

# MEDIA RELEASE

Seattle International  
Children's Festival  
is now ...

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 6, 2009

## GIANT MAGNET 2009 – TICKETS NOW ON SALE

**SEATTLE – MAY 12 – 16**

**TACOMA – MAY 17 & 18**



**Seattle, WA** – Tickets for Giant Magnet 2009 (the new name of the Seattle International Children's Festival) are now on sale at [www.giantmagnet.org](http://www.giantmagnet.org) or by calling Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006.

Following the March 20 announcement of the new name, Giant Magnet now gears up for the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual performing arts extravaganza, May 12 through 16 at Seattle Center and May 17 & 18 at the Broadway Center for the Performing Arts in Tacoma. The vibrant and energetic programming for kids, families, teens and adults includes a lineup of circus-theatre, music, puppetry, dance and multi-disciplinary shows designed to educate and entertain. 2009 performers represent Belgium, Zimbabwe, India, Canada, Germany, Croatia, American First Nations, Japan, Mexico, and the USA.

**Giant Magnet 2009** kicks off with an Opening Night International Variety Show on May 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bagley Wright Theatre. The Seattle schedule continues with weekday shows May 12 through 15; **Giant Magnet Family Day** on Saturday, May 16; and **Giant Magnet Nights**, on May 14 and 15.

As a special presentation, **Ontroerend Goed** of Belgium brings a unique arts experience for teen and adult audiences, **The Smile Off Your Face**. Continuous 25-minute performances run 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m., May 11 through 16 in Center House Theater.

Giant Magnet arrives in Tacoma on May 17 to celebrate a decade of performances in the South Sound with **Ten Years in Tacoma, a Global Variety Show**. The fun continues with daytime performances for Tacoma audiences on May 18. *The full performance schedule is included at the end of this release.*

Public tickets range from \$10 to \$25, with discounts for multi-show packages and advance purchase. Tickets are available online at [www.giantmagnet.org](http://www.giantmagnet.org) or by phone from Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006.

Tickets are also available for schools, homeschoolers and groups. Tickets are \$9 per show/\$4.50 subsidized rate; World Samplers are \$7.00/\$3.50. There are deep discounts for multiple show packages. To reserve group tickets go to [www.giantmagnet.org](http://www.giantmagnet.org) or call the Giant Magnet Teacher's Hotline at 206-684-7336.

## GIANT MAGNET 2009 - GLOBAL ATTRACTIONS PLAYING LOCALLY

**Les Argonautes** (Belgium) *Pas Perdue* U.S. Premiere!

305 Harrison • Seattle • WA • 98109 • 206.684.7338 • [giantmagnet.org](http://giantmagnet.org)

"Strange, inventive, full of surprises." *Le Soir*, Belgium

Recommended: ages 7 and older

These four amusingly befuddled, delightfully demented, archaically stylish, clown/acrobat/musician/jugglers, Festival favorites in 2002 (*Zouff!*), are back with an all-new show that blends slapstick, circus-theatre, music, tenderness and carpentry! The comedic traditions of Chaplin, Keaton and Jaques Tati meld with expert circus skills and musical chops, resulting in a don't-miss performance of European circus-theatre at its most refined, sometimes absurd, and completely unpredictable.

### **Sidi Goma – The Black Sufis of Gujarat (India)**

"Spectacular, mystical and – most importantly – fun, Gujarat's Black Sufis are a revelation." *Rhythm Magazine*

Recommended: ages 7 and older

The exuberant energy and joy Sidi Goma brings to the stage are as captivating and powerful as their heritage is unique. These masterful dancers and musicians are descendants of East Africans who, in the 10th century, traveled across the ocean to India where they embraced the Muslim faith. Their performances begin with a traditional muezzin call to prayer. Then, as the music gradually gets more rapid and excited, the performers, celebrating their ancestral spirit, don peacock feather skirts and headdresses and perform a series of constantly evolving animal imitations (similar to Australian Aborigines), which climax in a spectacular coconut-breaking feat. The entire performance is an exhilarating experience!

