

MEDIA RELEASE

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CALGARY ANIMATED OBJECTS SOCIETY (CAOS)
presents
THE 4th INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ANIMATED OBJECTS
January 23 – February 1, 2009

A celebration of puppetry, masks and all things animated.

Today, the organizers of the 4th biennial International Festival of Animated Objects **announced the lineup** of the upcoming Festival, to take place January 23 – February 1, 2009 in Calgary.

The **Opening Galabash** kicks off at the Palomino Smokehouse featuring band **The Wet Secrets** (Edmonton); **The Dojo Workhorse** (Calgary); and **Beija Flor** (Calgary).

The **Mainstage Series** takes place at Vertigo Theatre, featuring the sideshow freakery of **Crawdaddy's Odditorium** (USA); Torbjörn Alström's one-man **Tales From the Mask** (Sweden); Alice Nelson's clown / puppet show **Elephant in Zulu** (Calgary); Big Sky Multimedia Storytelling's Aboriginal mask / dance shows **Matriarchs of the Earth & Spirit Whales** (Pender Island); and, presented as part of Vertigo Theatre's Y-Stage series, Axis Theatre Company's mask show for young audiences **The Emperor's New Threads** (Vancouver).

The **Film Series** features **Animovies!** at Vertigo Theatre – two programs of the best recent international short film featuring animated objects. The Plaza Theatre will host **Animation for Global Transformation**, a selection of work from Quickdraw's Youth Animation Project, presented as part of the Arusha Action Film Series.

The **Workshop Series** features a **Raven Totem Maquette** carving workshop by Tsimpshian carver Victor Reece at Black Forest Wood Company. The Art Gallery of Calgary will host workshops in **Shadow Puppetry** by Pam Atkinson, **Storyboarding** by filmmaker Chrystene Ells; **Pop-Up Motion** by Calgary Puppet Club; and **Mask Performance** by Torbjörn Alström.

Chrystene Ells is also featured in the **Lecture Series** – she will speak at the **Calgary Society of Independent Filmmakers**; at the **Scandinavian Centre** with Torbjörn Alström; and at **Triangle Gallery**. The Triangle also hosts lectures by Torbjörn Alström and Big Sky Multimedia Storytelling.

Throughout the month of January, a **Visual Art Exhibition** takes over the Plus 15 Galleries at the EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts: Les Voisins / Neighbours is a month-long stop motion installation, with each window changing slightly every day to tell a story over the course of a month. It is created by Kiarra Albina, Arbour Lake School, EAR and Jamie Tea.

The Festival closes with the **Dolly Wiggler Cabaret** at Vertigo Theatre: a wild variety show for mature audiences featuring a cavalcade of Festival stars.

Tickets for all events went **on sale today** at the Vertigo Box Office. Tickets are available by phone at 403-221-3708, online at www.vertigotheatre.com or in person at the Vertigo Box Office at the base of the Calgary Tower. Festival Passes and Gift Certificates are also available.

Full information on all Festival events is at www.animatedobjects.ca

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