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## **The Puppet Showplace Theater Gala Carnival of Wonders To Be Held On June 2, 2015**

***A Magical Evening of Live Performances In Support of The  
Theater's 41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary***

**(Brookline, MA)**—*The Puppet Showplace Theater Gala Carnival of Wonders* will be held on June 2 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the majestic George H. Wightman Mansion located at 43 Hawes Street in Brookline, Massachusetts. This not-to-be-missed family-friendly event will be filled with over a dozen live performances of puppetry and music, delicious food by Brookline's The Fireplace Restaurant, and special guests, including former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis and Emmy award-winning arts and entertainment critic Joyce Kulhawik of [JoycesChoices.com](http://JoycesChoices.com), as the organization celebrates its 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary. All proceeds from the event will help fund the future of the well-loved arts organization ensuring that the theater continues to provide audiences with inspiring artistic experiences.

Last year, *The Boston Globe* hailed the Puppet Showplace Gala as a "scene from Alice in Wonderland." Artistic Director Roxanna Myhrum plans to build on that theme by uniting awe-inspiring performances with a joyous carnival atmosphere. "Our goal is to put curiosities in every corner" said Myhrum, "and to bring together New England's best performers in one of Brookline's most beautiful settings." The evening's line-up includes the internationally acclaimed Sandglass Theater, Emmy award-nominated Perry Alley Theater, and local fan favorite Bonnie Duncan. According to Myhrum, "We hope that this unforgettable evening will inspire donors to support our work throughout the year."

The event will be emceed by iconic Emmy award-winning arts and entertainment critic and President of the Boston Theater Critics Association Joyce Kulhawik ([JoycesChoices.com](http://JoycesChoices.com)). A pioneer in reporting on the cultural landscape of New England, Kulhawik has inspired the arts community with her incredible leadership and advocacy work.

"The annual Puppet Showplace Theater gala is a fabulous evening of live performances in support of one of the country's foremost puppet theaters and treasured cultural institutions. I can't imagine the local landscape without it! Generations of families have experienced the magic of that intimate little space, and this gala is a way to help ensure that all of us can continue to share that joyous experience and the transformative power of Puppet Showplace Theater for generations to come!" said Kulhawik.

Many distinguished leaders will also be in attendance to lend their support. Michael and Kitty Dukakis, former Governor and First Lady of Massachusetts will be in attendance as Gala

Chairs. Other distinguished Honorary Chairs include Keith Lockhart conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra, the family of Puppet Showplace founder Mary Churchill, a representative from the Union Internationale de La Marionnette, and one of Brookline's most prolific philanthropists, Chobee Hoy.

Tickets for the event can be purchased by visiting [www.puppetshowplace.org/gala/](http://www.puppetshowplace.org/gala/). Tickets are \$75 per person and children under ten are free. Other ticket purchasing options and sponsorship opportunities are available through the organization's web site. Proceeds from the evening will benefit three specific funds. The *Artists' Fund*, which helps the organization bring world-renowned professional puppet companies to Brookline that would normally be cost-prohibitive. The *Facilities Fund*, which helps keep the theater in tip-top shape. This year's projects include a new façade and carpeting for the performance space. The *Mary Churchill Memorial Fund* which transforms the lives of students from low-income, underserved communities by providing free and discounted tickets to quality professional puppet productions. Last year the organization shared the magic of puppetry with over a thousand children.

During the evening, Puppet Showplace will also present the annual Paul Vincent Davis Award to Eric Bass and Ines Zeller, founders of Sandglass Theater, to recognize their decades of excellence, mentorship, and service to the puppetry community. Author, puppeteer, and philanthropist Sarah Lamstein will also be honored with the Creative Leadership Award, for her years of inspiring work on behalf of the theater.

**Sponsors and support:**

*The Puppet Showplace Theater Gala Carnival of Wonders* is generously sponsored and supported by The Fireplace Restaurant, [www.fireplacorest.com](http://www.fireplacorest.com).

**Photos are available here:**

Bonnie Duncan, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/94230110@N05/16401629283/sizes/l>

Sandglass Theater, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/94230110@N05/16477895810/sizes/l>

Photos in the George H. Wightman Mansion (photos by Paula Junn - man in the suit is MA State Rep. Frank Smizik),

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/94230110@N05/14343746761/sizes/l>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/94230110@N05/14345490472/sizes/l>

**About Puppet Showplace Theater**

Puppet Showplace Theater is wheelchair accessible and located at the Brookline Village T station on the Green D Line at 32 Station Street, Brookline MA, 02445. The theater is barrier free and accessible to all children and adults. Call the Puppet Showplace Box Office for more information and to purchase tickets: 617-731-6400 x 101 or online at [www.puppetshowplace.org](http://www.puppetshowplace.org).

Puppet Showplace Theater is New England's only professional year-round theater dedicated to presenting outstanding professional puppetry to diverse audiences through performances, workshops, and community outreach activities. After 40 years of operations, the theater has become a treasured cultural institution.

Puppet Showplace is funded in part by grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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