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<http://www.chicagohumanities.org/en/About/Press-Room.aspx>

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Chicago Humanities Festival Presents Stages, Sights & Sounds

The eleventh festival runs April 29–May 16, 2010

The Chicago Humanities Festival announces its eleventh annual spring festival, **Stages, Sights & Sounds**, which runs from **April 29 to May 16, 2010**. The festival features over 50 performances by eight different artists and ensembles as well as interactive activities at venues in Chicago and Evanston. This year's roster of performers includes artists from Scotland (Visible Fictions), France (Vélo Théâtre), and Israel (Galilee Multicultural Theatre), as well as from Seattle and Chicago.

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 2009, festival attendance topped 5,000. Students and teachers, many from Chicago Public Schools, made up more than half that total.

Descriptions of performers as well as a full listing of all performances follow.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

International Performers

In 2010, Stages, Sights & Sounds features performances by three international companies, all making their Chicago debuts:

- France's **Vélo Théâtre** performs *There's a Rabbit in the Moon*, an enchanting nocturnal tale filled with curious things, fragments of dreams, and fantastic characters. The program makes extensive use of found objects and is intended for a small audience of 70 at each performance. *There's a Rabbit in the Moon* is ideal for children ages 4 and up.

Duration: 65 minutes.

Performance Times

Venue: Redmoon Central, 1463 W. Hubbard Street, Chicago

- Thu Apr 29 at 10 am & 12 pm

- Fri Apr 30 at 10 am & 7 pm
 - Sat May 1 at 12 & 3 pm
- Israel's **Galilee Multicultural Theatre** brings *Sofia's Drawings*, which weaves together actors, puppets, and video to tell the story of Sofia's life, her hopes, and fears during her time in hiding from the Nazis during World War II. *Sofia's Drawings* recently received top honors for best play and music at the International Theatre Festival in Haifa. *Sofia's Drawings* is recommended for children ages 8 and up.

Duration: 60 minutes.

Performance Times

Venue: Josephine Louis Theater at Northwestern University, 20 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston

- Sat May 8 at 7 pm
 - Mon May 10 at 12:30 pm
 - Tue May 11 at 12:30 pm
 - Wed May 12 at 12:30 pm
 - Thu May 13 at 12:30 pm
 - Fri May 14 at 7 pm
 - Sat May 15 at 3 pm
 - Sun May 16 at 2 pm
- Scotland's **Visible Fictions** breathes new life into the classic Greek myth of *Jason and the Argonauts*. With a handful of action figures and one incredible wooden cart, the actors create an adventure story to inspire the hero in each of us. The company returns to North America for its Chicago debut after two successful US tours to New York and the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. *Jason and the Argonauts* is recommended for ages 9 and up.

Duration: 65 minutes.

Performance Times

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

- Tue May 11 at 7 pm
- Wed May 12 at 10:30 am & 7 pm
- Thu May 13 at 10:30 am
- Fri May 14 at 10:30 am & 7 pm
- Sat May 15 at 10:00 am & 3 pm
- Sun May 16 at 3 pm

On the National Stage

Stages, Sights & Sounds is thrilled to welcome two favorites back to Chicago:

- Seattle's **Lelavision** returns for a third time to Stages, Sights & Sounds after appearances in 2006 and 2008. An instrument maker and a dancer, husband-and-wife team Ela Lamblin and Leah Mann create breathtaking performances that combine art, music, and dance. *Physical Music* combines their best material with new works developed in partnership with scientists from Emory University. Recommended for all ages.

Duration: 60 minutes.

Performance Times

Venue: Josephine Louis Theater at Northwestern University, 20 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston

- Thu May 6 at 10 am
 - Fri May 7 at 10 am & 7 pm
 - Sat May 8 at 3 pm
 - Mon May 10 at 10 am
 - Tue May 11 at 10 am
 - Wed May 12 at 10 am
 - Thu May 13 at 10 am
 - This performance is recommended for a high-school matinee audience.
 - Sat May 15 at 10 am & 7 pm
 - The 10 am performance includes a special 45-minute behind-the-scenes component following the performance. This extra is included in ticket prices.
 - Sun May 16 at 5 pm
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- Solo performer **David Gaines**, from Arlington, VA, offers his one-man retake on the classic Akira Kurosawa 1954 masterpiece *The Seven Samurai*. Gaines inhabits a multitude of characters in this show, ideal for ages 7 and up. Gaines appeared at the 2009 fall Chicago Humanities Festival in a program on the Italian *commedia* theatrical tradition.

Duration: 60 minutes.

Performance Times

Venue: Redmoon Central, 1463 W. Hubbard Street, Chicago

- Sun May 2 at 12 & 5 pm
- Mon May 3 at 10 am
- Tue May 4 at 10 am
- Wed May 5 at 10 am

- Thu May 6 at 7 pm

Chicago Performers and Partners

Each year, Stages, Sights & Sounds includes performers and partners from the immense talent pool of Chicago, and 2010 is no exception.

