

Seattle International Children's Festival

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SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2009 LINE-UP.

Seattle, WA - The 2009 Seattle International Children's Festival (SICF) will take place May 12-16 at Seattle Center and May 17 & 18 at the Broadway Center for the Performing Arts in Tacoma. The Annual Performing Arts Festival for All Ages presents a lineup of circus-theatre, music, puppetry, dance and multi-disciplinary shows designed to educate and entertain P-20 school groups, their teachers, families and adults alike. 2009 Festival performers represent Belgium, Zimbabwe, India, Canada, Germany, Croatia, American First Nations, Japan, Mexico, and the USA.

This year SICF will deliver the usual high quality professional and international artists that audiences have come to expect—and a few *unusual* happenings sure to delight and surprise. The 2009 Festival will play Tuesday through Saturday, May 12-16. The **Opening Night International Variety Show** will play Tuesday night, May 12 at the Bagley Wright Theatre. Festival 2009 will focus its activities in the north end of the Seattle Center campus with performances in McCaw Hall, the Nesholm Family Lecture Hall, the Bagley Wright Theatre, the Vera Project and, thanks to special consideration from the Seattle Repertory Theatre, the Leo K. Theatre. Discovery Centers will be in the Northwest Rooms. The move toward Mercer Street is intended to consolidate the Festival's footprint in order to create higher visibility.

The Line-Up. **Belgium:** Les Argonautes in *Pas Perdue* **USA:** Carolina Chocolate Drops **India:** Sidi Goma-The Black Sufis of Gujarat **Zimbabwe:** Thomas Mapfumo and The Blacks Unlimited **Canada:** Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia in *The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favourites* **Japan:** Kuniko Yamamoto **Germany:** Hacki and Co. **Belgium:** Ontroerend Goed in *The Smile Off Your Face*

World Samplers, featuring 3 companies in one show, include festival headliners and local companies including Apna Bhangra Crew, Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble, salsa band Cambalache, Tulalip rapper Komplex Kai, Lelavision and classical Indian dancer Subhashini Santhanam.

Please go to seattleinternational.org for complete performance details.

Ten Years in Tacoma. The Festival will celebrate its tenth anniversary of serving South Sound audiences at the Broadway Center for the Performing Arts. Les Argonautes and Sidi Goma will play school performance in the Pantages Theatre and Theatre on the Square will house Hacki and Co., Kuniko Yamamoto and the Carolina Chocolate Drops for school performances. Those three companies will also be featured in a special **10th Anniversary variety show** on Sunday night, May 17.

School and Group Tickets. Tickets are now on sale for schools, homeschoolers and groups only. 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.seattleinternational.org or call the Teacher's Hotline at 206-684-7336.

Public tickets. Prices and tickets will be available in the spring.

More about the Festival. SICF 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 will expand this year to include Seattle Public School's newest international school, Beacon Hill Elementary.

For more information please contact The Seattle International Children's Festival through our website: www.seattleinternational.org; by phone at 206-684-7338; or email education@seattleinternational.org.

Major sponsors of SICF include Seattle Center, The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington State Arts Commission, ArtsFund and Boeing.

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Media Only. For photo art or more information about the Seattle International Children's Festival contact Brian Faker at 206.233.3937 or email faker@seattleinternational.org.