

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## GIANT MAGNET TICKETS ON SALE NOW

**Seattle, WA** – Tickets to the 24<sup>th</sup> annual international performing arts festival at Seattle Center, **Giant Magnet**, are now on sale. **Giant Magnet** offers a wide variety of global theatre, music, dance, puppetry and circus May 11-15 at Seattle Center and on May 17 in Tacoma. Like a *Giant Magnet*, this festival attracts people of all ages and backgrounds to its global attractions – authentic international performances that promise to astonish, delight and entertain. With a variety of daytime, evening and weekend shows, **Giant Magnet** is ideal for families to attend and enjoy together.

In addition to performances, **Giant Magnet** offers attendees a variety of free activities at the Discovery Centers. During the week and on Saturday, May 15, Family Day, participate in free activities including kite-making, interactive games, hula-hooping, origami and more.

Tickets are \$10-\$15 and are on sale now at [www.GiantMagnet.org](http://www.GiantMagnet.org) and through Brown Paper Tickets.

### THE 2010 GIANT MAGNET PERFORMANCE LINEUP:

#### **Jamie Adkins in *Circus Incognitus*** from Québec, Canada

The triumphant return of this hilarious, well traveled circus star; veteran of Cirque du Soliel, Cirque Eloize, and a solo career that's had audiences cheering around the world and garnered him major prizes in Paris and New York. This is world class clowning, juggling and balancing that will astonish and delight.

#### **Figuretheater Wilde & Vogel in *The Hobbit™*** from Germany

These extraordinary puppeteers and theatre artists, festival favorites in 2007 with *Maria on the High Wire*, mix eerie stage atmospherics, brilliant craftsmanship and manipulation of puppets, bravura acting and live music in this spellbinding adaptation of the cherished J.R.R. Tolkien classic.

#### **Black Violin** from the USA

The two Miami-born front men for this hip-hop combo, 2005 Champions on tv's *Night at the Apollo*, display breathtaking virtuosity in blending classical music with contemporary beats; all the while emphasizing a message of dedication, self-determination and empowerment.

#### **Cimarrón** from Colombia

This widely traveled ensemble plays the festive dance music called *joropo*, a fiercely virtuosic display of rippling melodies played on harp, bandola and cuatro accompanied by bass, cajon and maracas. This rapid and joyous music is sung with high-pitched voices reminiscent of Andalusian gypsy roots and supports lively and colorful dance.

#### **Bunraku Bay Puppet Troupe in *Kotobuki Shiki Sanbaso and The Lion Dance*** from USA/Japan

Bunraku brings traditional Japanese customs to the stage along with celebratory dance, joyful stories and whole lot of humor. The puppets will bless audience members with good fortune, share a tale of what happens to a child who gets bit by a lion, and leave you with sore cheeks from excessive giggling.

### TWO GIANT MAGNET WORLD PREMIERE COMMISSIONS:

#### **Tahqua in *The Spirit of Kooeex*** from 1<sup>st</sup> Nations

This Native American performing arts group creates a bridge between ancient traditions and their contemporary experience with an exciting blend of funk music, hip-hop, soul, jazz, rock and blues; combined with theatrical performance, dance, visual art, poetry and spoken word. *The Spirit of Kooeex* (the Tlingit word for ""potlatch"" and pronounced *coo-eeek*) is a dazzling new show, created fresh for **Giant Magnet**, inspired by the artists' true character", or tahqua.

Gansango in *Benn Lañu (We Are One)* from Benin/Senegal

Seattle based choreographer Etienne Cakpo welcomes Gansango, vibrant Senegalese dancers and musicians. Rhythmic drumming, dancing and chanting in unison creates illusion of the dancers moving together as one. Vibrant and energetic, this performance will show audiences the true meaning of *Benn Lañu*.

**Giant Magnet** is building bridges of understanding between cultures and generations, and presents joyful and authentic expressions of art and culture in order to advance global citizenship in the Pacific Northwest.

**Giant Magnet** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

**More about Giant Magnet:** Giant Magnet also offers a variety of free hands-on learning activities and opportunities for student groups to perform at the festival. In addition, they offer 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 last year to include Seattle Public School's newest international school, Beacon Hill Elementary; and this year will move to SPS's two newest designated magnet programs at Denny Middle and Concord Elementary both in West Seattle.

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For high-resolution photos or more information about **Giant Magnet**, contact Katherine Kurlon at 206.386.9156 or email [Katherine@GiantMagnet.org](mailto:Katherine@GiantMagnet.org)