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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Puppets Get Their Day and Announce Conference

City Proclaims March 21st World Puppetry Day in Calgary

March 19th, 2018, Calgary, AB - The City of Calgary has joined with other cities around the globe to proclaim and celebrate World Puppetry Day, March 21st. Mayor Naheed Nenshi signed the proclamation that cites World Puppetry Day as a day to “spark curiosity, promote understanding about the world we live in and inspire audiences to embrace the art of puppetry.”

First celebrated internationally in 2003, this year’s World Puppetry Day is marked by Calgary’s own WP Puppet Theatre’s full announcement of its unique, upcoming conference on Applied Puppetry, Puppet Power 2018. And, adding yet more excitement to a day designated to celebrate manipulating artsy inanimate objects to tell stories, WP has also released a video featuring a motley group of puppet activists stating their case for increased recognition and respect.

WP Puppet Theatre’s biennial International Conference, *Puppet Power 2018: Story* will be held June 1st – 3rd, at the University of Calgary. Featuring master puppeteers from around the world, the conference attracts participants from all helping-professions —as well as artists, students, idea generators and community builders. Attendees are invited to explore the transformative power that puppetry has to tell stories, inspire dialogue and make meaning of our world today with hands-on workshops, expert panels, and special networking events.

Wendy Passmore-Godfrey, WP Puppet Theatre’s Artistic Director says, “This year’s conference with its overarching theme of *Story* mirrors our culture today and shows how puppets and puppetry help share important stories about social justice, mental health, body image, gender, race, aging, literacy, reconciliation and much, more. ”

The accompanying video released last week by WP Puppet Theatre presents a colourful cast of puppets poking gentle fun at the lack of respect paid to them. They insist they are vital ‘mouthpieces’ in conveying stories of the human condition. The puppets conclude that due to their rare power and ability to tell stories they deserve both their own day, and their own conference. Now – they have it! [Link to video on YouTube:](#)

For more information on Puppet Power 2018,
visit <https://wppuppet.com/puppet-power-2018/>



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WP Puppet Theatre is a not for profit charitable organization dedicated to creating innovative and educational performances and learning opportunities, through the art of puppetry.

Puppet Power 2018: Story is WP Puppet Theatre's biennial International Conference on Applied Puppetry, June 1-3, 2018, in Calgary, AB.

World Puppetry Day – March 21st Calgary / Official Proclamation Attached

World Puppetry Day is a day to spark curiosity, promote understanding about the world we live in and inspire audiences to embrace the art of puppetry as a creative platform to express significant social issues and consider solutions.