

Contact:
Elaine Kollias
Marketing Director
(800) 654-8922
Elaine@folkmanis.com

Teresa Klein
Media Specialist
(415) 377-8557
media@folkmanis.com
kidsmatter@sbcglobal.net

Diverse Lineup of Puppets Means Endless Hours of Fun from Folkmanis

(January 8, 2009 – EMERYVILLE, CA) Folkmanis – the most award-winning specialty puppet company in the world – has done it again as it introduces another spectacular lineup of full-bodied, finger, and Stage puppets. Combining amazing designs with surprisingly appropriate fabrics to create one-of-a-kind animal and character puppets that will inspire endless hours of fun for all ages, Folkmanis unveils its 18 newest puppets. The line debuts this 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.

“This year’s collection covers the spectrum in the animal and aviary worlds as well as a few fantasy surprises,” says Elaine Kollias, marketing director. “We have a spectacular group of dogs, cats, birds, and other wildlife, so there’s something for everyone.”

“Our puppets are loved by all ages, from babies through great grandparents,” says Founder and Creative Director Judy Folkmanis. “Everyone loves to play with Folkmanis puppets because they are so unique and each has its own personality.”

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This year's fun-loving puppets are:

FULL-BODIED PUPPETS

- **BLACK BEAR CUB** by Folkmanis is an unbearably cute 14-inch puppet with a baby bear face and playful design that make it a fun puppet and snuggly teddy bear. S.R.P. \$34
- The 20-inch Folkmanis **CALICO CAT** is a purr-fectly designed puppet with its black, tan and white long-pile fabric and moveable, white paws and snout. S.R.P. \$34
- Folkmanis' 13-inch **COCKATOO** puppet is one hip bird with its vibrant-yellow head crest and spectacular plush-simulated feathers. S.R.P. \$28
- Amazingly soft fabric gives the Folkmanis 10-inch **SMALL DUCK** puppet undeniable snuggability. S.R.P. \$18
- This season's reversible **FROG PRINCE** by Folkmanis is a 14-inch, clever, dual-puppet design that is both an adorable, big-eyed frog and a handsome Prince. It is two complete puppets in one unique toy. S.R.P. \$40
- Whimsical and easy-to-use, Folkmanis' 13-inch long **FROG IN SPACESHIP** puppet has a long-legged frog puppet steering a shiny, silver, retro spaceship – what fun! S.R.P. \$32
- **SHORT-EARED OWL** puppet by Folkmanis is a real hoot with big, bold eyes, a short beak and moveable wings. It is 11-inches tall and designed in richly patterned plush. \$28
- Life-size and lovely, a signature bright-red tail makes the 11-inch Folkmanis **AFRICAN GREY PARROT** puppet another amazing bird that will fly off of retail shelves. S.R.P. \$25
- Fabulous colors and textures highlight the 10-inch Folkmanis **SMALL PEACOCK** puppet with its easy-to-use open-hand “feathers.” S.R.P. \$22
- The 17-inch Folkmanis **YELLOW LAB PUPPY** puppet has the power to win over any heart with his silky soft faux fur and big, soulful eyes. S.R.P. \$32

- Folkmanis' **FLOPPY BUNNY RABBIT** puppet is a 17-inch delightful bundle of softness in cream-colored microfiber plush. S.R.P. \$28
- The Folkmanis **AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD**'s blue merle coloring, with many grays and spots, is an amazing 17-inch puppet. S.R.P. \$32
- The 14-inch Folkmanis **BABY GALAPAGOS TORTOISE** has amazing vinyl shell and contrasting soft body with a moveable head and front legs that can pull into its shell. S.R.P. \$28

FINGER PUPPETS

- The pretty-in-pink Folkmanis **FLOWER PRINCESS** finger puppet is seven-inches tall and has a sweet face; wavy, long, yarn hair; and is dressed in a delicate, pink, flower petals. S.R.P. \$12
- Folkmanis' four-inch **MINI CHICK** finger puppet fits sweetly into little hands and is as soft as a real-life chick. S.R.P. of \$5
- All the details of this classic bird are captured in miniature in the 8-inch Folkmanis **MINI PHEASANT**. S.R.P. \$8
- **MINI WEASEL** finger puppet by Folkmanis is 9-inches long, unusual and adorable with silky fabric and a quizzical face. S.R.P. \$7

STAGE PUPPETS

- The Folkmanis **ELEPHANT STAGE PUPPET** is one armful of fun at 12-inches tall with unique fabrics and the patent-pending pull-ring animator to move the trunk. S.R.P. \$20

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 Puppet Overview Spring 2009

Page 4 of 4

Folkmanis® Puppets online at Amazon.com. For more information contact Teresa Klein at 415-377-8557, email media@folkmanis.com or go to www.folkmanis.com.

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