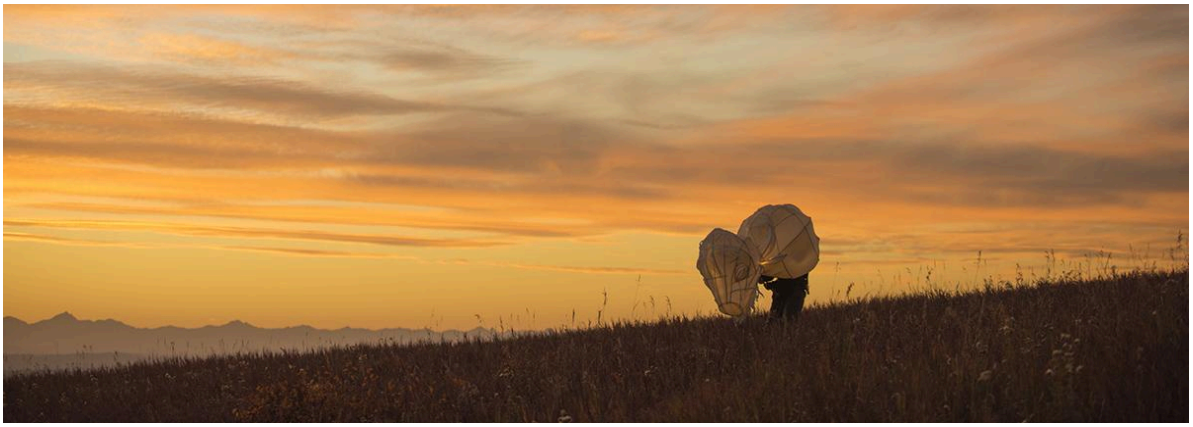

Friday, December 13, 2024 - For Immediate Release

STRATFORD, ON - SpringWorks will be making this year's Winter Programming a fabulous flurry of fun. Join us this January for *Grounds for Goodness* by Ruth Howard and Puppet Shorts: Mini FilmFest as part of Lights ON Stratford; *Iniskim: Return of The Buffalo*, details still a surprise; and in March, Adam Francis Proulx and The Pucking Fuppet Co. return with *Emilio's A Million Chameleons!* fresh from a NYC - Off-Broadway run.

Grounds for Goodness

Saturday, January 11 to Sunday, January 19 at The Stratford Perth Museum

An artful exploration by Ruth Howard of how and why people sometimes behave in good ways toward each other, presented at the Stratford Perth Museum. Experience an evolving gallery installation, drop-in artmaking, an artist's talk, a participatory embroidery circle, with a closing presentation and celebration including the wonderful Graham Hargrove (percussionist extraordinaire).

The Premise: *We have all grown up with and inherited evidence that people, especially in groups, do harmful things to others – often those from other groups. We may be less aware of times that groups of people have helped, protected and rescued others from harm. These stories are there if we look for them – hidden in history, folk tale and memory. They show that elements can combine to nurture social goodness – a goodness that is perhaps "always difficult, rare and fragile. And yet possible."**

*Ruth Howard and *From The Fragility of Goodness, Tzvetan Todorov*

Everyone is welcome – all ages, backgrounds & abilities!

Suggested Donation: $5 Children & $10 Adults

We are honoured to have the award-winning Ruth Howard join us. She is an interdisciplinary artist and founding Artistic Director of Jumblies, a community-engaged company based in Toronto. With Jumblies, Ruth created and produced multi-year residencies in Toronto neighbourhoods, leading to large-scale productions and lasting Offshoots, produced cross-country tours, festivals of new works, films, publications and many other collaborative community projects.

Reserve your seats for our Artist's Talk and the Final Presentation:
https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/grounds-for-goodness

Puppet Shorts: Mini FilmFest with Lights On Stratford

Friday, January 10 - Saturday, January 11 at The City Hall Auditorium
4:00 pm, and 6:00 pm - PWYC

Heather Henson, daughter of Sesame Street and the Muppets' Jim Henson, is a world-renowned puppet filmmaker and philanthropist in her own right.

She commissions and curates collections of Handmade Puppet Dreams live-action stop-motion, and delightful animated puppet film shorts. PuppetWorks! will be screening two of her engaging, family-friendly collections at the City Hall Auditorium.