### **Thomas Mapfumo and The Blacks Unlimited (Zimbabwe)**

"A peaceful, buoyant personality, in love with life, laughter, and music. Few bandleaders in Africa, or anywhere, have been so consistently relevant to the lives of their people..." *Afropop*

Recommended: ages 7 and older

The legendary "Lion of Zimbabwe" has been giving voice to the people of his country for over three decades. The musical style he developed, chimurenga ("struggle" in his ancestral Shona language), blends traditional folk music with upbeat cyclical rhythms, melodies of the mbira (thumb piano), and guitar, into a hypnotic, almost trance-like music. He was the cultural muse to his country's independence from Rhodesia. An outspoken critic of its notorious president, Mugabe, he now lives in self-imposed exile in the U.S. where he continues to produce chimurenga music and electrifying stage shows.

### **The Gentlemen of the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Friends (USA)**

"The music is alive and vibrant, ...decidedly infectious." Blog Critics Magazine

Recommended: ages 7 and older

This band of young African-Americans is literally old-school. Dom Flemons and Justin Robinson (with Rhiannon Giddens, they are The Carolina Chocolate Drops) play traditional string band music prevalent in rural black communities of the American South with a mastery of authentic instrumentation (jug, banjo, fiddle and hands) and an energetic, yet easy-going, amiable stage presence. Under the tutelage of Joe Thompson, said to be the oldest living black traditional string band player, their traditional take on original songs is garnering worldwide praise for reinvigorating and keeping an entire genre of American music live.

### **Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia (Canada) *The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favourites***

"A quiet delight, true to Carle's vivid paper-collage art and his gentle-spirited nature tales...has the lovely hushed charm of much requested bedtime stories..." *Los Angeles Times*

Recommended: ages 4-7

Just in time for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar's* 40th birthday, this magical stage adaptation vividly brings to life the little hero's metamorphosis into a beautiful butterfly. This delightful celebration of legendary illustrator/storyteller Eric Carle also features the stories of Little Cloud's travels through the sky, and the Mixed-up Chameleon's adventures as he discovers his own unique nature. Closely following the spectacularly popular books, staged with eye-popping black light puppetry and an original music score, this fanciful look at three venerable classics has awed audiences around the world.

**Kuniko Yamamoto** (Japan) *Magical Mask, Mime and Music of Japan*

"Her heartfelt stories, handmade masks and stylized movement create a magical world of tradition and possibility." *The Baltimore Sun*

Recommended: ages 5-12

Trained in dance and traditional arts in her native Osaka, Kuniko enchants audiences of every age with dramatic storytelling using myths and fables from ancient and modern Japan, spiced with social revelations to educate and amuse. Kuniko uses traditional Japanese music, origami, handcrafted masks, stylized movement, song, and a touch of magic to create an artistic balance of illusion and reality. Her career in the U.S. has taken her from Disney World to the Kennedy Center, and wherever she goes, she always leaves an audience charmed by her knowledge, grace and sense of humor.

**Hacki and Company** (Germany) A Giant Magnet World Premiere Commission

"When audiences leave the show, their hands are red from clapping, their stomachs are sore from laughing and they are incredibly thirsty." Hacki

Recommended: ages 7 and older

Jaw-dropping illusions and hilarious lessons in chemistry, physics and geometry, will have students laughing themselves smart! When it came down, Hacki Ginda snuck east through a hole in the Berlin Wall and discovered an empty theater where he opened the legendary Chamaeleon Variété Theatre, igniting the resurgence of European variété (similar to American New Vaudeville). A master clown, Hacki entertains around the world and is an annual favorite at Seattle's Moisture Festival. Now he's assembling a top-notch crew, including the remarkable Tom Noddy the Bubble Man, to create an all-new show about the Science of Entertainment and the Entertainment of Science.

**World Samplers in McCaw Hall – Thursday, May 14 and Friday, May 15**

Recommended: ages 7 and older

**Inside India:** A survey of the vast diversity of culture to be found in this one fascinating country. Breakneck, ebullient Bollywood and Bhangra dances from Apna Bhangra Crew; beguiling classical dances from Subhashini Santhanam; and the astonishing black Sufis of Gujarat, Sidi Goma.

