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FIRSTWORKS PRESENTS
HEATHER HENSON'S "HANDMADE PUPPET DREAMS, VOLUME I"
Providence Screening of Cutting-Edge Puppet Film Shorts

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Today FirstWorks announced a screening of cutting-edge puppet film shorts, "*Handmade Puppet Dreams, Volume I*", curated by Heather Henson, daughter of beloved puppetry pioneer Jim Henson. The Providence screening is free and will be at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) on Monday, April 27 at the Michael P. Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center/RISD Museum. Visit www.first-works.org or call 401-421-4278 for reservations.

Henson's zany collection of independently produced film shorts showcases the rising stars of puppetry as they explore unique approaches to animation through a spectrum of puppetry styles. With storylines touching such off-beat themes as: life with amnesia, life after death, music video and alien possession, these on-screen gems prove that the world of puppetry is not just for kids.

"Heather Henson is a leader in the contemporary puppet scene," said FirstWorks' Executive Artistic Director Kathleen Pletcher. "We are thrilled she is now a part of FirstWorks' year-round programming. As her special guest, Heather introduces Paul Andrejco, a stellar artist in the world of puppet films. Marking Heather's second year in the FirstWorks artist series, this return trip to Providence and her alma mater promises to be another first in the arts."

Emmy nominated puppet designer Paul Andrejco will present several of his own films in a multi-media presentation providing a sneak peek into his creative process. Through his company,

Puppet Heap, Andrejco works with industry giants Nickelodeon, Walt Disney Company and Sesame Workshop; and currently manages the ongoing maintenance of the Muppets.

Henson's hand-picked selections introduce us to a new generation of puppeteers exploring their handmade craft specifically for the cinema. Selections to be screened will also include work by Janie Geiser, Genevieve Anderson, Mike Mitchell, Laura Heit, Dan Brown, Seamus Walsh, and Mark Caballero.

This FirstWorks screening event takes place on Monday, April 27, 2009 at 7pm at the Michael P. Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center/RISD Museum, located at 20 North Main Street, Providence. This event is FREE and open to the public. Limited seating is available. For reservations, contact Annette Robinson at annette@first-works.org.

Heather Henson's "*Handmade Puppet Dreams, Volume I*" with special guest Paul Andrejco is presented by FirstWorks in collaboration with the Rhode Island School of Design's Office of Student Life.

About FirstWorks

FirstWorks connects art with audiences year-round through the exceptional vitality of artists' first appearances, children's first experiences with performance and the premiering of new works. Beginning with an unprecedented collaboration with Providence's Department of Art, Culture & Tourism, FirstWorks was launched in 2004 as a vehicle to build community, reach underserved audiences, and present extraordinary arts programs that elevate Providence's national profile. In the five years since, FirstWorks has produced nine groundbreaking arts festivals, attracted 55,000 participants, and engaged more than 100 nonprofit community organizations and schools. Visit www.first-works.org to learn more.

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