



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Navy Pier to Host Chicago International Puppet Theater's
*Festival Neighborhood Tour on January 21***

*The Midwest's iconic destination set to serve as one of six locations for the unique festival,
offering a full day of **free** family-friendly entertainment*

CHICAGO – As Navy Pier's *Fifth Third Bank Centennial Celebration* continues in 2017, the iconic destination is proud to host a full day of **free** family-friendly entertainment as Chicago International Puppet Theater's *Festival Neighborhood Tour* makes its way to the Pier for the first time on Saturday, January 21.

The event will be held in the Crystal Gardens starting at 2 p.m. Guests are invited to catch three special performances – each running for about 40-45 minutes, and participate in various activities and workshops between shows. The performances feature three festival artists, Magali Chouinard (2 p.m.), Schroeder Cherry (3 p.m.) and Interstate Arts (4 p.m.).

In ***The White Woman***, Magali Chouinard takes a tender look at how solitude can be a special place where we discover and re-discover ourselves. By daring to be silent, to move slowly and deliberately, and by steering away from a linear narrative, Chouinard invites audiences to invest themselves in an otherworldly visual poem.

In ***Underground Railroad, Not a Subway***, Schroeder Cherry shares the story of a young boy who escapes slavery and runs north, encountering free blacks, sympathetic whites and slave catchers along the way. Will he make it? This 45-minute presentation is performed with a variety of puppets constructed by Cherry: rod puppets, hand puppets and wooden cut-outs.

Designed for children and families, ***PLAY with Your Food*** by Detroit-based Interstate Arts mixes hilarious and bizarre live performers with sweet and spectacular puppets of all sizes in celebration of the universal human experience of eating. This original piece invites audiences to learn urban gardening and cooking how-to's, hear from a chatty muffin, and get down with the sweet sound of a veggie synthesizer.

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Following each performance, guests will have the opportunity to speak and interact with the artists and learn more about their puppets. The event will also feature a raffle of four complimentary tickets to see *Feathers of Fire* at the Studebaker Theater, January 26-29.

Presented by Navy Pier, Blair Thomas & Co., the Chicago Park District and the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, the *Festival Neighborhood Tour* fosters an appreciation for puppetry in every corner of the city, offering 18 performances at six different locations from January 21 through January 28, starting with Navy Pier.

For more information, please visit www.navy Pier.com or www.chicagopuppetfest.org.

About Navy Pier

Located on Lake Michigan, Navy Pier is the top attended leisure destination in the Midwest, stretching more than six city blocks and welcoming more than 8 million guests annually. Originally opened in 1916 as a shipping and recreation facility, this Chicago landmark showcases more than 50 acres of parks, restaurants, attractions, retail shops, sightseeing and dining cruise boats, exposition facilities and more. Navy Pier, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization, maintains and oversees Navy Pier and its redevelopment into a bolder, greener and more contemporary urban space. For more information, visit www.navy Pier.com.

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