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## **Folkmanis Flies High With a Lineup of Beautiful Birds**

(January 8, 2009 – EMERYVILLE, CA) Folkmanis – the most award-winning specialty puppet maker in the world – soars to new heights with an amazing collection of bird hand and finger puppets. Unique fabric choices and superb attention to detail give Folkmanis bird puppets such realism and personality that they soar high above the competition. 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 15-18, 2009 in Manhattan at the Folkmanis booth #1833 at Jacob K. Javits Convention Center.

“Birds are a difficult species to create, but our talented designers spend countless hours concentrating on the smallest details that Folkmanis creations fly head and tails above the rest,” says Judy Folkmanis, founder and creative director of the company.

“You won’t be able to cage these birds in as they will take flight on the hands of kids and adults who will be overwhelmed with the realism of each and every bird,” says Elaine Kollias, marketing director.

The 13-inch **COCKATOO** puppet by Folkmanis is one hip bird. Its vibrant-yellow head crest separates it from the crowd and Folkmanis designers have captured the features of this parrot cousin spectacularly. New, innovative plush simulates feathers, while its beak and feet are soft, sueded fabric. This bird has a moveable beak and wings. The Folkmanis Cockatoo is sure-to-be the squawk of the town. S.R.P. \$28

Amazingly soft microfiber plush gives the Folkmanis **SMALL DUCK** puppet undeniable snugglability. The bright white “feathers” are contrasted by brilliant orange, velvety, beak and webbed feet. Perfectly sized for smaller hands at 10 inches, Small Duck has a moveable beak and wings. S.R.P. \$18

The Folkmanis **SHORT-EARED OWL** puppet is a real hoot with big, bold eyes that captivate. Beautifully patterned plush adds huggability to this magnificent bird of prey. A short beak and distinctive small ear tufts give Short-Eared Owl its personality. This 11-inch puppet has moveable wings. S.R.P. \$28

Life-size and lovely, the Folkmanis **AFRICAN GREY PARROT** is a wonderful bird that will fly off of retail shelves. New innovative plush portrays real feathers amazingly well. A signature bright-red tail sets it apart from the rest. In real life, the African Grey Parrot is considered one of the most intelligent, because it imitates and learns speech. But this 11-inch African Grey Parrot gets its words from the imagination of the puppeteer, so its vocabulary is endless. S.R.P. \$25

The full-sized Folkmanis Peacock has won multiple awards. Now with the same fabulous colors and textures, the 10-inch **SMALL PEACOCK** puppet is a wonderful addition to any toy box. Easy to use; by simply placing an open hand in the “feathers” like a glove and wiggling the fingers, puppet movement is endless. Amazing detail and unlimited play value make Folkmanis proud to present this spring’s Small Peacock. S.R.P. \$22

Folkmanis’ **MINI CHICK** finger puppet is four-inches tall and oh so sweet ... peep, peep, peep. Perfectly sized for little hands, this precious chick has super-soft plush and delicate

features. This irresistible mini puppet will comfortably nest anywhere for on-the-go fun. Mini Chick has a S.R.P. of \$5.

Folkmanis believes imagination is the key to a healthy childhood, encouraging play and discovery to develop the skills necessary in life. 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 more than 15 countries around the world. You can also find Folkmanis® Puppets online at Amazon.com. For more information contact Teresa Klein at 415-377-8557, email [media@folkmanis.com](mailto:media@folkmanis.com) or go to [www.folkmanis.com](http://www.folkmanis.com).

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