

**MEDIA RELEASE
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Dancing on Water – Inspired by the Wonders of Vietnamese Water Puppetry

Calgary, AB (May 9, 2005) – *Dancing on Water* is a unique collaboration between Glenbow Museum and Green Fools Theatre offered as part of the *Voices of Southeast Asia* summer exhibition. Inspired by the ancient and secret art of *Mua roi nuoc* – or Vietnamese water puppetry – this extravaganza will bring to life intricately carved puppets that magically move and dance by themselves – all on the glittering surface of the water.

Building on the success of last year's *Ballet in Bronze*, this marks Glenbow Museum's next exciting partnership with Calgary's vibrant artistic community. *Dancing on Water* illuminates aspects of our summer exhibition *Voices of Southeast Asia*, bringing together history, art, and contemporary culture in a spectacle you won't soon forget.

Performance Schedule:

September 8 & 9 at 7:30 p.m.

September 10 at 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.

September 11 at 2:30 p.m.

September 15 & 16 at 7:30 p.m.

September 17 at 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.

September 18 at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 for adult and \$12 for children 12 and under including museum admission with a 20% discount for Glenbow Members. Each performance will be followed by a question and answer session with the performers, who will talk about their creative process, and experiences adapting the magic of Vietnamese water puppetry. All performances are in the Burlington Resources Theatre at Glenbow Museum.

The ancient art of Vietnamese water puppetry first emerged in the 12th century A.D., out of several small villages in North Vietnam. Each village had their own puppet guild that closely guarded their secrets and techniques, and passed them down from generation to generation. The shows themselves were magical, featuring fireworks, live music, and fully articulated puppets that would dance, fight, and spew water on the surface of the murky water, controlled by puppeteers who obscured their actions behind a beautiful floating pagoda. Today in Vietnam there are several state-run water puppet theatres that play their elaborate shows to crowds of 400 tourists and locals at a time. What the Green Fools have created is a performance that is inspired by this ancient tradition, but is also thoroughly contemporary, and thoroughly Canadian; paying tribute to myths and traditions from all corners of Calgary's multi-cultural communities in a celebration of timeless artistry.

Voices of Southeast Asia on at Glenbow Museum from July 1 to September 25, 2005 is comprised of four exhibits: *Vietnam: Journeys of Body, Mind & Spirit*, *Foreign and Familiar: Reconsidering the Everyday*, *Seven Stories*, and *Many Faces, Many Paths: Art of Asia*.