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Chicago  
Humanities  
Festival



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Chicago Humanities Festival presents Stages, Sights & Sounds *13<sup>th</sup> annual festival runs May 2–12, 2012*

The Chicago Humanities Festival announces its thirteenth annual spring festival, **Stages, Sights & Sounds**, which runs from **May 2 to May 12, 2012**. Performances will take place in **Chicago** at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago Theater, 220 E. Chicago Avenue, and in **Evanston** at the Josephine Louis Theater on the Northwestern University Campus, 20 Arts Circle Drive.

The full schedule features 37 performances by five companies. This year's roster of performers includes artists from France (Vélo Théâtre), Canada (DynamO Théâtre and solo performer Susanna Hamnett), Japan/Czech Republic (Nori Sawa), and Chicago (Theater Un•Speak•Able).

The Stages, Sights & Sounds schedule offers a variety of performance times to accommodate different schedules: weekend shows, school-day matinees, and weekday evening programs. In 2011, festival attendance topped 5,000. Students and teachers, many from Chicago Public Schools, made up more than half that total.

Descriptions of the five shows as well as a full listing of the performance schedule follow. Tickets are available to **school groups and educators beginning Tuesday, January 17 and to the general public beginning Monday, March 12**. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.chicagohumanities.org](http://www.chicagohumanities.org) or via phone at 312-494-9509.

### **Theater Un•Speak•Able: *Superman 2050***

From Chicago, for ages 7 and up

Epic story, pocket proportions—seven actors share a tiny 3-by-7 feet platform, and upon it an original Superman tale unfolds. Set in a fictional 2050 metropolis with a remarkable

resemblance to Chicago, the show's imaginative, resourceful cast members use only their bodies and voices to create every prop, scene, sound effect, and character in a battle between of the Midwest's beloved high-speed rail network.

**Venue:** Josephine Louis Theater, Northwestern University, 20 Campus Drive, Evanston

- Wednesday, May 2 at 10:30 am
- Thursday, May 3 at 7:00 pm
- Friday, May 4 at 12:30 pm
- Saturday, May 5 at 1:30 pm
- Sunday, May 6 at 5:00 pm

**Vélo Théâtre: *The Postman***

From France, for ages 4 and up

France's Vélo Théâtre returns to Stages, Sights & Sounds after performing *There's a Rabbit in the Moon* in the 2010 festival. Laden with letters and packages to deliver, a postman sets out on his bicycle. Opening one of the packages, he discovers a fantastic and magical world inside. One package—and adventure—leads to another in this wordless play.

**Venue:** Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago Theater, 220 E. Chicago Avenue

- Wednesday, May 2 at 10:30 am
- Thursday, May 3 at 10:30 am & 7:00 pm
- Saturday, May 5 at 11:00 am & 2:00 pm
- Monday, May 7 at 12:30 pm
- Tuesday, May 8 at 12:30 pm
- Wednesday, May 9 at 10:30 am & 12:30 pm

**Susanna Hamnett: *Nearly Lear***

From Canada, for ages 12 and up

Told entirely by one actor, *Nearly Lear* upends expectations of what a Shakespeare play should be and uses exuberant storytelling, music, and film to take its audience into the heart of this great tale. Seen through the eyes of Lear's devoted clown, the story is not only poignant and tragic, but also gentle, mischievous, and funny.

**Venue:** Josephine Louis Theater, Northwestern University, 20 Campus Drive, Evanston

- Thursday, May 3 at 10:30 am
- Friday, May 4 at 10:00 am & 7:00 pm
- Saturday, May 5 at 11:00 am & 4:00 pm

- Sunday, May 6 at 2:00 pm
- Tuesday, May 8 at 10:30 am
- Thursday, May 10 at 10:00 am
- Saturday, May 12 at 2:00 pm

**DynamO Théâtre: *Mur-Mur (The Wall)***

From Canada, for ages 7 and up

Montreal's DynamO Théâtre performs internationally renowned acrobatic theater. In *Mur-Mur*, a wall, with its graffiti and its secrets, alternates as a playground and refuge for five young characters—two teenage couples and a pesky younger brother—swept up in an air-bound acrobatic ballet.

**Venue:** Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago Theater, 220 E. Chicago Avenue

- Sunday, May 6 at 3:00 pm
- Monday, May 7 at 10:30 am
- Tuesday, May 8 at 10:30 am
- Thursday, May 10 at 10:30 am & 12:30 pm
- Friday, May 11 at 10:30 am
- Saturday, May 12 at 3:00 & 7:00 pm

**Nori Sawa: *Fairy Tales***

From Japan/Czech Republic, for ages 5 and up

Solo puppeteer Nori Sawa delivers fresh takes on classic fairy tales. From Japan and based in Prague, Sawa uses puppets, masks, music, paper cutouts, and his body to tell beautiful and sometimes twisted versions of traditional tales.

**Venue:** Josephine Louis Theater, Northwestern University, 20 Campus Drive, Evanston

- Wednesday, May 9 at 10:30 am
- Thursday, May 10 at 12:30 pm
- Friday, May 11 at 10:30 am & 7:00 pm
- Saturday, May 12 at 11:00 am & 5:00 pm

Tickets are available online at [www.chicagohumanities.org](http://www.chicagohumanities.org) or via phone at 312-494-9509. The Chicago Humanities Festival box office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Ticket prices are \$5-11 in advance and carry a \$2 surcharge at the door.

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