**The Western Hemisphere:** Sounds from the South, beats from the North and fun from all points in-between. Includes red-hot salsa from Cambalache; socially conscious hip-hop from Tulalip tribesman, Komplex Kai; and the old-time new sounds of the Gentlemen of the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Friends.

**The World of Laughter:** In every country, in every language, the sound of children laughing is the same. Musical jesters Lelavision, hilarious Hacki, and the jaw dropping juggling and antics of Les Argonautes will have you rolling in the aisles.

**The Eastern Hemisphere:** An exuberant look at the arts across the dateline. Colorful, lively dances from Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble; traditional Japanese pearls from storyteller Kuniko Yamamoto; and virtuosi music with a message from the legendary "Lion of Zimbabwe", Thomas Mapfumo and The Blacks Unlimited.

### **Giant Magnet After Dark – Two special events in the Bagley Wright Theatre!**

Thursday, May 14, 7:30

**Les Argonautes** in *Pas Perdus*

Friday, May 15, 7:30

### **Double Bill – Sidi Goma - The Black Sufis of Gujarat and Thomas Mapfumo and The Blacks Unlimited**

Two extraordinary performances in one!

### **Special Presentation**

#### **Ontroerend Goed (Belgium) - The Smile Off Your Face U.S. Premiere!**

Recommended: Ages 16 and older

This unique sensory experience requires each participant to entrust him or herself, blindfolded and in a wheelchair, to the hands of an extraordinary gentle troupe founded by and comprised primarily of poets. Sound, smell, taste, and touch are heightened as time shifts and a world that is internal, personal, and intimate, is drawn out and ultimately yields to a larger universe. More easily experienced than described, this event is recommended for teen and older audiences, has extremely limited capacity, and requires a separate reservation for each participant.

**More about Giant Magnet.** Giant Magnet also offers a variety of free hands-on learning activities and opportunities for student groups to perform; special events and year-round professional development for educators; plus international arts education programs at John Stanford International School and Hamilton International Middle School. The international arts education program expanded this year to include Seattle Public School's newest international school, Beacon Hill Elementary; and next year will move to SPS's two newest designated magnet programs at Denny Middle and Concord Elementary both in West Seattle. For more information please contact Giant Magnet through the website: [www.giantmagnet.org](http://www.giantmagnet.org); by phone at 206-684-7338; or email [education@giantmagnet.org](mailto:education@giantmagnet.org).

Major sponsors of Giant Magnet include Seattle Center, National Endowment for the Arts, Safeco Insurance Foundation, The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Washington State Arts Commission, Story Trading Company, Mayor's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Holiday Inn Express/Seattle City Center, Boeing, Wizards of the Coast, ArtsFund, The Production Network, Ben B. Cheney Foundation, and Dimmer Family Foundation.

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Media Only.

For photo art or more information about Giant Magnet, contact  
Karen L. Bystrom at 206.684.7338 or email [karen@giantmagnet.org](mailto:karen@giantmagnet.org)

**Giant Magnet - 2009 Festival Schedule --- Info and tickets: [www.giantmagnet.org](http://www.giantmagnet.org) or 1-800-838-3006.**

**Seattle**

**Special Presentation: Ontroerend Goed, *The Smile Off Your Face***

Center House Theater

May 12-16, 2-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. - Continuous 20-min. performances – limited tickets available!

