

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **MOBY DICK**

**January 28-30, 2010 at 7:30 PM**

**A Part of In The Works Theater Lab Series in Millennium Park**

Millennium Park kicks off the New Year with **Moby Dick**, the second offering in its new theater lab series, *In the Works*, coming to the stage of the Jay Pritzker Pavilion from January 28—30, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. Presented by Millennium Park and Blair Thomas & Company, **Moby Dick** tells the story of Captain Ahab and the White Whale through puppetry and music.

This all-new production of Melville's classic novel comes to life, featuring the solo voice of singer/songwriter Michael Smith, with puppeteer Blair Thomas as Ishmael, and three drowned shipmates who double as puppeteers performing with masks, shadow puppets and totem/dolls. It is set just after the time of Ishmael's rescue from the floating debris of the destroyed Pequod, before Ishmael can find peace with himself and pen the famous words "Call me Ishmael."

Tickets to **Moby Dick** are \$10 and are available by calling 312.742.TIXS (8497) or by visiting [www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org).

With the *In The Works* series, audiences have a chance to sit on the stage of the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, experiencing works in development by local theater artists or companies. The series is supported by a grant from The Boeing Company Charitable Trust. Blair Thomas & Company's production of **Moby Dick** will be readied for a full presentation in the fall of 2010.

Blair Thomas most recently conceived, designed and directed *The Ox-Herder's Tale*, as well as *Cabaret of Desire* at DCA Theater. He has collaborated with the contemporary chamber music group, eighth blackbird, in an original staging of Arnold Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* and Jacob Druckman's *Reflections on the Nature of Water*. He recently created *A Rabbit's Tale*, a puppet pantomime staged to Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and last year, created and performed in an original adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *The Selfish Giant*.

Before founding Blair Thomas & Co. in 2002, Thomas staged *Master Pedro's Puppet Show* with Chicago Opera Theater and co-curated two International Puppet Theater Festivals in 2000 and 2001 in Chicago. In 1989, he started Redmoon Theater and served as its artistic director and co-artistic director until leaving in 1998, during which

time he was principal in the creation of all its productions, parades and pageants.

Millennium Park is located in the heart of downtown Chicago. It is bordered by Michigan Ave. to the west, Columbus Dr. to the east, Randolph St. to the north and Monroe St. to the south. Convenient parking is located in the Millennium Park Garage (entrance on Columbus at Monroe or Randolph) and at the Grant Park North and East Monroe Garages, all located within a short walking distance of Millennium Park.

Millennium Park, managed and programmed by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, is an award-winning center for art, music, architecture and landscape design. The result of a unique partnership between the City of Chicago and the philanthropic community, the 24.5-acre park features the work of world-renowned architects, planners, artists and designers. Among Millennium Park's prominent features are the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States; the interactive Crown Fountain by Jaume Plensa; the contemporary Lurie Garden designed by the team of Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel; and Anish Kapoor's hugely popular Cloud Gate sculpture. Since its opening in July 2004, Millennium Park has welcomed more than 16 million people, making it one of the most popular destinations in Chicago.

For more information about **Moby Dick** and the *In the Works* theater lab series which includes *Aiming for Sainthood* by Chicago Dramatists (March 25-27, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.) and *El Nogales* by Teatro Vista (April 15-17, 2010), visit [www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org) or call 312.742.1168.

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