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Chicago Humanities Festival Presents **Stages, Sights & Sounds** International Performance Festival for Young Audiences

Featuring Productions from Scotland, Canada, and Chicago's Theater Unspeakable,
A Writing Workshop by 826CHI, and a Film Screening with Kartemquin Films

May 7–20 at Victory Gardens Biograph Theater

CHICAGO, IL—March 19, 2015—The Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF) presents **Stages, Sights & Sounds**, the 16th annual international performance festival for young audiences, with **40 programs May 7–20 at Victory Gardens Biograph Theater (2433 N Lincoln Ave)**. This year's festival will include productions from two international theater companies and a local favorite: *The Secret Life of Suitcases* by **Ailie Cohen Puppet Maker** (Scotland), *Ondin* by **L'Illusion, Théâtre de marionnettes** (Canada), and *The American Revolution* by Chicago's **Theater Unspeakable**. Stages, Sights & Sounds will also offer hands-on experiences, including a writing workshop with **826CHI**, a Lego stop-motion animation workshop, and a camera obscura workshop with the **Liminal Camera**. The Festival will also include a student reading with **826CHI** and a film screening and discussion of *The Homestretch* by **Kartemquin Films**. A complete schedule can be found below. **Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$7 for children (17 and under)**, and are on sale now at chicagohumanities.org and via phone at [312-494-9509](tel:312-494-9509).

"This year's festival is more diverse than ever. We're bringing terrific international performers to Chicago, and showcasing some of our hometown favorites," said **CHF Associate Artistic Director Alison Cuddy**. "And in addition to performance, there are film, photography, and writing programs. It's a great way to celebrate more than 15 years of bringing quality, affordable programs to area families and young audiences."

2015 Stages, Sights & Sounds Schedule:

Family Performances



[The American Revolution](#) | Theater Unspeakable | Chicago

Saturday, May 9 | 4 & 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 16 & Sunday, May 17 | 4 p.m.

Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, Začek McVay Theater | 60 min | Ages 10+

Theater Unspeakable revisits an epic period of American history in a mere 50 minutes. Confined to a 21-square-foot platform, seven actors recreate the American fight for independence, from Lexington to Yorktown. Combining tongue-in-cheek humor, fantastical feats of pantomime, and a dash of derring-do,

The American Revolution displays the company's signature brand of rowdy and imaginative theater.

[Continued]



[Ondin](#) | L'Illusion, Théâtre de marionnettes | Canada

Saturday, May 16 | 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 17 | 10:30 a.m.

Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, Začek McVay Theater | 60 min | Ages 3+

L'Illusion delighted Stages audiences in 2013 with their popular adaptation of *Hansel and Gretel*. Now the masters of marionettes are back with a new show. *Ondin* is a dreamlike tale of a young fisherman who longs to know what's at the bottom of the sea.



[The Secret Life of Suitcases](#) | Ailie Cohen Puppet Maker | Scotland

Saturday, May 16 | 10 a.m.

Saturday, May 16 | **SOLD OUT**

Sunday, May 17 | **SOLD OUT**

Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, Richard Christiansen Theater | 60 min | Ages 5+

Larry is an office worker who likes sorting, tidying, and generally putting things in order. But when a suitcase unexpectedly appears at his door, his routine world is turned upside down. The fantastical flying suitcase brings Larry the thrill of adventure and the joy of returning home. **Ailie Cohen's** creation *Cloud Man* was a Stages highlight in 2013. Her latest puppet show is a funny and enchanting collaboration with the Unicorn Theatre, the UK's leading theater for young audiences.

School Matinee Performances

In addition to the family performances listed above, the **2015 Stages, Sights, & Sounds** festival includes **24 school matinee performances**. For more information, email groups@chicagohumanities.org or call the **CHF Box Office** at **312-494-9509**.

Workshops



[MANIFESTO!](#) | 826CHI Writing Workshop

Saturday, May 9 | 10 a.m.

Victory Gardens Biograph Theater

60 min | Ages 10+

Tickets are free, but advance registration is required | Limited to 20 Attendees Per Workshop

Join **826CHI** volunteers and interns for a one-hour workshop exploring the idea of manifestos.

Revolutions require a sea-change in values and visions. Political or artistic, manifestos declare the end to one thing and the beginning of another. Whether it be personal or collective, we'll hone in on the rhythms and language of declaration—writing your intentions, motives, and views. At the end of the workshop, participants will walk away with a manifesto they can believe in—and declare!



