

The Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies and the Jackman Humanities
Institute at the University of Toronto are proud to present

CAKES AND PUPPETS/BUCHTY A LOUTKY THEATRE

TIBET: THROUGH THE RED BOX
(for adults)

&

THREE LITTLE PIGS
(for children and adults)

February 10-13, 2016
Luella Massey Studio Theatre
4 Glen Morris Street

"There are various puppet theatres in the Czech Republic, but few which enjoy as cutting edge a reputation as Buchty a Loutky (Cakes & Puppets), a troupe founded in Prague in the early 1990s which took Czech theatre in new directions." – *Radio Prague*

"At the very top in their field, their work is characterized by a unique theatre poetics. They have to their credit countless iconic performances." – *Generation 21*

"Parody, travesty, and an orgy of humor" – *Daily Referendum*

Cakes and Puppets/Buchty a Loutky is an experimental puppet theatre company from the Czech Republic. Founded in 1991 by graduates of the puppet department of the Prague Academy of the Performing Arts, Cakes and Puppets has premiered over 40 live productions for adults and children and they have designed stop-motion sequences for films including Lars von Trier's *The Antichrist*. Their performances combine old toys, discarded objects, and fine art sculpture. Their aesthetic has been called "punk puppetry" and "the theatre of Do-It-Yourself." Their work spans fairy tales, opera, and a recent "Reloaded" series of puppet productions of classic and cult films including *Rocky*, *Psycho*, *Jaws*, and *Barbarella*.

For their North American premiere, Cakes and Puppets will bring two productions to the Luella Massey Studio Theatre at the University of Toronto. The first is their adaptation of Petr Sis's Caldecott Award-winning book *Tibet: Through the Red Door*. Sis's father, a documentary filmmaker, was sent to China in the 1950s to film a Chinese construction crew building a highway. Separated from the workers and caught in a blizzard, the elder Sis witnessed events that he could only communicate to his son through tales of gentle Yetis, an encounter with the Dalai Lama, and other "magical

stories." In 1994, Sis discovered his father's diary, locked in a red box, with the message "The diary is now yours." *Tibet* filters Cold War intercultural tensions through the eyes of a child—and an adult reflecting on his Central European past.

The Three Little Pigs is a retelling of the classic children's story with modern updates, including wisecracking pigs and at least three houses that are built and blown down by a determined wolf. Children and parents are encouraged to stay after each performance to meet the company and try out their puppets.

Cakes and Puppets will also screen a film of their production of *La Calisto*, a baroque opera by Francesco Cavalli that combines marionettes, animate objects, and live singers from the Collegium Marianum in Prague. Linda Hutcheon, Professor Emerita of English and Comparative Literature and author of numerous books on opera, will introduce *La Calisto*.

Event Schedule:

La Calisto

February 10 at 6:30pm at the Robert Gill Theatre at the University of Toronto
(214 College Street)
Admission is free and open to the public.

Three Little Pigs

Feb. 12 and 13 at 1pm
Tickets: \$5 children; \$15 adults

Tibet: Through the Red Box

Feb. 11, 12, and 13 at 8pm
Tickets: \$10 students and seniors; \$20 full price
-Each performance of *Tibet* will include an introduction by a scholar or a local artist or will feature a roundtable discussion with Cakes and Puppets. Please check the Facebook event page (Cakes and Puppets/ Buchtý a Loutky) for schedule details.

Tickets are available through www.uofttix.ca or call 416-978-8849.

The visit of Cakes and Puppets is made possible through generous grants of support from the following organizations:

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