- Chicago's own **Redmoon Theater** mounts a double bill of two spectacular shows, performed at the MCA Theater. Redmoon was honored as a special performer at the White House on Halloween last October, and its reputation for creating unforgettable tableaux and performances explains its appeal to both adults and children. This spring, Redmoon unveils a new multimedia shadow piece from its artistic director, Frank Maugeri. *Cape and Squiggle* endears us to a lapsed superhero as he ponders his mission and mortality. This piece will be presented with Maugeri's *Laika's Coffin*, an epic tale based on the biography of the doomed first animal in space. Maugeri says the pieces together provide "50 minutes of science fiction adventure for youth." Recommended for ages 8 and up.

Duration: 50 minutes.

Performance Times

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

- Thu May 6 at 7 pm
 - Fri May 7 at 10:30 am
 - Sat May 8 at 3:30 & 7 pm
 - Mon May 10 at 10:30 am & 7 pm
 - Tue May 11 at 10:30 am
- Chicago beatbox artist and vocal percussionist **Yuri Lane** presents *MeeTube*, a live hip-hop video novel simulcast online. Using beatbox, loop machines, live video mixing, and thousands of comments from YouTube viewers, Yuri provides a sonic tour of the possibilities of the internet, most appropriate for ages 12 and up.

Duration: 60 minutes.

Performance Times

Venue: Redmoon Central, 1463 W. Hubbard Street, Chicago

- Thu May 6 at 10:30 am
- Sat May 8 at 3 & 7 pm

- The Chicago sketch comedy wizards of **Barrel of Monkeys** take poetry written by youth in Words@PLAY and transform it into vignettes and songs. The result is a zany and inspiring performance, studded with wondrous moments and stop-you-in-your tracks kid insights. Words@PLAY is the Chicago Humanities Festival and the Chicago Park District's nationally-recognized poetry program for young people. This show is recommended for ages 6 and up. Duration: 60 minutes.

Performance Time

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

- Sat May 8 at 10 am

- **Animation Station!** is a perennial festival favorite back for its sixth year. Working with professional animators, children learn the art of animation through techniques including pixilation, scratch-on-film, and clay animation. Animation Station runs from 11:00am–3:00 pm on Saturday, May 8 at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Avenue.
- Sunday, May 16 is **Block Family Day** at the Mary & Leigh Block Museum of Art in Evanston and will feature visual arts exhibits and activities designed to engage children and families. The museum's sculpture garden will be open for self-guided tours. Block Family Day is presented in partnership with the Block Museum of Art. The museum is open from 1:00–4:00 pm and is located at 40 Arts Circle Drive on Northwestern University's Evanston campus. Admission is free.

TICKETS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Tickets will be available online at www.chicagohumanities.org and by phone at **312-494-9509** beginning **Monday, March 15** for CHF members and school groups. Tickets go on sale **Monday, March 22** for the general public. Advance tickets to all performances are \$11 for adults and \$5 for children; the cost at the door is \$13 for adults and \$7 for children (cash only is accepted at the door). Admission to Block Family Day is free. For information on becoming a CHF member to take advantage of the early sales period, visit <http://www.chicagohumanities.org/en/Donate-And-Support/Membership-Options.aspx> or call 312-661-1028 ext. 41.

Information on purchasing group tickets and reserving space for school groups is available by calling 312-661-1028 ext. 35 or emailing tickets@chfestival.org. Information on the CHF ticket and bus

transportation subsidy program is also available at this number and email. Group reservations may be made beginning **Monday, March 15.**

Stages, Sights & Sounds marks its eleventh year with the 2010 festival. For eight years, the program ran concurrently with the fall Chicago Humanities Festival. In 2008, the festival moved to its own spring time slot to allow the programs to flourish and to better accommodate the schedules of families with members who attend both adult and family programming by the Chicago Humanities Festival. In 2007, the festival shared the *Coming Up Taller Award* with the Chicago Park District for Words@PLAY. Former First Lady Laura Bush presented the award to CHF and Chicago Park District staff at the White House in January 2008. *Coming Up Taller* is the nation's highest honor for after-school and out-of-school arts and humanities programs.

The Chicago Humanities Festival thanks its generous sponsors, whose gifts make Stages, Sights & Sounds possible. **Allstate** is the lead sponsor for the 2010 festival. Additional support for Stages, Sights & Sounds is provided by American Airlines, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, The Crown Family Foundation, CWR Pediatrics in honor of Ann and Roger Cole, Illinois Arts Council, and the Stearns Charitable Trust in memory of Virginia S. Gassel. The media and back-of-ticket sponsor is WBEZ 91.5 FM. *Sofia's Drawings* is presented in partnership with the Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest. *Jason and the Argonauts*, *Cape & Squiggle* and *Laika's Coffin*, and *Animation Station!* are presented in partnership with the Museum of Contemporary Art.

For more information and to view a full schedule of 2010 performances, please visit www.chicagohumanities.org.

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