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Chicago Humanities Festival

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Chicago Humanities Festival Presents **Rainpan 43: *Elephant Room* | Nov. 2–10, 2013** Co-presented with the Museum of Contemporary Art

CHICAGO, IL—Sept. 25, 2013—The **Chicago Humanities Festival** (CHF) presents **Rainpan 43's *Elephant Room***, a comedic tribute to the world of magic, co-presented with the **Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA)**, **Nov. 2–10, 2013** at the **Edlis Neeson Theater**.

In ***Elephant Room***, three illusionists live their off-center lives by sleight of hand, in a seminal work of performance art that exposes how people depend on deception. These world-class tricksters—stage names Louie Magic, Dennis Diamond, and Daryl Hannah—hide behind their smoke and mirrors, and through the antics in this off-the-wall comedy, they reveal their vulnerability. All this takes place on a set outrageously decorated as a secret society den in a wood-paneled trailer home in Paterson, New Jersey.

Behind the stage personas, which the creators maintain before, during, and after the show, are the contemporary clowning of Rainpan 43's **Geoff Sobelle and Trey Lyford**, and the advanced magic skills of their collaborator, illusionist/actor **Steve Cuiffo**. ***Elephant Room*** is directed by **Paul Lazar of Big Dance Theater**.

Rainpan 43 is the collaboration of actors Geoff Sobelle and Trey Lyford. Together, they create innovative, absurdist plays that are simultaneously deeply profound and utterly ridiculous. Their first work, *all wear bowlers*, premiered in 2003 and has since toured internationally. Sobelle and Lyford have created previous works for Rainpan 43, *Amnesia Curiosa* and *machines machines machines machines machines machines machines*, and have worked with the acclaimed Pig Iron Laboratories.

Event Information

[Rainpan 43: *Elephant Room*](#)

Co-presented with the Museum of Contemporary Art

Nov. 2, 3, and 10 at 3 p.m.; Nov. 2 and 7–10 at 7:30 p.m.

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Edlis Neeson Theater

220 East Chicago Avenue

Tickets: \$28, CHF/MCA Members: \$22, Teachers: \$22, and a limited number of Student tickets for \$10

The Nov. 3 and Nov. 10 (3 p.m.) performances of Elephant Room are American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreted Performances.

Artists Up Close – Theater Thursday

The cast of ***Elephant Room***, Louie Magic, Dennis Diamond, and Daryl Hannah, mingle with the public in the lobby following the Nov. 7 performance. Cash bar and snacks are available. Theater Thursdays is a city-wide promotion organized by the League of Chicago Theatres

Tickets to ***Elephant Room*** are on sale now and can be purchased at chicagohumanities.org or through the **CHF Box Office** at **312-494-9509, Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.** One free MCA admission is granted with an ***Elephant Room*** ticket stub, valid up to seven days after the performance.

Fall 2013 Chicago Humanities Festival Dates:

- **Sunday, Oct. 13, 2013** – Morry and Dolores Kohl Kaplan Northwestern Day, Northwestern University campus
- **Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013** – Hyde Park Day, University of Chicago campus
- **Friday, Nov. 1–Sunday, Nov. 10, 2013** – In and around downtown Chicago

[Continued]

To download a PDF listing of all CHF fall events, click: <http://chf.to/list2013fall>. To download photos, visit the CHF Press Room: chicagohumanities.org/press.

About the Chicago Humanities Festival

The **Chicago Humanities Festival** began in 1989 as a dream shared by a determined group of Chicago's cultural leaders eager to extend the riches of the humanities to everyone. Since that first year, some of the world's most exciting thinkers, artists, and performers have come to Chicago each fall for a festival that celebrates ideas in the context of civic life. Past Festival themes include Laughter, The Body, tech knowledge, America, and this year's **Animal: What Makes Us Human, Oct. 13, 20, and Nov. 1-10, 2013**. Under the leadership of **Executive Director Phillip Bahar** and **Artistic Director Matti Bunzl**, CHF partners with Chicago's premier cultural institutions, and the festival has become an annual highlight for thousands of people from Chicago and beyond. In addition to the annual fall festival, CHF also presents the spring **Stages, Sights & Sounds**, a global performance festival for families, students, and theatergoers of any age, and programs throughout the year that encourage the study and enjoyment of the humanities. Visit chicagohumanities.org for more information.

About the MCA Stage

MCA Stage is a nationally recognized presenter of contemporary theater, dance, music, and multimedia performances. Featuring leading performers from around the globe, including Chicago's most innovative artists, MCA Stage is the most active interdisciplinary performing arts presenter in Chicago. MCA Stage enjoys working year round with numerous arts and community organizations for the co-presentations of the performing arts, making the MCA a shared resource for the cultural life of our city. MCA Stage celebrates artists and their creative process, connecting audiences with artists in meaningful discourse with its **Artists Up Close** series of post-show talks, panels, roundtable discussions, workshops, and residencies. Audiences at MCA Stage performances receive one free museum admission with each ticket stub on the performance date or during the following week. For information and tickets, call the MCA Box Office at 312.397.4010 or visit www.mcachicago.org.

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