[Lego Stop-Motion Animation Workshop](#)

SOLD OUT

Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, Prince Charitable Trusts Event & Rehearsal Room

90 min | Ages 8+ | \$7, Limited to 20 Attendees Per Workshop

Have you ever wanted to bring your toys to life? This fun workshop offers hands-on experience with the basics of stop-motion animation so you can start making movies at home. Chicago-based animator **David Pickett** (a.k.a. NightlyNewsatNine on YouTube) will provide all the equipment (and lots of Lego bricks). Participants are also encouraged to bring their favorite toy to animate.



[Camera Obscura Workshop with the Liminal Camera](#)

Saturday, May 16 | 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

DePaul Art Museum, 935 W Fullerton Ave

120 min | Ages 10+ | \$7, Limited to 15 Attendees Per Workshop

For thousands of years people have been fascinated by images created when outside light is projected onto the walls of a darkened room. It's an optical phenomenon known as the camera obscura. Now is your chance to see this centuries-old practice live and try your own hand at the process! Climb aboard the **Liminal Camera** and see what it's like to be on the inside of a giant camera obscura on wheels! Then, check out the enormous photographs taken during the Camera's visit to Chicago last fall. Finally, roll up your sleeves and spend time experimenting by making your very own cardboard box camera obscuras.

Readings and Screenings



[Student Reading with 826CHI](#)

Saturday, May 9 | 11:30 a.m.

Victory Gardens Biograph Theater

45 min | All Ages | Tickets are free, but advance registration is required

Cheer on young Chicago writers as they share their work. In partnership with **826CHI**, students have composed various works on the theme of historical revolutions. Enjoy this showcase featuring the next generation of Chicago writing talent reading their work!



[The Homestretch](#) | Film Screening with Kartemquin Films

Saturday, May 9 | 1 p.m.

Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, Začek McVay Theater

75 min | Ages 12+ | \$7 for children and adults

The Homestretch follows three homeless teens as they fight to stay in school, graduate, and build a future. Each of these smart, ambitious teenagers—Roque, Kasey, and Anthony—will surprise, inspire, and challenge audiences to rethink stereotypes of homelessness. As their stories unfold, the film

connects us deeply with larger issues of poverty, race, juvenile justice, immigration, foster care, and LGBTQ rights. The screening will be followed by a discussion with **Kartemquin Films**.

Tickets

Tickets to the 2015 Stages, Sights & Sounds festival are on sale now! Tickets are **\$14 for adults**, and **\$7 for children** (17 & under) and can be purchased online at chicagohumanities.org or by calling the **CHF Box Office** at **312-494-9509** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. *The MANIFESTO! writing workshop and student reading with 826CHI are free, but require reservations. A \$6 per order processing fee is applied to all pre-event sales.*

Fall Festival Save the Date

The 2015 Fall Festival will take place **Oct. 24–Nov. 8, 2015**. More information regarding theme and programs will be announced later this spring.

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About the Chicago Humanities Festival

For 25 years, the Chicago Humanities Festival has celebrated the questions that shape and define us as individuals, communities, and cultures. For the curious at heart, CHF's vibrant **year-round programming** and robust **Fall Festival** offer the opportunity to engage with some of the world's most brilliant minds. Collaborating with leading arts, cultural, and educational organizations, it presents scholars, artists and architects, thinkers, theologians, and policy makers that change how we see the world, where we're from, and where we're going. CHF also presents the spring **Stages, Sights & Sounds**, Chicago's only international performance festival for young audiences. Under the leadership of **Executive Director Phillip Bahar** and the newly appointed **Marilynn Thoma Artistic Director Jonathan Elmer**, CHF is one of Chicago's most vital presenting organizations.

The Chicago Humanities Festival has grown from **eight programs in one day at a single venue in 1990**, to **170 programs year-round at more than 30 venues** in and around Chicago. Over the past 25 years, CHF has put on more than 2,600 programs and performances, and presented more than 3,300 speakers and artists, including: 10 Nobel Prize winners, 70 Pulitzer Prize winners, 53 MacArthur Award recipients, 16 Tony Award winners, 10 Grammy Award winners, and seven Academy Award winners. Visit chicagohumanities.org for more information.