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Award-winning Lineup of Puppets Expands its Stage Presence

Folkmanis introduces eight new animals to its Stage Puppet menagerie

(EMERYVILLE, CA, December 15, 2007) Following up on an amazing premier in 2007, **FOLKMANIS – the most innovative, creative puppet maker in the world** – is expanding its multi-award-winning line of **STAGE PUPPETS** in 2008. The company’s extension from its famous, full-bodied plush puppets last year was so successful it is introducing eight new animals to this award-winning subgroup: **SHEEPDOG, RABBIT, FOX, RACCOON, MONKEY, TOUCAN, BEAR** and **BIG BAD WOLF**. The line debuts, along with all new Folkmanis Puppets, in spring and can be seen at all major shows, including the American International Toy Fair February 17-20, 2008 in Manhattan at the Folkmanis booth #1833 at Jacob K. Javits Convention Center.

“Our Stage Puppet line combines the simplicity of vintage puppets with the quality and detailed design of our world-famous, full-bodied Folkmanis puppets to inspire the creative and theatrical abilities of children and adults worldwide,” says Judy Folkmanis, Folkmanis co-founder and creative director. “We are thrilled to be adding depth and dimension to this amazing collection and aim to reach an even wider audience and introduce them to the wonders of puppetry.”

As with all Folkmanis creations, the Stage Puppets have amazing, ultra-soft, heirloom-quality fabrics that help bring each particular animal to life. Styled after puppets of years gone by, the Folkmanis Stage Puppet line is perfect for performing, whether from behind a family room couch or on a professionally lighted stage. With amazingly realistic details, these hand puppets are an ideal choice for all ages because they help

bring imaginations to life and provide endless, open-ended play without having to manipulate a complete animal body. Each retails between \$14-\$20.

“Puppets are a classic toy that inspire imaginative, open-ended play like no other toy can,” says Mrs. Folkmanis. “Every child creates a unique scenario each time he or she plays with a Folkmanis puppet, leading to worlds of wonder, creativity, and fun.”

Folkmanis believes imagination is the key to a healthy childhood, encouraging play and discovery to develop the skills necessary in life. Each year, nearly 50 new designs make their debuts, winning the hearts of kids and adults everywhere. Discover Folkmanis puppets and experience a world with endless possibilities.

The company has been making the most innovative and engaging specialty puppets in the world since 1976, delighting imaginations and winning nearly every industry, child development, and kid-tested award – many repeatedly. Most Folkmanis® Puppets are recommended for ages 3 and up and are available at specialty toy and gift stores, including: science/nature museums, zoo and aquarium gift shops, thousands of independent toy and gift stores, and specialty retailers nationwide and in over 15 countries around the world. You can also find Folkmanis® Puppets online at Amazon.com. For more information contact Teresa Klein at 925-755-8934, email media@folkmanis.com or go to www.folkmanis.com.

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