



INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART
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NEWS RELEASE

Whenever Wednesday, March 19, 2008:

ICA AND PUPPET UPRISING PRESENT: Cardboard, Shadows, Sheets, Strings, and Suitcases



Erik Ruin

Featuring:

The True and Serious Adventures of GoGo Girl in Vermont, Episode 19 by Clare Dolan

Flight by Erik Ruin and Katt Hernandez

Finding Winston by Anthony Heard and Shamari Kamau

Fence Kitchen by Tim Harbeson

The Phoenix by Shoddy Puppet Company

and a visit by big friend from Spiral Q

PHILADELPHIA, PA

The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) and Puppet UpRising present Cardboard, Shadows, Sheets, and Suitcases, a smorgasbord of puppet performances curated and hosted by local puppeteer Beth Nixon of Ramshackle Enterprises to be held on Wednesday, March 19, 7pm at the Institute of Contemporary Art (118 S. 36th Street). In conjunction with ICA's current exhibition "The Puppet Show," on view through March 30, 2008, Nixon hosts an evening of assorted shows, implementing a range of puppetry techniques, presented by brilliant performers from near and far. This program is free with admission.



Erik Ruin

Clare Dolan and The Museum of Everyday Life perform a cantastoria, an old form of picture-recitation involving a sung narration accompanied by reference to painted banners or placards. Her show, *The True and Serious Adventures of GoGo Girl in Vermont- Episode 19*, interweaves the steamy details of the heroine's personal life with the events of a larger, perilous world.

Erik Ruin debuts *Flight*, a short shadow theater piece depicting the picturesque journey of a displaced person attempting to escape/ transcend persecution. Using overhead projectors, scrolling landscapes, and intricately cut scenes of shipwrecks, this show includes a hair-raisingly beautiful improvised score by violinist Katt Hernandez.

Anthony Heard and Shamari Kamau present a new suitcase puppet show entitled *Finding Winston*, in which a young boy moves from the country to the city to live with his sister. Unenthused about the move, he tries to change things by following in the footsteps of his friend Curby.

Tim Harbeson presents *Fence Kitchen*, a perpetual work in progress synthesizing various forms of puppetry with ambient setting, animation of objects, lighting, and original music.

The Phoenix is story about a boy who marries a chicken, created by Shoddy Puppet Company; this toy theater piece is made from the detritus and debris of urban displacement.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

ICA is located at:
118 South 36th Street at the
University of Pennsylvania

ICA is open to the public, except during installation, from 12pm to 8pm on Wednesday through Friday and from 11am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for students over 12, artists, and senior citizens; and free to ICA members, children 12 and under, PENN card holders, and on Sundays from 11am to 1pm.

For more information, call 215-898-7108/5911, or visit www.icaphila.org.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Founded in 1963, the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania is a leader in the presentation and documentation of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, commissions, educational programs, and publications, ICA invites the public to share in the experience, interpretation and understanding of the work of established and emerging artists.

Spiral Q Puppet Theater makes an appearance, sharing the presence of a few giant papier-mâché friends.

Information on the performers:

Beth Nixon is a puppeteer and founder of Ramshackle Enterprises. She writes builds and performs her own puppet shows and facilitates children and adults making puppets, parades, and pageants of their own. She is honored to have been asked by the ICA to pick a handful of her favorite puppeteers to share their various techniques. Beth will provide the theatrical padding between the 5 acts. More about her work is available at www.ramshackleenterprises.net.

As a former puppeteer with the Bread and Puppet Theater, **Clare Dolan** has performed in Europe, South America, Asia, the Middle East, and here at home. While currently living a secret double life as a nurse in her small Vermont town, she lectures, leads workshops, creates, performs, and participates in collaborative projects in puppet theater, Cantastoria and toy theater. She dances on stilts and is the founder and chief curator of The Museum of Everyday Life.

Erik Ruin is a Michigan-raised, Philly-based printmaker, shadow-puppeteer, and occasional editor of various publications, most recently the anthology *Realizing the Impossible: Art Against Authority (w/ Josh MacPhee, AK Press, 2007)*. Check out some of his print work at www.justseeds.org/artists/erik_ruin/.

Katt Hernandez collaborates with a sea of musicians, dancers, and others, and performs in a vast slew of subway passages, urban grottos, and performance spaces throughout the East Coast Metropolis. More about Katt's work is at www.katthernandez.com

Anthony Heard and **Shamari Kamau** are both students at The Art Institute of Philadelphia. Beth first met Anthony when he was in 9th grade and part of a suitcase puppet theater workshop she was teaching. Six years later, Anthony is again working his suitcase puppet magic. Along side his scholastic and theatrical endeavors; Anthony is also focused on the advancement of his own production company, 'YA HEARD' Records. Shamari is a promising artist, musician and videographer, making his puppetry debut at the ICA.

Tim Harbeson has a background in sculpture and music composition. From 2002 to the present, he has employed *Fence Kitchen* as both alter ego and vehicle for exploring his interest in multi-disciplinary solo performance.

Morgan F.P. Andrews is a performance curator for Philadelphia's Puppet Uprising and the author of *"When Magic Confronts Authority: the rise of protest puppetry in North America."* He regularly performs with Ramshackle Enterprises and the Bread & Puppet Theater, as well as his own Shoddy Puppet Company. Morgan also presents academic lectures on puppet performance history.

Spiral Q Puppet Theater seeks to mobilize communities and illuminate the victories, frustrations and possibilities of living in the neighborhoods of Philadelphia and similar urban settings through the construction of full-scale giant puppet parades, toy theater and neighborhood pageantry.

ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE VISIT THE ICA WEBSITE, WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG, FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH "THE PUPPET SHOW."