

The Cultch, PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, and the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad present  
Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes in

## BILLY TWINKLE, REQUIEM FOR A GOLDEN BOY

Written, created and performed by Ronnie Burkett

Music by John Alcorn

Lighting Design by Kevin Humphrey

**Please note:** Billy Twinkle is a theatrical piece intended and created solely for a mature audience. Children under 14 will not be admitted. The performance is approximately one hour and forty-five minutes with no intermission. There are no latecomers admitted to this performance.

**WHERE: WATERFRONT THEATRE, 1412 Cartwright Street on Granville Island**

**WHEN: JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 8, 2009 AT 8 PM**

No performances January 26 & February 2

Jan 22: Post-show Artist Talkback



Photo by Trudie Lee

"A masterpiece. Billy Twinkle brings us a world class master at the peak of his powers."

- Edmonton Sun

"A pinch-me moment of extraordinary technical virtuosity...fabulous." - Edmonton Journal

**Vancouver** — A Cultch audience and critical favourite, Ronnie Burkett creates some of the world's most elaborate and provocative puppetry, stimulating an unprecedented adult audience for puppet theatre. His latest work is no different. Burkett returns to Vancouver this January with a play for anyone stuck in the middle — mid-career, mid-love, mid-life. Caught between our own past and future, this *Requiem for a Golden Boy* shines a little light on the wonder of youth meeting the wisdom of age with a kick in the pants to finish what we started.

Billy Twinkle is a middle-aged cruise ship puppeteer who dazzles audiences with his Stars in Miniature marionette nightclub act. His saucy burlesque stripper Rusty titillates the tourists, octogenarian Bunny invokes sidesplitting laughter with the inflatable balloon in his pants, Bumblebear juggles and roller-skates and steals the hearts of every audience, and society dame Biddy Bantam Brewster brings a bit of highbrow hilarity to the high seas with her drunken aria. Billy is the best in the business and on top of the world as he floats along through life.

Until he is fired by the cruiseline. Standing at the edge of the ship contemplating a watery demise, Billy is abruptly called back to reality when his dead mentor Sid Diamond appears as a hand puppet. Sid literally will not leave his side, and forces Billy to re-enact his life as a puppet show in order to remember and rekindle the passion Billy once had for puppets, people and the dream of a life that sparkles.

Formed in 1986, Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes is dedicated to returning the puppet to the legitimate stage in theatre for adults. Previous Vancouver engagements with The Cultch include *Tinka's New Dress*, *Provenance* and *10 Days on Earth*, all of which inspired acclaim from the press and sold-out houses. Ronnie lives in Toronto and has started writing his next production *Geppetto Jones*.

Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes is represented internationally by John Lambert and Assoc., Montreal, Canada ([www.johnlambert.ca](http://www.johnlambert.ca))

Commissioned by The Citadel Theatre (Edmonton, Canada) and co-commissioned by Canada's National Arts Centre (Ottawa, Canada), The Vancouver East Cultural Centre (Vancouver, Canada), The Arts Centre (Melbourne, Australia), Sydney Opera House (Sydney, Australia), barbicantbiteo9 (London, UK)