**TUESDAY, MAY 12**

10 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	1 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia in <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favourites</i> – Bagley Wright Theatre	Sidi Goma-The Black Sufis of Gujarat – Bagley Wright Theatre	Les Argonautes in <i>Pas Perdus</i> – Bagley Wright Theatre	<b>Opening Night International Variety Show</b> – Bagley Wright Theatre
Thomas Mapfumo and The Blacks Unlimited – Nesholm Family Lecture Hall	Gentlemen of the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Friends – Nesholm Family Lecture Hall	Kuniko Yamamoto – Leo K. Theatre	
Kuniko Yamamoto – Leo K. Theatre	Hacki and Company – Leo K. Theatre		

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13**

10 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	1 p.m.
Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia in <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favourites</i> – Bagley Wright Theatre	Sidi Goma-The Black Sufis of Gujarat – Bagley Wright Theatre	Les Argonautes in <i>Pas Perdus</i> – Bagley Wright Theatre
Gentlemen of the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Friends – Nesholm Family Lecture Hall	Thomas Mapfumo and The Blacks Unlimited – Nesholm Family Lecture Hall	Kuniko Yamamoto – Leo K. Theatre
Kuniko Yamamoto – Leo K. Theatre	Hacki and Company – Leo K. Theatre	

**THURSDAY, MAY 14 – World Languages Day**

10 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	12 noon	1 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Les Argonautes in <i>Pas Perdus</i> (French language performance) – Bagley Wright Theatre	Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia in <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favourites</i> (Spanish language performance) – Bagley Wright Theatre	<b>World Sampler: <i>The Western Hemisphere</i></b> – McCaw Hall	Sidi Goma-The Black Sufis of Gujarat – Bagley Wright Theatre	Les Argonautes in <i>Pas Perdus</i> – Bagley Wright Theatre
Gentlemen of the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Friends – Nesholm Family Lecture Hall	Thomas Mapfumo and The Blacks Unlimited – Nesholm Family Lecture Hall		Hacki and Company – Leo K. Theatre	
Kuniko Yamamoto (Japanese language enhanced performance) – Leo K. Theatre	Hacki and Company (German language performance) – Leo K. Theatre			
<b>World Sampler: <i>Inside India</i></b> – McCaw Hall				

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**Seattle**

**FRIDAY, MAY 14**

10 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	12 noon	1 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia in <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favourites</i> –Bagley Wright Theatre	Sidi Goma-The Black Sufis of Gujarat – Bagley Wright Theatre	<b>World Sampler: <i>The Eastern Hemisphere</i></b> – McCaw Hall	Les Argonautes in <i>Pas Perdus</i> – Bagley Wright Theatre	<b>Double Bill:</b> Sidi Goma-The Black Sufis of Gujarat and Thomas Mapfumo and The Blacks Unlimited – Bagley Wright Theatre
Thomas Mapfumo and The Blacks Unlimited – Nesholm Family Lecture Hall	Gentlemen of the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Friends – Nesholm Family Lecture Hall		Hacki and Company – Leo K. Theatre	
Kuniko Yamamoto – Leo K. Theatre	Hacki and Company – Leo K. Theatre			
<b>World Sampler: <i>The World of Laughter</i></b> – McCaw Hall				

**SATURDAY, MAY 16**

10 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	2 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	5 p.m.
Hacki and Company (German language performance) – Leo K. Theatre	Thomas Mapfumo and The Blacks Unlimited – Nesholm Family Lecture Hall	Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia in <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favourites</i> –Bagley Wright Theatre	Sidi Goma-The Black Sufis of Gujarat – Bagley Wright Theatre	Les Argonautes in <i>Pas Perdus</i> – Bagley Wright Theatre
	Hacki and Company – Leo K. Theatre	Gentlemen of the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Friends – Nesholm Family Lecture Hall	Kuniko Yamamoto – Leo K. Theatre	

**Tacoma**

**SUNDAY, MAY 17**

7:30 p.m.  
Tacoma 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - Hacki and Co, Kuniko Yamamoto, and Gentlemen of the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Friends – Theatre on the Square

**MONDAY, MAY 18**

10 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	1 p.m.
Les Argonautes in <i>Pas Perdus</i> - Pantages Theater	Sidi Goma-The Black Sufis of Gujarat – Pantages Theater	Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia in <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favourites</i> –Pantages Theater
Gentlemen of the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Friends – Theatre on the Square	Hacki and Company – Leo K. Theatre – Theatre on the Square	Kuniko Yamamoto – Theatre on the Square