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FIRSTWORKS PRESENTS

"HARKER: A LOOK INSIDE THE SHORT FILM"

Free Comic Book Launch and Film Screening

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – FirstWorks announced a special program addition to their annual screening of cutting-edge puppet film shorts today. FirstWorks' screening of "Harker", a selection from Heather Henson's "Handmade Puppet Dreams" film series celebrates the world premiere launch of its new companion comic book "Harker: A look inside the short film". This free event takes place at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) on Sunday, May 2 at 2 p.m. at the Michael P. Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center/RISD Museum. Visit www.first-works.org for more information or call 401-421-4278 for reservations.

Fashioned in homage to the silent classics of German Expressionist film, "Harker" utilizes inanimate objects, brought to life through the illusion of autonomous movement, to tell the story of the eponymous hero Jonathan Harker's encounter with the vampire Nosferatu, a re-animated corpse that compels others to do its will through a malevolent psychic influence.

The new comic book, "Harker: A look inside the short film" reveals Central Florida artist Scott Shoemaker's original storyboard illustrations for the production and captures a rare, behind the scenes look into the creative process from pencil sketch to finished film. Handmade Puppet Dreams originally engaged Shoemaker to create a process book from his storyboard illustrations as an aid to the creation of future film works, particularly those by filmmakers interested in raising the art of puppetry to untried and exciting levels. In an interview included in the book,

(more)

Shoemaker says, "storyboards are non-moving movies", building blocks for not only action, but the emotional arc of the artist's story.

Joining Shoemaker at this special event, "Harker" puppeteers Scott and James Silson, originally from Rhode Island, will attend the screening and comic book launch. To lend greater insight into the puppet film-making process, the Silson twins will engage audience members in a hands-on workshop using actual puppets and props from the film.

To celebrate the world premiere comic book launch, all audience members will receive a complimentary copy of "Harker: A look inside the short film".

This FirstWorks event takes place on Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 2 p.m. at the Michael P. Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center/RISD Museum, located at 20 North Main Street, Providence. The event is FREE and open to the public. Due to limited seating, advance reservations are recommended. For reservations, contact Annette Robinson at annette@first-works.org or call 401-421-4278.

Presented by FirstWorks in collaboration with the Rhode Island School of Design's Office of Student Life.

About FirstWorks

FirstWorks connects art with audiences year-round through the exceptional vitality of artists' first appearances, children's first experiences with performance and the premiering of new works. Beginning with an unprecedented collaboration with Providence's Department of Art, Culture + Tourism, FirstWorks was launched in 2004 as a vehicle to build community, reach underserved audiences, and present extraordinary arts programs that elevate Providence's national profile. In the six years since, FirstWorks has produced ten groundbreaking arts festivals, attracted over 70,000 participants, and engaged more than 100 nonprofit community organizations and schools. Visit www.first-works.org to learn more.

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