this film including, live action puppetry, silhouette animation and stop motion animation.

THE PROGRAM TIME IS 80 MINUTES

Handmade Puppet Dreams is a touring festival of independent artists films exploring their handmade craft specifically for the camera. These films have allowed artists to build their vision, and then breathe life into their dreams.

Heather Henson is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design in animation and also attended the California Institute of the Arts to broaden her expertise in visual spectacles for theatre. Her work has been seen throughout the country in such varied venues as H.E.R.E, and PS122 in New York, The O'Neill Theatre Center in Connecticut, The Chapel of the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA, and the Zeum Museum in San Francisco. Miss Henson has sought out an eclectic collection of contemporary artisans who carefully weave the craft of filming and puppetry into their work that is articulated in this program.

AND . . . Handmade Puppet Dreams will also include a special collection of vintage **Jim Hensons' film, Tales of The Tinkerdee**, introduced by Heather Henson.

Before the Muppet Show there was TALES OF THE TINKERDEE and is the first pilot produced by Jim Henson and the Muppets. Shot in Atlanta in the summer of 1962, the un-aired pilot featured Muppets who soon became the stars of the Tales From Muppetland TV specials, which preceded the Muppet Show.

PLUS... A special outdoor screening of the puppet film, HARKER! Enjoy the film at the new open-air Grant's Block Park at Westminster Street, just opposite of 250 Weybosset (near Tazza) Saturday, August 12 th at 8:00pm!

THE SCHEDULE:

Handmade Puppet Dreams

Saturday, August 12th at 12:30 pm

The Rhode Island International Film Festival @ Cinematheque, Columbus Theatre Arts Center, 270 Broadway, Providence

www.columbustheatre.com

- Film Screening (Adult) - \$10.00
- Film Screening (Flickers Member) - \$7.00

www.film-festival.org

www.handmadedepuppetdreams.com

PRESS, LINKS & BACKSTORY:

- Recently screened this year at the Alamo Drafthouse in Austin, TX

<http://media.www.dailytexanonline.com/media/storage/paper410/news/2006/02/24/LifeArts/Muppets.Invade.The.Drafthouse-1636575.shtml?sourcedomain=www.dailytexanonline.com&MIIHost=media.collegepublisher.com>

- The "Atlanta Film Festival" and was much enjoyed by all.

<http://puppetvision.blogspot.com/2006/06/handmade-puppet-dreams-in-atlanta.html>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Rhode Island International Film Festival
401.861.4445 or visit their web site at www.film-festival.org.

All Muppet Programming courtesy of Muppet Holding Company, LLC

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