Come in and escape the cold for as long as you'd like with this Mini FilmFest. Enjoy puppets on the big screen; each collection runs approximately 45 minutes, featuring 1-8 minute shorts for all ages at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

We will be presenting a special collection *Kidscapes* and, for all ages, *Tales of the Earth.* Catch them on the same night or pop back again. The schedule is available on our ticket and SpringWorks websites.

Reserve your ticket for *Puppet Shorts: A Mini Film Fest* at:
https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/puppet-shorts-mini-filmfest

Suggested Donation: $5 Children & $10 Adults

Iniskim: Return of The Buffalo

We are so excited PuppetWorks! will be partnering with The Stratford Film Festival to bring *Iniskim: Return of The Buffalo* by the Canadian Academy of Mask and Puppetry to Stratford this winter. Further details are still a surprise!

This film is an incredible opportunity to learn about Indigenous ways of knowing: ancient traditions, giant lantern puppets, majestic mountains, foothills, the big sky…and the buffalo. We watch as a group of puppeteers are transformed by their experience of 'being buffalo' at night under the stars. (suitable for ages 10+).

As Amethyst First Rider says to the puppeteers, "You are the buffalo. With each movement of your hands, each connection, each dream, you're creating energy and they become a part of you."
https://youtu.be/b9c9ueneTkY

***Emilio's A Million Chameleons* by Adam Francis Proulx (Pucking Fuppet Co).**
Saturday, March 22 at 10:30 am at Stratford City Hall Auditorium

We are thrilled to be bringing back the fabulous Adam Francis Proulx, last seen here in his delightful romp "The Family Crow: a Murder Mystery"

This time it's a manic, musical, vaudevillian bit of mayhem ….
And puppets of course!

In *Emilio's A Million Chameleons*, Emilio runs a circus act that boasts a million chameleons there to entertain with music, magic, and amazement. This is a musical comedy for the whole family about embracing what makes you special and letting your inner sparkle shine.

Adam is a Dora-Nominated Canadian theatre artist known for his writing and performance, as well as one of the country's most sought-after puppeteers. He is best known for his solo shows, including THE FAMILY CROW: A Murder Mystery, BAKER'S DOZEN: 12 Angry Puppets, and his family musical Emilio's A Million Chameleons. These acclaimed productions have toured North America, earning countless awards and accolades.

Reserve your ticket for *Emilio's A Million Chameleons:*
https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/emilios-a-million-chameleons

DONATIONS & TICKET INFORMATION
Many of our Winter events are Pay What You Choose (PWYC) programming so donations are more important than ever!

How YOU Can Help Power Our Mission:

DONATE :
Any amount counts. Contribute now to help us reach our goal of raising $5,000 to support Hermione Presents ~ SpringWorks Festival in bringing vibrant artistry & PUPPETS to Stratford this Winter.

Donations can be made at:
https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/fundraising/a-puppet-for-all-seasons

Zeffy contributes 100% of your donation to our work.
You may opt in or out of supporting this donation platform with any amount of your choice. Tax receipts will be emailed directly.

SHARE & VOLUNTEER: If you'd like to support us in other ways, we deeply appreciate your energy and goodwill

Please consider:

- Sharing our campaign with your friends, family, and on social media
- Volunteering at our upcoming events
- Joining the list of fabulous SpringWorks billet hosts who invite artists into their homes for their stay in Stratford

You can reach out to us at ArtistServices@SpringWorksFestival.ca

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FAQ

- Tickets are Pay What You Choose (PWYC); suggested donation of $5 for Children and $10 for Adults.
- Reserve your seats for our Artist's Talk and the Final Presentation: https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/grounds-for-goodness
- Reserve a ticket for Puppet Shorts: A Mini Film Fest: https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/puppet-shorts-mini-filmfest
- Reserve your ticket for *Emilio's A Million Chameleons:* https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/emilios-a-million-chameleons
- Donations can be made at: https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/fundraising/a-puppet-for-all-seasons
- Venues: The City Hall Auditorium & Stratford Perth Museum
- Further Information: www.springworksfestival.ca

PHOTOS

- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1b9HUOLzik9SOk4bXCEkBtP2QGfMGf2B1?usp=drive_link

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

- Please contact Eileen Smith (email@springworksfestival.ca) 416-768-7464

For more information visit www.springworksfestival.ca
Email: email@springworksfestival.ca